



YETTEM ԵՊԵՄ

Հրատարակութիւն Եղեմի Ս. Աստուածածին Հայաստանեայց Եկեղեցւոյ

A Publication of St. Mary Armenian Church Yettem, California

Rev. Fr. Mashdots Keshishian, Parish Priest

October 2021

Prayer

Our kind God, we thank you for your blessings and your compassion to us. We thank you God because you did not get angry with us because you do not want us to die as a sinner. You gave us time to repent, and we did not. We thank you God because you have tolerated us in our daring of not following your words. We consider ourselves owners in your house. We considered ourselves servants and we do not deserve God to stand in front of you. God have mercy, God have mercy.

God have mercy on us because we did not fulfill your expectation and we did not fulfill your commandment. God, have mercy on us because we caused your heart to suffer from unimportant issues. God, we found out that there are problems and sorrow and many unfruitful issues. God, have mercy on us because we did not appreciate your cross and your work for us and your effort to save us.

God, have mercy for all the sins that we did willingly or not with knowledge. Have mercy on all our sins that we did on purpose and the ones we did unwillingly. Have mercy because people were waiting to see you through us but were not able to that.

For the sake of every person dear God who was influenced by a Bible verse, a holy word or by a situation, life was changed. Change us dear God and do not leave us being lazy and do not let go of us to the cruelty of the heart to apathy, stubbornness, arrogance, and hypocrisy. Do not leave us satisfied with ourselves cheating ourselves, not knowing the truth and becoming deceived. Lord have mercy.

Please God, do not punish us with your anger, even if we deserve all your anger. Give us strength that we get angry with ourselves. Give us strength so we can strive. Give us strength so we do things right and we strive to enter from the narrow door. Give us strength Lord that we resist evil even with blood. Give us strength Lord that we get stubborn against evil. Give us strength Lord that we learn how to kneel with our heart. Give us Lord the blessings of lent and the blessings of being able to scream to you. Give us a chance to get closer to you and your spirit living in our heart. Help us Lord to return to dignity not to be like a glass ready to be broken.

(Continued on the back page)

Parish Notes

BULLETIN SPONSORSHIP

THIS OCTOBER 2021 BULLETIN
IS SPONSORED BY
JOHN AND JANET GOMES
IN MEMORY OF JANET'S PARENTS
GARABED AND ROSE SIMONIAN

ALTAR FLOWER DONATIONS

September 5th – Kevin and Lynn Skaff in honor of the birth of their daughter, Alice Gladys born on Wednesday, August 25th.

September 12th – The Zarounian, Hovannisian and Groefsema families in memory of Alice Halbourian and the Parish Council in honor of Grandparents' Day.

September 19th – Julie Poochigian, Brian and Kristin and their families in memory of Jerry Poochigian.

September 26th – David and Lisa Krause in honor of their 28th wedding anniversary on September 25th and the Zarounian, Hovannisian and Groefsema families in memory of Alice Halbourian.

HOKEHANKIST REQUESTS

September 19th

Jerry Poochigian

Forty days after his passing,
Requested by Julie Poochigian, Brian and Kristin
and their families.

September 26th

Alice Halbourian

Forty days after her passing,
Requested by the Zarounian, Hovannisian and
Groefsema families.

HOKEHANKIST DONATIONS

(August 23, 2021 – September 26, 2021)

For Repose of Blanche Parton's Soul

August 29th - The Parton, Fernandes, Nunes
Kazarian and Zakarian families.

For Repose of Jerry Poochigian's Soul

September 19th - Julie Poochigian

GRANDPARENTS' DAY DONATIONS

Skylar & Gregory Davidian – In memory of their
grandfather Gregory Davidian.

NEWSLETTER DONATION

John and Rosemary Iskenderian of Natchitoches,
Louisiana.

DONATION

James and Mary Jane Peloian donated in honor of
Myron Sheklian's birthday.

THANK YOU

Thank you to Charlie Davidian for providing the
sweet basil (rahan) for the Exaltation of the Holy
Cross services on Sunday, September 12th.

ANNIVERSARY & HOUSEWARMING

Fr. Mashdots 10th Anniversary Ordination
Celebration & Housewarming will be held on
Saturday, October 9th from 2-4 at their new home.
(See flier for more information)

DONATIONS

Expenses continue during this difficult time. Checks
may be mailed to the church office, or you may
access PayPal through the St. Mary Yetem web-site
(www.stmaryyetem.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
for the church altar.

STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE

Just a reminder that your Stewardship Pledge is
coming due. We will be sending out the Stewardship
Pledge this month.

RAFFLE WINNERS

Our ninth drawing for our St. Mary Armenian
Church raffle was held on Sunday,
September 12th. Congratulations to...

(\$150) JoAnn Sheklian

(\$100) Katherine Kasparian

(\$50) Kevin & Lynn Skaff

Our tenth raffle drawing will be held on **Sunday,
October 10th**. It's not too late to take part in the
fun! If you don't have tickets or need additional
ones, please contact Tina Peters at (559) 967-2593
by phone or text.

PARISH COUNCIL CORNER

TRADITION! "A long-established custom or practice passed from person to person or generation to generation."

In the *Fiddler on the Roof*, we learn about the importance of tradition in the Jewish Community. We have our own traditions in the Armenian Community and here in YETTEM!

This past month we again celebrated Grandparents' Day in Yettem, a tradition that began in the late 80's after President Jimmy Carter proclaimed it a national day in 1979. Although those cooking may change from year to year, the menu is basically unchanged and includes egg casseroles, bee-shee, cheeses, fruits, meats and rice pudding. Thank you, Ladies Society, for keeping this important day of remembering our grandparents so special in our parish.

This coming month we will continue another tradition of honoring the anniversary of the ordination to the priesthood of our parish priests. On October 2nd, Father Mashdots will have served as a priest for TEN years. Please see the flier in this bulletin for information on a special event planned for October 9th. In the past, we were blessed to honor Der Vartan on several of his priesthood anniversaries and we pray that we can celebrate many more such anniversaries.

When visitors come to Yettem or family members return for events, they often comment on how special Yettem is to them. Part of that feeling can be how we hold dear to our past practices and how we work hard to preserve them for future generations. We need to appreciate with what we have been entrusted.

Myron Sheklian
Parish Council Chairman



SUNRISE SERVICE AND CAMPOUT

The Sunrise service and camp out has been cancelled this year.

LADIES SOCIETY NEWS

Ladies Society is celebrating Thanksgiving with an "*I am thankful for . . .*" fundraiser. Each of us is thankful for someone or something. This is a way you can show your gratitude while also supporting Ladies Society at the same time. For a donation of \$100, a large pinwheel will be placed in the church. For a donation of \$20, a smaller pinwheel or 6 smaller pinwheels for \$100 will be placed. In addition, your name and message of thankfulness will be printed in the church's monthly bulletin. In November, you will see the church yard decorated with your colorful pinwheel blowing in the wind.

If you missed Grandparents' Day brunch, boy did you miss something special! The fellowship was lively and full of warm love! We had a new cook in town making the delicious beeshig. Yessiree, Gina Ananian did a bang-up job! The highlight of the day were the children. All would agree the grandchildren captured the afternoon. They spoke from their hearts how they love and appreciate their grandparents.

The committee was skillfully led by Tina Peters and Donna Torosian. They and their committee did such a great job they are all hired for next year! Donations for the event were made by Tina Peters, Donna Torosian, Tracy Valencia, Sandra Vartanian, Mike Tamouzian, Gina Ananian, Nancy Krikorian, Linda Farsakian-Wall, and Sandy Kalfayan. Thank you to all for your generous contributions.

The annual Sister Church Luncheon was hosted by St. Gregory Fowler Ladies' Society. Women from St. Paul Fresno, Holy Trinity, First Armenian Presbyterian, Pilgrim Armenian Congregational, St. Mary Yettem, and St. Gregory Fowler churches came together for fellowship and to listen to inspiring words about our Lord. Next year the event will be hosted by us at St. Mary. I encourage all women to attend.

Welcome to our newest member, Lynn Skaff. Not only is she a new member, but she is also a new mom. Congratulations to Lynn and Kevin Skaff on the birth of their daughter Alice Gladys Skaff. Congratulations to Alice's grandparents, Judy and Mike Skaff and Gladys and John Saroyan. We love seeing our Yettem community grow!

Birthday wishes for October go out to Julie Poochigian, Sandy Kalfayan, Laurie Menendian, Der Mashdots Keshishian, and Madlien Hebesha. We wish them all God's blessings.

Please join us for our next monthly luncheon meeting, Saturday, October 2nd, 11:30, at the church hall.

God's blessings to all,
Linda Farsakian-Wall
Chairlady

WAYS AND MEANS

Ways and Means next meeting will be held on **Thursday, October 7th, via Zoom at 7:00 PM.**

ACYO

ACYO meeting will be held on **Sunday, October 10th after church services.**

ARMENIAN FOOD FESTIVAL

The Armenian Food Festival (drive-thru only) will be held on **Thursday, October 21st** at the Visalia Elks Lodge in Visalia. (See flier)

PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council's next meeting will be held via Zoom on **Thursday, October 14th, at 6 PM.**

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School is back. Sunday School meets on the second and fourth Sundays of each month, September – June. All children welcome!

Our church office hours are Tuesday through Friday from 9:30 – 2:30 PM. The office phone number is (559) 528-6892. If you are in need of something beyond these hours, you can email fathermashdots@stmaryyettem.org or text/call (818) 293-9098 or email St. Mary Parish Council Chairman Myron Sheklian at myron@sheklian.com or text/call (559) 280-7315.

Father Mashdots is available for pastoral care, spiritual guidance, and support. Please inform Der Hayr of those who may be sick at home, hospitalized or may simply want to talk.

BULLETIN SPONSORSHIP

If you would like to sponsor either the weekly bulletin for a minimum donation of \$25 or the monthly bulletin for a minimum donation of \$100, please call the church office at (559) 528-6892.

COOKBOOK

A second edition of the "Treasured Recipes from the Garden of Eden" has been made available. These cookbooks make a great gift. If you are interested in purchasing a copy, call the church office at (559) 528-6892 or Debbie Sheklian at (559) 733-4417. The cost of the cookbook is \$30 or \$30 plus shipping if mailed.

ST. MARY MEMORIAL WALL

The St. Mary Memorial Wall was started in 2001 and has been a huge success. Currently there is **space for 28 additional names** at a **donation of \$200/name**. Contact Jim Soxman: ph. 559-936-2227 or email: jimbeasoxman@sbcglobal.net.

ARMENIANS OF LEBANON

During history there are times that demand us to extend our hands to our brothers and sisters in need. Right now, Lebanese Armenians are living in difficult times deprived of basic living conditions - food, water, utilities and more. Please open your hearts and consider making a donation to assist the Armenians of Lebanon. Checks can be made out to St. Mary Armenian Church with "Lebanese Armenian Assistance" on the memo line. We are working with our Western Diocese and the Catholicosate of the Great House of Cilicia to direct your donations to those in need.

ALL services are livestreamed on our webpage at www.stmaryyettem.org. Click the link on the "camera tab" to watch services. The Holy Badarak is streamed on our Facebook page each Sunday beginning at **10:15 AM**.

PAYPAL

You may access PayPal through the St. Mary Yettem website (www.stmaryyettem.org) and click on the "Donation" button on the bottom of the Home Page. You may donate for general donations, yughakins, hokehankists, pledges, membership dues, in lieu of flowers, or pay for altar flowers you have ordered on behalf of the church.

The St. Mary Armenian Church of Yettem Facebook page and website will keep you informed about our church schedules, events, and miscellaneous happenings. Make sure you stop and visit often as we are always adding lots of pictures and information.



ST. MARY ARMENIAN CHURCH

OCTOBER 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 Ladies Society Keshkeg Luncheon Meeting at 11:30 AM
3	4	5	6	7 Ways and Means meeting via Zoom at 7 PM	8	9 Holy Translators Fr. Mashdots 10 th Anniversary Celebration & Housewarming
10 Sunday School ACYO meeting after church services	11 Columbus Day	12	13	14 Parish Council meeting via Zoom at 6 PM	15	16 Holy Evangelists Matthew, Mark, Luke & John
17	18	19	20	21 Armenian Food Festival at the Visalia Elks Lodge Lunch – 11 to 1:30 Dinner – 4:30 to 7:00	22	23
24 Discovery of the Holy Cross Sunday School	25	26	27	28	29	30 St. John Chrysostom Patriarch
31						

5

Sunday Schedule:
 Morning Service (Matins) 9:30 AM
 Divine Liturgy 10:15 AM

Father Mashdots can be reached at:
 559-528-6892 – Office
 559-528-6897 – FAX
 818-293-9098 - Cell

Elizabeth Ferreira Ananian



When one thinks of Elizabeth Ananian, loyal, faithful, joyous, and dedicated are just a few of the adjectives used to describe her. Whatever role she takes on, from wife, mother, grandmother, godmother, or service to our church, she does so seriously and with all her heart. There is always laughter and fun when Liz is close at hand.

Elizabeth “Liz” Ferreira was born March 9, 1943, to Abel and Elsie Ferreira. She and her younger brother Stanley grew up on a dairy outside of Visalia with their parents. Her parents were proud of their Portuguese culture and instilled the pride and ethics of the culture to their children. Liz attended and graduated from Redwood High School. While at Redwood, you could find her in the majorette line, white boots, pom-poms, and all. After graduation in 1961, she worked at United California Bank as the Installment Loan Secretary.

Elizabeth has always loved an adventure. That is exactly what happened one afternoon when her date took her on a Corvette run to Yosemite. Who should be on that run with his date? None other than our Charlie Ananian. There was such an attraction between them, Elizabeth boldly asked Charlie to her office Christmas party. After this first date, there was no turning back. The couple was married at St. Mary Armenian Church on April 25, 1964. Complaining about Charlie to her mother was a futile endeavor. Her mother loved Charlie so much, she always took his side!

Liz and Charlie are blessed with two sons, Gary and Darren. They now have two beautiful daughters-in-law, 5 grandchildren, and 1 great-granddaughter. They are proud that both sons are ordained Acolytes. Being part of their sons’ activities was a priority for them. They love spending family time with their sons and now with their families.

Growing up a Portuguese Catholic and then having the blessing of Charlie’s parents, Kaloust and Kaghtsrig, the transition to the Armenian community was made more fluid for her. It was her mother-in-law Kaghtsrig and Siranoosh Gashian who paid a visit to her house inviting her to join Ladies Society. Since that day in 1975, Elizabeth has faithfully served the organization in numerous capacities. She served on the Executive Board as chairlady, vice-chairlady, treasurer, and corresponding secretary. In addition, she was a LS Diocesan Assembly Delegate, chairlady of numerous committees, and a Heritage Collection model. Her service to the church did not stop there. She taught Sunday school, was a member of Mr. & Mrs. Club, assisted in meal prep at Hye Camp, and initiated St. Mary hosting the Sister Church luncheon. Health permitting, you will find Elizabeth worshipping in church.



Liz is truly a blessed friend and a respected faithful member of our Yetem community and church. We are blessed to have her dedication to our church, Ladies Society, and the Armenian heritage.

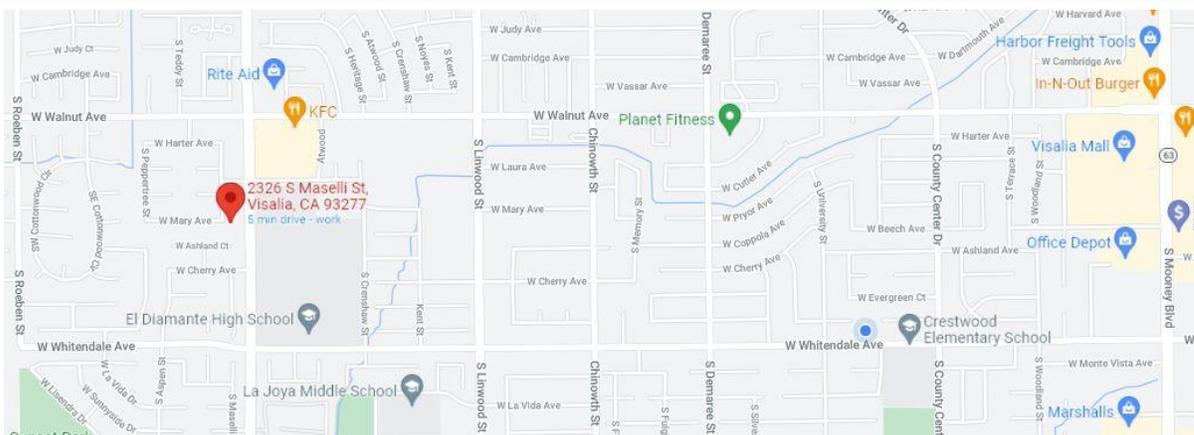
JOIN US FOR AN

Open House

OCTOBER 9TH | 2-4 PM | SATURDAY
2326 S. MASELLI ST. VISALIA, CA

To congratulate Der Mashdots, Yn. Maral and
Hagop Pegor on their new home
and to celebrate Der Mashdots'
10th anniversary to the priesthood!

Enjoy meza and drinks and good company!





St. Mary Yettem
Ways and Means Committee

We are back “AGAIN” this Year!

ARMENIAN FOOD FESTIVAL

Thursday, October 21, 2021

Visalia Elks Lodge

(3100 W. Main—just East of County Center Dr.)

•Menu•

Choice of Two Entrée Plates

Lulu Kebab -or- Chicken Kebab

Pilaf, Salad, Peda Bread and Bourma

Donation~\$18 per person

NEW Serving Times

Lunch Served — 11:00am—1:30pm

Dinner Served — 4:30pm—7:00pm

DRIVE THRU ONLY

For your convenience there will be Two Drive Thru Lines

Available for Purchase

•Armenian Pastries and Grape Leaves•

Tickets Available Starting in September!

St. Mary Yetteem Ladies Society



I am thankful for . . . fundraiser

Each of us is thankful for someone or something. This is a way you can show your gratitude while also supporting Ladies Society.

For a donation of \$100, a large pinwheel will be placed in the church yard. For a donation of \$20 a smaller pinwheel or 6 smaller pinwheels for \$100 will be placed. Plus, your name and your message of thankfulness will be printed in the month bulletin.

.....

Name _____

Address _____

Phone number _____ Email _____

Enclosed is my \$ _____ check for _____ large pinwheel(s); _____ smaller pinwheel(s)

I am thankful for _____

Please make your check payable to St. Mary Ladies Society.

Mail check to Ladies Society, St. Mary Armenian Church, P.O. Box 367, Yetteem, CA 93670



Grandparents' Day 2021





Grandparents' Day 2021



(Continued from the front page)

Protect us our Lord before the end of life. Protects our children who drifted away and protect the lost youth, and the unfortunate troubled homes. Remember Lord the lonely. Remember Lord the addicts, the atheists and the apostates. Remember the stubborn. Remember the arrogant. Remember also the needy and the debtors. The ones who suffer and the prisoners. Remember Lord the poor within your people, the ill and the ones who live in sorrow. God, have mercy on all of us.

Remember Lord your traveling children. Remember Lord our holy gathering and all others. Remember Lord the President and religious leaders. Grant peace in our country. Remember Lord the widow and the orphan, the stranger, and the guest. Rectify our issues and those of our children, for the blessings of our mother St. Mary and all your saints. Listen to us Lord when we say with thanks - Our Father who is in heaven Hallowed be thy name... Amen.

Lessons On the Cross – The Fourth Saying

“I’m thirsty” was the fourth saying that Jesus said on the cross.

In our daily life, we meet people like this, who suffer for many reasons and need material help, money, or something else. They need a contribution, or they need spiritual help. They need a caress, and they need to be listened to and loved.

Jesus was like this also in his agony on the cross. He consumed all of his strength. The nails were perforating his hands and feet. The spun crown was hurting his head and his body needed rest. In his pain he begged and said: *“I’m thirsty”*. He was thirsty to love... to rest... thirsty to accomplish the will of his father. The soldiers wanted increase Jesus’s suffering by giving him the vinegar. If the soldiers, even all humanity had mercy of Jesus and offered water, would Jesus accept that offer? No, because we can read in the Gospel of Mark as it’s written in chapter 15 verses 22 and 23.

They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means *“the place of the skull”*). They gave him wine drugged with myrrh, but he didn’t take it. What can we understand from all this? Jesus doesn’t need our material help - neither the water nor the rest. He didn’t reject his suffering, but he wanted to handle his pain until death. Yes...until death the death on the cross.

Christ needed the hearts of the sinners and their love. I repeat, God only needs our hearts and our love. All these people who we meet every day are thirsty for love. They need someone listen to them when everyone who is around them are busy with the unreal world’s endless events. At times, people don’t ask for material needs, but they need the ears of our heart. Do you know that Jesus lives in these persons? Let’s us remember that He said, *“Every time you give one glass of cold water to one of these children, you give it to me”*. Therefore, I encourage you brother and sisters to lead your steps with faith to the suffering people and share their worries, listen to them, and heal their wounds.