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Հրատարակութիւն
Եղեմի Ս. Աստուծածի՛ն
Հայաստանեայց Եկեղեցւոյ

MAY 2017

YETTEM
A publication of St. Mary
Armenian Church
Yettem, California

PONTIFICAL MESSAGE OF BLESSING AND COMMENDATION
BESTOWED UPON THE FAITHFUL OF THE
WESTERN DIOCESE OF THE ARMENIAN CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

From the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin, we are delighted to extend our Pontifical blessings and congratulatory wishes to His Eminence Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, the Primate, the reverend Diocesan clergy, the esteemed members of the Diocesan and Parish Councils and the entire faithful of the Western Diocese on the auspicious occasion of the 90th anniversary of the establishment of the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church of North America.

The jubilee celebration presents a keen opportunity to reflect on the history of the Western Diocese, which in itself is the rich history of the Armenian-American people who have remained loyal to our ancestral Christian Faith, our church-loving spirit. At the end of the 19th century and at the turn of the twentieth, the Armenian-Americans who had established residence in the distant shores, expressed their resolute faith and their commitment to preserving the sacred traditions of the Armenian Church through their devotion to the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin. The pioneers of the Western Diocese were sons and daughters of Genocide survivors who had been displaced from their ancestral homeland. The grief-stricken brave souls, with fervent prayer on their lips, established parishes, built churches, schools and founded patriotic organizations. Armed with the undying Christian spirit and the hope of victory instilled in their hearts, our people progressed in society due to their staunch belief in Christian values and morals, becoming kind and exemplary citizens of the welcoming country of the United States of America, their adopted homeland. We praise to and glorify the Almighty God for the vast accomplishments of the Western Diocese since its establishment. In our prayers, we remember the souls of those Primates who served diligently and compassionately, and whose legacies as pioneers will remain in our hearts forever. H.E. Archbishop Karekin Khachadourian, Archbishop Shnork Kaloustian, Archbishop Torkom Manoogian and the late clergy and laity are among the dedicated people who through their selfless efforts contributed to the vivacity and prosperity of the Western Diocese. We highly commend the laborious task of H.E. Archbishop Vatche Hovsepian, a merited and decorated servant of Christ who for over thirty years, as a courageous and kind pastor led the Western Diocese, bringing it to new heights.

Indeed, the accomplishments of the Western Diocese in the last ninety years can be attributed to the resilience of the faithful, the guiding spirit of the Primates, the compassion of the clergy and the generosity of all benefactors and supporters. Today, you celebrate the milestone in the Diocesan life with pride. You renew your commitment to the Armenian Apostolic Holy Church

and the Motherland with humility and grace and you express your firm belief in our mission through your church-building and humanitarian endeavors.

On the momentous occasion, we express our Pontifical love to His Eminence Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, the Diocesan Primate whose entire life of selfless service has been dedicated to God and to the Armenian Church. Beloved Archbishop Derderian, we hold your resiliency in high regard. Through your steadfast leadership, a number of communities have been established, and many churches have been built. The spreading of the Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in growing communities and instilling the love of God in the hearts of the faithful has been the ultimate purpose of the expanding Diocese. Your contribution to the prosperity of the Western Diocese has been most evident in the construction of St. Leon (Srbots Ghevontians) Armenian Cathedral, the source of spiritual reawakening of the Armenian people in the Western United States. We fondly remember the consecration ceremony along with your participation and amidst the prayers the Diocesan faithful.

We are tremendously pleased in knowing about the several youth-based missions carried out by the Western Diocese. These include the enhancement of the Christian identity through Christian education, encompassed by the adherence to Christian values, morals and principles, the loyalty to the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin, paying homage to the martyrdom of our sanctified ancestors and the preservation of the sacred traditions of the Armenian Church. The Western Diocese has also been actively engaged in the pursuance of humanitarian and charitable missions in the Republic of Armenia. Such support only strengthens the spirituality of the Armenian people and ensures a stronger and a more vibrant Armenia.

We commend and convey our heartfelt wishes to the Diocesan and Parish Councils, the reverend clergy, the community and organizational leaders and the entire Armenian-American faithful who strive toward a more prosperous Armenian Church, a stronger Armenia and the welfare of the Armenian people in the Diaspora. We exhort you to remain resolute in your faith. Remain patriotic and church-loving people, attributes for which God will bless us abundantly.

In our prayers, we ask the Heavenly Father keep you under His Benevolent Right Hand. May the Almighty bless and protect the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church of North America and the entire faithful community granting you continued success in your God-pleasing endeavors.

“Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong. Do everything in love”
(1 Cor. 16:13-14).

With blessings,

KAREKIN II
CATHOLICOS OF ALL ARMENIANS

This encyclical, numbered 998, written on this 26th day of January
In the year of our Lord 2017 and the year 1466 in the Armenian Calendar
In the Cathedral of Holy Etchmiadzin

Parish Notes

BULLETIN SPONSORSHIP
THE MAY 2017 BULLETIN IS
SPONSORED BY
MELVIN & REGINA AGAJANIAN
IN LOVING MEMORY OF:
BETTY FARSAKIAN
ANNA KALOUSTIAN
AND
MARY LOVERO

CONDOLENCES

Our condolences to John and Sandra Kalfayan and Family and Garo and Nancy Kalfayan and Family on the recent passing of John and Garo's father, Sirag Kalfayan who entered his eternal rest on April 8, 2017.

Also, our condolences to Carrie and Aron Margosian on the recent passing of Carrie's mother, Marilyn Missakian who entered her eternal rest on April 2, 2017. Our thoughts and prayers are with the families.

CONGRATULATIONS

We would like to congratulate Kevin Yahnian, son of Bryan and Renee Yahnian and Aida Sorfazian, daughter of Sarkis and Sonig Sorfazian on their recent marriage April 22, 2017. We wish you a prosperous future and will pray for you.

ALTAR FLOWER DONATIONS

- April 9 - Jim and Bea Soxman
- April 16 - Laura Davidian and Family, in memory of Harry Davidian, seven years after his passing
- April 16 - Yn. Adrine Isayan for Easter
- April 16 - Jerry and Julie Poochigian for Easter
- April 23 - Marion Shuklian in memory of her husband Armen Shuklian, her mother, Zabel Bendian, and her brother Jack Bendian
- April 30 - Mike and Judy Skaff and Family in memory of Judy's father, Richard Dudukian

EASTER LILY DONATIONS

- Ed and Georgia Davidian
- Margie L. Davidian
- The Sheklian Family
- Jim and Bea Soxman

HOKEHANKIST REQUESTS

- April 23 - Armen Shuklian, twenty-one years after his passing, Zabel Bendian, two years after her passing, and Jack Bendian, four years after his passing, requested by Marion Shuklian
- April 30 - Richard Dudukian, seven years after his passing, requested by Mike and Judy Skaff and Family

Thank you to the Ways and Means Committee for the Palm Sunday Bake Sale and to all the parishioners who supported this program.

2017 Easter Luncheon again was sponsored by ACYO. We would like to thank the parents who so generously helped out in every phase of the luncheon.

Diocesan Assembly will be held on May 4, 5, & 6, 2017 at St. Leon Cathedral in Burbank, California.

Ladies Society has no meeting in May.

Fellowship will be hosted by the Sheklian Family on Sunday, May 7, 2017 after Divine Liturgy in the Majarian Hall in memory of Violet Joan Nicholas, Marguerite Sheklian and Richard Nicholas.

At the close of the Divine Liturgy on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 14, 2017 a general Requiem Service/Hokehankist will be conducted in memory of all the deceased mothers' of our parish.

ACYO meeting will be held on Sunday, May 14, 2017 at Jamba Juice in Visalia at 6:00 p.m.

The 40th Annual Armenian Food Festival will be held on Thursday, May 18, 2017 at the Visalia Elks Lodge. (See flyer)

Parish Council meeting will be held on Thursday, May 25, 2017 in the Majarian Hall at 7:00 p.m.

Pastoral Visitation of His Eminence Archbishop Hovnan Derderian to St. Mary, Yettem will be on Sunday, May 28, 2017. Following services, fellowship will be hosted by the Parish Council. (See flyer)

ACYO Sports Weekend will be held May 26-28, 2017 at Buchanan High School, 1560 N. Minnewawa Avenue in Clovis. St. Mary, Yettem ACYO will have a senior basketball team and a dodgeball team.

Ladies Society meeting (Bingo Picnic) will be held on Saturday, June 3, 2017 at the Majarian Hall.

Sunday, June 4, 2017 St. Mary, Yettem will have Pilgrims from Los Angeles.

Sunday School Commencement and Picnic will be held on Sunday, June 11, 2017.

GRADUATION season is here once again. We would like to acknowledge our graduates in the June 2017 issue of YETTEM. Accordingly, you are asked to email a short paragraph of pertinent information and a photograph to sonya@stmaryyettem.org or call the church office at (559) 528-6892.

Armenian Language classes will be held on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month after the Divine Liturgy. If you are interested, please contact the church office at (559) 528-6892 or Fr. Zaven at (818) 644-9398.

Sunday School meets on the second and fourth Sundays of each month at 11:00 a.m. during the school year.

On the second and fourth Sundays after Divine Liturgy, Fr. Zaven will teach songs to the Sunday School Students.

Ladies Society has kufta for sale at \$30 a dozen and one pound packages of manti for \$10. You may purchase these on Sundays from Ladies Society board members or by calling the church office to make arrangements for purchase.

If you wish to place any information in the monthly Bulletin, please notify the Church Office by the 20th of month.

EASY MONEY: ESCRIP

We began the eScrip program in April. As of July 20 St. Mary Church has earned \$189.40. This is done by 3% rewards earned on purchases at Save Mart, Lucky, and Food Maxx stores. We have 27 registered members in the eScrip program and 18 of these have used the program. To do so, all you have to do is give your phone number as you check out of these stores. If you have not registered in the eScrip program, sign up at Shares...powered by eScrip (<http://www.escrip.com/shares>) and designate St. Mary Armenian Church as your charity of choice. If you have difficulty signing up please call me (Jim Soxman, 733-8741) and I will do it for you.

DVD SET FOR SALE: St. Mary Armenian Church, 100th Anniversary, July 2, 2011. DVD set is \$25.00 and can be purchased by calling the Church office at (559) 528-6892. A \$6.00 charge for shipping and handling will be added to the price if you would like one mailed to you. (Sponsored by the Ways and Means Committee)

The "Armenian Genocide Survivors and Heroes" book can be purchased for \$40 at the St. Mary Armenian Apostolic Church Office. Copies can be mailed for an additional cost. Call the church office at 528-6892 for details.

PAYPAL

Our Parish has opened a "PayPal" account to make it convenient for you to make donations. You may access PayPal through the St. Mary Yetteem web-site (www.stmaryyettem.org) and click on the "Donation" button on the bottom of the Home Page. You may donate for General Donations, Yughakins, Pledges, Membership Dues, In Lieu of Flowers, or pay for Altar Flowers you have ordered on behalf of the Church.

The Parish Council has approved to have our weekly bulletin and the monthly newsletter available for sponsorships. We are not selling ads. This was done to help offset costs. If you would like to sponsor an edition of either publication please contact the office, or there is a form at the front desk in the church. The sponsorships for the weekly bulletin are \$25.00 per issue, and to sponsor the monthly newsletter is \$100.00 per issue.

To St. Mary Parishioners: If you know of anyone ill or in the hospital, please call Rev. Fr. Zaven Markosyan at the Church Office (559) 528-6892 or his cell (818) 644-9398.

St. Mary Armenian Apostolic Church Office hours are Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, from 9:30 -2:30.

To St. Mary Parishioners: The Parish Council would like to invite any parishioner who may have concerns or questions with anything dealing with Church affairs. The Parish Council meetings are held the third Thursday of each month. To be placed on the agenda of the meeting, please contact Der Zaven at (818) 644-9398 or Bea Soxman Parish Council Chairperson at (559) 623-2390.

The St. Mary Armenian Church webpage at www.stmaryyettem.org includes archived copies of church bulletins, pictures from events, a current church calendar, and an improved LIVE Camera System. View services on any desktop, laptop, or tablet!

Armenian Martyrs' Monument Project



The fathers and mothers of our parish commemorated our Armenian Martyrs' in the first genocide of the twentieth century by locating a Martyrs' Monument on our church grounds. The monument is now in need of repair. The cost of repair is \$12,600 which is beyond our budgeted expenditures. Please donate towards this repair project so we can proudly carry on the wishes of our church fathers and mothers. Checks in any amount can be sent to the church office. Please indicate "Monument Project" on the memo line.

St. Mary Armenian Church, Yetttem

May 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4 Ladies Society/WD Clergy Meeting will be held at the Diocese in Burbank	5 WD Clergy Meeting will be held at the Diocese in Burbank	6 WD Clergy Meeting will be held at the Diocese in Burbank
7 Red Sunday Fellowship sponsored by the Sheklian Family	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 Mother's Day ACYO Meeting at Jamba Juice – 6 PM Sunday School	15	16	17	18 40 th Annual Food Festival 11-2 and 5-8	19	20 Armed Forces Day
21	22	23	24	25 Ascension of Christ Parish Council Meeting at 7 PM	26 ACYO Sports Weekend	27 ACYO Sports Weekend
28 Second Palm Sunday Anniversary of First Republic of Armenia Primate's Visitation to St. Mary, Yetttem/Fellowship ACYO Sports Weekend Sunday School	29 Memorial Day	30	31	Notes:		

Sunday Schedule:

Morning Service (Matins) 9:45 AM
 Divine Liturgy – 10:30 AM
 Sunday School: 2nd & 4th Sundays @ 11 AM

Father Zaven can be reached at:

559-528-6892 – Office
 559-528-6897 – FAX
 818-644-9398 - Cell

**PASTORAL VISITATION OF HIS EMINENCE
ARCHBISHOP HOVNAN DERDERIAN**

**ST. MARY, YETTEM
SUNDAY, MAY 28, 2017**



**St. Mary Armenian Apostolic Church Parish Priest,
Rev. Fr. Zaven Markosyan and the Parish Council invite
all parishioners and friends to the pastoral visit of His
Eminence Archbishop Hovnan Derderian to receive His
spiritual message and to take communion.**

**During Divine Liturgy His Eminence will ordain Sub-
Deacon Hagop Tabibian as a deacon.**

**Following services, Fellowship will be hosted by the Parish
Council in the Majarian Hall.**

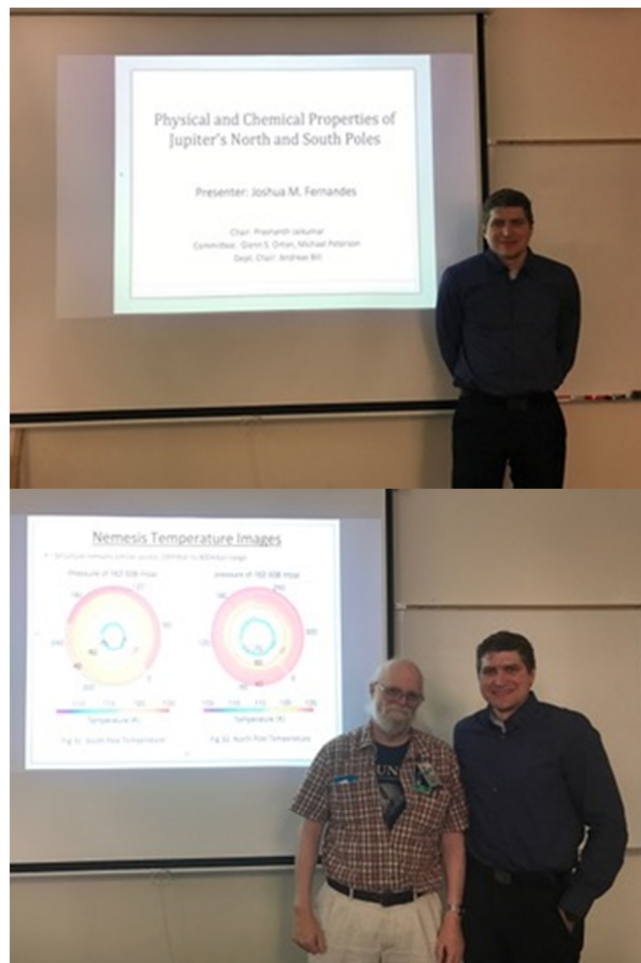
GRADUATE

Joshua M. Fernandes, son of Peggy Fernandes is receiving his Master's Degree in Physics from California State University, Long Beach on May 23, 2017. Josh is graduating Cum Laude, and continuing his research at NASA/JPL in Pasadena California.

Josh's Thesis for his Degree is on the "Physical and Chemical Properties of Jupiter's North and South Polar Vortex Revealed Through Mid-Infrared Imaging"

Congratulations Josh !!!!!

Love, Mom



St. Mary Armenian Apostolic Church

Easter Yughakin 2017

04/16/2017	Agajanian, Melvin & Regina	4/16/2017	Kapamaci-Simonian, Mary
04/09/2017	Ananian, Charlie and Elizabeth	03/29/2017	Kaye, Ernest and Lillian
04/01/2017	Ananian, Serge and Judith	03/16/2017	Kizirian, Abe and Sandra
03/26/2017	Barsamian, Jack	04/16/2017	Kourtjian, Hermena
04/16/2017	Borba, Alan and Phyllis	04/09/2017	Maranian, Carol A.
04/16/2017	Crowder, Evelyn Boudakian	04/16/2017	Margosian, George and Rose Marie
04/09/2017	Davidian, Edward and Georgia Ann	04/16/2017	Margosian, Lucille
04/16/2017	Davidian, Eric & Michele	04/16/2017	Mikaelian, Mike and Carolyn
04/16/2017	Davidian, Margie L	04/16/2017	Nunes, Richard and Joyce
04/16/2017	Davidian, Sark Jr.	04/16/2017	Ouzounian, George and Shirley
04/16/2017	Derrick, Sadie	04/16/2017	Parton, Blanche and Edward
04/16/2017	Farsakian, Alan and Marceen	04/16/2017	Peloian, Joyce and Gary McCrea
04/16/2017	Farsakian, Larry R. DDS & Wendy	04/09/2017	Peters, Darrell & Tina
04/16/2017	Farsakian, Souren	04/16/2017	Poochigian, Brian and Adrienne
04/16/2017	Garabedian, Charles Albert	04/16/2017	Poochigian, Jerry and Julie
04/09/2017	Garoian, Gerard and Sylvia	04/16/2017	Poochigian, Mary Jane
04/16/2017	Gomes, John & Janet	04/16/2017	Shapazian, Jerry
04/16/2017	Gregory, Jack and Hasmik	04/09/2017	Skaff, Judy and Mike
04/16/2017	Groefsema, Bruce and Gail	04/16/2017	Soxman, James and Beatrice
04/09/2017	Hagopian, Richard and Geraldine	04/09/2017	Tabibian, Neshan
04/01/2017	Halbourian, Alice	04/01/2017	Toukdarian, Alice
04/16/2017	Hebesha, Madlien N.	04/16/2017	Valencia, Dr. Albert and Tracy
04/09/2017	Hovannisian, Marian	04/16/2017	Wall, Mark and Linda
04/16/2017	Jendian, Allan & Rosemary	04/09/2017	Zakarian, Archie and Kathy
04/23/2017	Jiggerian, Varsanig	04/09/2017	Zeroun, Joyce
4/16/2017	Kalfayan, Garo and Nancy	4/23/2017	Zerounian, Marilyn
Total Easter Yughakin			\$4,845.00

St. Mary Armenian Church of Yettam

40th ANNUAL

ARMENIAN FOOD FESTIVAL 2017

THURSDAY, MAY 18, 2017

VISALIA ELKS LODGE

(3100 W. Main – just east of County Center Dr.)

- MENU -

LULU KEBAB or CHICKEN KEBAB

RICE PILAF SALAD

BEVERAGE BOURMA

PEDA BREAD

Donation \$14.00

Per Person

Luncheon from 11:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.

Dinner from 5:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.

DINE IN or DRIVE THRU TAKE-OUT

WESTERN DIOCESE ARMENIAN CAMP

CAMP WEEKS 2017

Week 1: July 16-22 **Wait List**

Week 2: July 23-29 **Campers Closed**

Week 3: July 30 – August 6 – August 5 **Wait List**

Week 4: August 6 – August 12**Wait List**





Palm Sunday - Blessing of the Children



Great and Holy Friday



Easter Sunday





Remembrance of the Victims of the Armenian Genocide April 23, 2017



Feast of Ascension of Our Lord Jesus Christ



The Armenian Church celebrates the Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord on the fortieth day following the Feast of the Glorious Resurrection of Our Savior Jesus Christ.

Following His Resurrection and defeat of death, Christ remained on earth for forty days, and continued to appear to His disciples. On the fortieth day, Christ is seen by His disciples for the last time. He blesses them and leaves them with instructions, after which He ascends into heaven.

The most beautiful account of the Ascension can be found in the Book of Acts: “And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.” (Acts 1:9-11)

The hymn that is sung in the Armenian Church on Ascension Day mentions the miraculous event of Christ’s Ascension into heaven and the descent of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles. In the Armenian Church, the day of Jesus Christ’s Ascension is also commemorated for another reason as well. On this date in 1441, the See of the Catholicosate of All Armenians was returned to its historical origins. Following a resolution of the National Assembly gathered in Vagharshapad, the Patriarchal See was relocated from the city of Sis in Western Armenia to the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin. Following his vision of Christ striking the ground with a golden hammer, St. Gregory the Illuminator had founded the Cathedral of Holy Etchmiadzin in 303. However, less than 200 years later, in 484, the Patriarchal See was forced to relocate, and for the next 1000 years, settled in various cities throughout Armenia. The decision to return the throne of the Catholicos to the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin was the fulfillment of a national dream for the Armenian people.

St. Mary Armenian Church

P.O. Box 367

Yetter, California 93670

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