



YETTEM ԵՊԵՄ

Հրատարակութիւն Եղեմի Ս. Աստուածածին Հայաստանեայց Եկեղեցւոյ

A Publication of St. Mary Armenian Church Yettem, California

Rev. Fr. Mashdots Keshishian, Parish Priest

October 2024

The Life & Love of St. George

There are hundreds of saints celebrated in the Armenian Church, but we can say with all certainty and confidence that Saint George is one the most venerated, loved and admired saints of all times for the Armenian Christians. Now, when we hear the name St. George, influenced by the common imagery of the saint, we probably think of a mighty and powerful general, respected and successful commander sitting on his white horse, marching victoriously forward and slaying the ugly and evil dragon. We might be surprised to learn that the primary source for the lives of saints in the Armenian Church – Haysmavourk, does not include any of those details at all. Instead, Haysmavourk focuses on something entirely different, far more beautiful and inspiring. It focuses on the life of the saint after his persecution and arrest. It depicts a wounded man of God with a precious divine gift of healing diseases and curing illnesses. It highlights and shows us that despite all the suffering and pain in his life, St. George never stopped healing people, never stopped loving, helping and supporting those who turned to him for spiritual guidance and cure.

There is so much to admire and learn from the extraordinary story of St. George's life and faith. Healing and helping someone when we are in pain and in need of help is extremely hard. It is hard to connect and relate to a stranger's suffering when our lives are in turmoil. And it is hard to offer, give and sacrifice when our emotional, spiritual, physical and financial resources are scarce and hardly enough for our own needs and survival. In such situations, we naturally tend to bend and focus our efforts, resources and attention inwards and focus on our immediate needs and requirements.

While such an approach is understandable and might even appear to be the only reasonable and rational way to act in such situations, it also is dangerous because inadvertently, it isolates and separates us from others, the world we live in, and eliminates any and every prospect of finding a true remedy and resolution for the challenges we face.

Nothing good ever happens to a human being in loneliness and divine salvation, and miracles can only be experienced through our communion with others. Therefore, to be human requires an ability to feel and connect with the struggles and pain of those around us. And to be a Christian requires an ability to relate to the suffering of a stranger and do something about it despite the scope of their challenges and our abilities. This is what the life of St. George highlights and reminds us of. This is what we learn from the ministry and life of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who fed the hungry when he had no food, distributed his Body and Blood to the disciple who would betray him on the same day, embraced and trusted his friends who denied knowing him and redeemed the world which rejected him.

Fr. Vosgi

Parish Notes

ALTAR FLOWER DONATIONS

September 1st

The Soxman Families

in memory of Beatrice (Anahid) Soxman

The Sheklian Family,

Richard, Kohar, JoAnn, Michael, Brenda,

Michael Ryan, Jessica and Margot

in memory of Hamayag (Haig) Sheklian

September 8th

The Soxman Families

in honor of Grandparents' Day

Lisa and David Krause, Bryan and Terry

Ananian, and Renee and Michelle Ananian

in memory of Stella Ananian

The Kazarian, Zakarian, Nunes,

and Fernandes Families

in memory of Abe and Margaret Kazarian

September 15th

The Menendian Family

September 22nd

The Menendian Family

in memory of Armen and Araxie Menendian

HOKEHANKIST DONATIONS

September 1st

For Repose of Beatrice (Anahid) Soxman's Soul

Dr. Albert and Tracy Valencia

David and Patti Sarabian

Rose Marie Margosian, Pierre & Melissa Pilavian,

and Darrell & Tina Peters

For Repose of Hamayag (Haig) Sheklian's Soul

Dr. Albert and Tracy Valencia

September 8th

For Repose of Stella Ananian's Soul

Serge and Judith Ananian

DONATIONS

Betty Krikorian

in memory of Harry Krikorian

on Grandparents' Day

Richard Asadoorian & Barbara J. Cowan

in memory of those who lost their lives on

9/11/01

James Kaplan

HOKEHANKIST REQUESTS FOR

SEPTEMBER

September 1st

Beatrice (Anahid) Soxman

one year after her passing,

requested by

The Soxman Families

Hamayag (Haig) Sheklian

sixty years after his passing on September 1st,

requested by

The Sheklian Family,

Richard, Kohar, JoAnn, Michael, Brenda,

Michael Ryan, Jessica and Margot

"A remarkable man. Our love and memories
are forever lasting in our hearts."

September 8th

Stella Ananian

two years after her passing,

requested by

Lisa and David Krause, Bryan and Terry

Ananian,

and Renee and Michelle Ananian

Abe Kazarian

eight years after his passing,

Margaret Kazarian

thirty-nine years after her passing,

requested by

The Kazarian, Zakarian, Nunes, and Fernandes

Families

September 22nd

Armen Menendian

remembering his dedication and love for the
Yetterm community, where he was born in 1920

and died 85 years later

Araxie Menendian

remembering many years of service to St. Mary
Church, ever thankful to the Yettem community

who supported her family's journey to Yettem,
and what would have been her 100th birthday

on September 10th,

requested by the Menendian Family

September 29th

Deacon Hagop Keshisian

seventeen years after his passing,

requested by

Fr. Mashdots, Yn. Maral Khanjian,

Hagop Pegor and Vart Ann

THANK YOU

Thank you to *Mari Louise Menendian* and *Margie L. Davidian* for providing sweet basil (rahan) for the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross services that were held on Sunday, September 15th.

LADIES SOCIETY NEWS

What a joy it was to celebrate our grandparents at the annual Grandparents' Day brunch! The afternoon was filled with so much love. Thank you to the committee chaired by Tina Peters and Donna Venturella. Together with their outstanding committee, they served a delicious brunch and brought joy to all.

October is Armenian cultural month, and we are celebrating it October 12 with a bang! Yn Maral is leading a lahmajoon cooking class at 9:30 AM. Lunch follows the class at 11:30. Cost for lunch is \$6. After lunch, Phillip and Andrew Hagopian are playing Armenian music for us. All parishioners are invited to join us for the festivities. Can't participate in all the festivities, come for what fits into your schedule. To reserve your spot, email me at linda.hyewall@gmail.com. Deadline for reservations is October 6th.

If that's not enough fun for you, bring your family, bring your friends for a fun night of painting on Friday, October 18. Social hour and mazzza is 5:30 – 6:30. Painting to start at 6:30 paint. Cost is \$30. Make your reservations by October 12th to Gina Ananian at gananian5@gmail.com.

I look forward to seeing you at the events.

God's blessings to you, Linda Farsakian-Wall

SCHEDULED OCTOBER HOKEHANKISTS

October 13th

Jim McOmish

nine years after his passing,

requested by

Mari Louise Menendian

October 27th

Kaloust & Kaghstrig Ananian

forty years after their passing,

requested by

the Charlie Ananian and Serge Ananian families

BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study will resume on **Wednesday, October 2nd** via Zoom at **7 PM**. Please contact Fr. Mashdots at the church office if you have any questions.

PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council's next meeting will be held on **Sunday, October 27th** after church services.

RAFFLE

Our September and October church raffles of 2024 were held on Sunday, September 8th.

Congratulations to September winners...

(\$150) Jeanette Ekizian

(\$100) Sandra Vartanian

(\$50) Karon Penny

Congratulations to the October winners...

(\$150) Lisa Krause

(\$100) Abe & Sandra Kizirian

(\$50) Geraldine Hagopian

Our **November and December drawings of 2024** will be held on **Sunday, December 8th**.

SUNDAY SCHOOL STUDENTS

Sunday School is back. Sunday School meets on the **second and fourth Sundays** of each month at **11:00 AM**, September-June. **Welcome all children!** If you have any questions, please contact **Adrienne Poochigian** at (559) 679-8452 or email: alskaff@gmail.com

WEEKLY EMAIL UPDATE

If you would like to have your email address added to our weekly update email blasts, please call the church office or email sonya@stmaryyettem.org.

BULLETIN SPONSORSHIP

If you are interested in **sponsoring a monthly bulletin** or a **weekly bulletin**, please call the church office at (559) 528-6892. **Sponsorships are a good way to remember or honor family members or friends. Sponsorships for the weekly bulletin are \$25 or more and a \$250 minimum donation for the monthly bulletin.**

ST. MARY MEMORIAL WALL

The St. Mary Memorial Wall was started in 2001 and has been a huge success. Contact Linda Farsakian-Wall at (559) 786-1419 or email: linda.hyewall@gmail.com

UNITED IN FAITH, UNITED IN ACTION

Christianity unites Armenians around the world, and so does the IMAST app, bringing together Armenians globally for good deeds. By joining the global IMAST community, you can support reliable charitable causes in Armenia and track your contribution's journey through financial updates and news reports. With IMAST, even small but regular donations have the power to create positive change in the lives of Armenians.

Download, donate today, and see your impact tomorrow!



Carve out space in your garage and
DONATE YOUR VEHICLE!

Your gift qualifies for a
Tax Deduction!



*Consult your tax advisor

Donating is easy. Pick-up is free. Your tax-deductible donation benefits our church. Call Linda Farsakian-Wall at 559-786-1419 for more information.

STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE

Just a reminder that your **Stewardship Pledge is coming due**. We have attached the 2025 annual stewardship pledge drive letter and 2025 stewardship pledge form in this October 2024 bulletin on pages 9 & 10. The pledge form helps us to better plan for the coming year.



ELECTRICAL IMPROVEMENTS

Like many of you that have experienced increased insurance premiums or maybe even a nonrenewal notice, our church is in the same situation. After being insured with the same agency for decades and despite a gallant effort to find a company that would cover us, none would do so. The reason for the cancellation was due to the age of the church and the lack of improvements to the electrical infrastructure.

The Parish Council authorized a quarterly payment for a high-risk policy to buy time to make necessary electrical upgrades. During this past month, two electrical subpanels were replaced, and some wiring changes were made in the church and office wing. The price for that part of the job was \$2,753.64. A major main panel in the hall was also replaced for an additional \$5,521.51. With these changes, the council will now be able to negotiate a more reasonable rate.



ST. MARY ARMENIAN CHURCH

OCTOBER 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Bible Study resumes at 7 PM via Zoom	3	4	5 72 Disciples of Christ
6	7	8	9	10	11	12 Holy Translators Lahmajoon cooking class at 9:30 AM The Ladies Society (Armenian Cultural Month) lunch in the Majarian Hall at 11:30 AM Phillip and Andrew Hagopian will be playing Armenian music
13 Sunday School Children's Sermon	14 Indigenous Peoples' Day	15	16	17	18 The Ladies Society Paint Nite in the Majarian Hall Social hour & mazza 5:30 to 6:30 PM Painting starts at 6:30	19 Holy Evangelists Matthew, Mark, Luke, & John
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 Discovery of the Holy Cross Sunday School The Parish Council meeting will be held after church services	28	29	30	31		

5

Sunday Schedule:

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

Office Hours

**Tuesday – Friday
9:30 AM to 2:30 PM**

Father Mashdots can be reached at:

559-528-6892 – Office
559-528-6897 – FAX
818-293-9098 - Cell



*St. Mary Yettem
Armenian Church
Golf Tournament*

*The St. Mary Ways and Means Committee would like to thank all who
donated and sponsored our golf tournament.*

Event Sponsors

Borba Mikaelian, Inc.
Schweitzer & Davidian
Sequoia Chapter Triple X

Gold Sponsors

Michael G. Skaff, CPA
Rick & Julie Skaff

Silver Sponsors

Farsakian Properties
Annie Davidian
Rose Marie Margosian
Darrell & Tina Peters
Chuck & Susie Simonian
Margie L. Davidian & Kathy Ashford
Dr. Nathan Loeffler, DDS
Dr. Steven D. & Karin Koobatian
Rich & Janice McWilliams
The Vintage Press
Mark & Linda Wall
Brian & Adrienne Poochigian
Correia Family Foundation
Skaff Charitable Impact Fund

Hole Sponsors

John & Sandy Kalfayan
David & Jennifer Yahnian
Martin Malkasian, Esq.
Buck & Lori Sarabian
Dr. Gerald Schneider, DDS
Michael Tamouzian
Davy Vartanian
Selma Chapter Triple X

Hole Sponsors

Hagopian Farms
Grant & Kelly Bedrosian
George & Gail Bedrosian
Mitch Choboian
Arthur Hampar
Rick Krikorian
John & Brooke Lopez
Four Seasons Handy Market
James Peloian, Attorney
Jerry M. Shapazian
Richard Tamouzian & Brian Acquafresca
The Ahronian Group
Ashoori & Co. Jewelers
Avedian Properties
Alan, Marceen, & Nick Farsakian
Jim Melikian
Myron & Debbie Sheklian
Doug & Annie Silveria
C.D. Simonian Insurance
Ananian Trucking
Brian & Adrienne Poochigian & Family
St. Gregory Armenian Church, Fowler
Visalia Tile
Sandra & Dustin Vartanian
Regina Agajanian
Armen Der Nersesian
Sequoia Apparel
Sandra Mikaelian
Amy Shuklian
Nick & Charlotte Skaff
Albert & Tracy Valencia
Michael Young
Alex & Alysse Hovannisian

September 8, 2024
Vicar of the Central Valley Churches
Very Rev. Fr. Anania Vartabed Tsaturyan



Grandparents' Day Brunch



Ways & Means Golf Tournament September 21, 2024



St. Mary Armenian Church of Yettem

2025 Annual Stewardship Pledge Drive

**God Has Blessed
Each of Us with the
Gifts of Time, Talent,
and Treasure.**

Respond to His Loving Generosity.



Dear Parishioners,

The easiest way to understand the concept of *Stewardship* is in terms of accepting responsibility for caring for our Church. From a biblical point of view, stewardship is all-inclusive. It touches every area of life, including our time and talent as well as our treasure. Stewardship is faithfully using whatever God gives us in the way of opportunities, interests, skills, employment, family, talents, spiritual gifts, land and yes - our money.

There is no better Biblical guidance for how to give and share of our *financial* resources through the church than some words of the Apostle Paul. In 2 Corinthians Paul expresses encouragement and gratitude to the Christians in Corinth, because they were freely giving their resources to support their poor brothers and sisters elsewhere. In the midst of these words, he shares:

Everyone should give whatever they have decided in their heart. They shouldn't give with hesitation or because of pressure. God loves a cheerful giver. (2 Cor. 9:7)

Your regular financial gifts are necessary to the life of our church. Toward the end of each year our church's Parish Council is responsible for creating the next year's budget. To be wise stewards of the resources that we share together, we create a balanced (or mostly balanced) budget based on anticipated income. The primary means of determining our anticipated income is through pledges. It is with the use of this enclosed pledge form that we obtain such information.

The ability to meet the expenses comes in part from your generosity. There are numerous ways to choose to fulfill your pledge from giving annually, semi-annually, quarterly, monthly, or weekly. All of your Stewardship Pledge goes to St. Mary Armenian Church of Yettem to pay on-going expenses. It helps us meet the budgetary needs of our parish like paying salaries, maintaining our buildings and grounds, responding to your sacramental and pastoral needs, funding liturgical needs and educational programs and helping us keep in touch with you. Your Stewardship Pledge goes directly to the St. Mary Church general fund.

We humbly ask that you search your heart in determining what you are comfortably able to pledge for the coming year and to complete the enclosed form and **return by December 13, 2024**, to help us plan.

Sincerely,

Judy Skaff
Parish Council Chair

Rev. Father Mashdots Keshishian
St. Mary Parish Priest



St. Mary Armenian Apostolic Church of Yettem Stewardship Pledge for 2025

Last Name

First Name

Street

City

State

Zip Code

Email

Home Phone

Cell Phone

My Total Pledge for the calendar year 2025 is \$ _____

I will contribute Annually Semi-Annually Quarterly Monthly Weekly

Signature

Date



St. Mary Armenian Apostolic Church of Yettem Stewardship Pledge for 2025

Last Name

First Name

Street

City

State

Zip Code

Email

Home Phone

Cell Phone

My Total Pledge for the calendar year 2025 is \$ _____

I will contribute Annually Semi-Annually Quarterly Monthly Weekly

Signature

Date

St. Mary Armenian Apostolic Church of Yetem

Physical Address: 14395 Avenue 384, Yetem, CA 93670

Mailing Address: PO Box 367, Yetem, CA 93670

Church Office: (559) 528-6892

Website: www.stmaryyettem.org

Facebook: SaintMary YetemChurch

Parish Priest	Ways and Means
<p align="center">Rev Fr. Mashdots Keshishian Cell: (818) 293-9098 fathermashdots@stmaryyettem.org</p>	<p align="center">Margie L. Davidian, Co-Chair zarohie@gmail.com Judy Skaff, Co-Chair judy@thebelmontgroup.com Alan Farsakian, <i>Rec. Secretary</i> Tina Peters, <i>Treasurer</i></p>
Church Secretary	Sunday School
<p align="center">Sonya Barton Office: (559) 528-6892 sonya@stmaryyettem.org</p>	<p align="center">Adrienne Poochigian, Superintendent alscaff@gmail.com Margo Margosian, <i>Teacher</i> Ani Valencia, <i>Teacher</i> Tracy Valencia, <i>Sub-Teacher</i> Sandra Vartanian, <i>Sub-Teacher</i></p>
Parish Council	CHOIR DIRECTOR/ORGANIST
<p align="center">Judy Skaff, Chair judy@thebelmontgroup.com Annie Davidian, <i>Vice Chair</i> Tracy Valencia, <i>Secretary</i> Tina Peters, <i>Treasurer</i> Mari Louise Menendian, <i>Advisor</i> Julie Poochigian, <i>Advisor</i> Davy Vartanian, <i>Advisor</i></p>	<p align="center">Mari Louise Menendian mlmenen@aol.com</p>
Ladies Society	YETTEM SOCIAL HYES
<p align="center">Linda Farsakian-Wall, Chair linda.hyewall@gmail.com Janel Zerounian, <i>Vice Chair</i> Margie A. Davidian, <i>Rec. Secretary</i> Michelle Ananian, <i>Corr. Secretary</i> Julie Poochigian, <i>Treasurer</i> Renee Ananian, <i>Asst. Treasurer</i> Janice McWilliams, <i>Advisor</i></p>	<p align="center">Alysse Hovannisian, Co-Chair alysse.hov@yahoo.com Brooke Lopez, Co-Chair brookebedrosian1@gmail.com Lynn Skaff, <i>Treasurer</i> Davy Vartanian, <i>Advisor</i> Yn Maral Khanjian, <i>Advisor</i></p>

October Schedule
Bible Study Class - Wednesday, October 2 - 7:00pm (via zoom)
Sunday School - October 13 and October 27 - 11:00am
Ladies Society Meeting - Saturday, October 12 - 11:30am (Church Hall)
Ladies Society Paint Night - Friday, October 18 - 5:30pm (Church Hall)
Parish Council Meeting - Sunday, October 27- 12:30pm (Church Hall)



St. Mary Yettem Pilgrims

The pilgrimage to Armenia, particularly to Holy Etchmiadzin, is a significant spiritual journey for many Armenian Christians. Holy Etchmiadzin, the heart of the Armenian Apostolic Church, holds profound religious significance. The opening ceremonies at this sacred site often attract pilgrims, clergy, and dignitaries from around the world, symbolizing a reaffirmation of faith and the spiritual foundation of the Armenian Church.

A key event that may coincide with these ceremonies is the blessing of the Holy Muron, a sacred anointing oil used in sacraments such as baptisms and ordinations. For pilgrims, witnessing the blessing of the Holy Muron and attending these rare ceremonies is not only a religious duty but a deeply spiritual experience. This sacred occasion serves as a moment of unity and renewal for the Armenian Christian community globally.

On September 22-23, 2024, in a heartfelt ceremony at St. Mary Armenian Church in Yettem and Visalia, eleven pilgrims were blessed by the parish priest, Fr. Mashdots Keshishian, before embarking on their sacred journey. The blessing, held in the presence of the parish community, marked a significant moment for the group as they prepared to travel to Armenia. These devoted pilgrims are undertaking this spiritual journey to deepen their faith and connect with the holy sites tied to their beliefs.

Fr. Mashdots, speaking on the significance of pilgrimage, reminded the congregation of the transformative power of such journeys. “As you go, may God’s protection be with you and may His presence guide your every step,” he said, sending the pilgrims forth with the community’s prayers and support.