



## YETTEM ԵՊԵՄ

Ջրատարակութիւն Եղեմի Ս. Աստուածածին Հայաստանեայց Եկեղեցւոյ  
A Publication of St. Mary Armenian Church Yettem, California  
Rev. Fr. Mashdots Keshishian, Parish Priest

### February 2026

#### Entering Great Lent: A Journey of the Heart

*“Return to Me with all your heart.” (Joel 2:12)*

On February 16, the Armenian Church begins the sacred season of **Great Lent**, a time that gently invites us to pause, reflect, and renew our relationship with God. Great Lent is not simply a tradition we observe each year, it is a spiritual journey that speaks to every generation, every family, and every individual heart.

This season reminds us that faith is not only something we believe, but something we live.

#### **The Meaning of Great Lent**

Great Lent is a season of preparation. It prepares our hearts for the mystery of the Cross and the joy of the Resurrection. It teaches us that spiritual growth requires patience, humility, and sincerity.

Rather than focusing only on what we give up, Great Lent encourages us to reflect on what we gain: a clearer conscience, a softer heart, a deeper prayer life, and a stronger connection with God and with one another.

The prophet Joel’s call, “Return to Me with all your heart,” is not a command of fear, but an invitation of love. God does not ask us to be perfect — He asks us to be honest, open, and willing to grow.

#### **Fasting Beyond Food**

Fasting during Great Lent has deep spiritual meaning. It is not only about what we eat, but about how we live. True fasting teaches self-control, gratitude, and compassion. It reminds us that we do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from God.

When fasting is joined with kindness, forgiveness, and humility, it becomes a source of healing and peace. When it is joined with prayer and charity, it becomes a bridge that draws us closer to Christ.

(Continued on the back page)

## ***Parish Notes***

### **ALTAR FLOWERS**

Sunday, January 4

***The Parish Council***

Sunday, January 18

***The Rose Shuklian Family***

in memory of their mother,  
fifteen years after her passing

Sunday, January 25

***Karon Penny and Family,***

***Sharon and John Kaprielian and Family,***

***and Carrie Margosian and Family***

in memory of Lucille Margosian,  
one year after her passing

### **ARMENIAN CHRISTMAS DONATIONS**

***Gary and Nancy Krikorian***

In honor of their son, Gregory Krikorian who served as the Godfather of the Cross on Sunday, January 4.

***Linda and Mark Wall***

In memory of Sam and Betty Farsakian on Sunday, January 4.

### **ALTAR CANDLE OIL**

Sunday, February 1

***Alan, Marceen, Nick and Shant Farsakian***

In memory of Betty Farsakian on the 90<sup>th</sup>  
anniversary of her birth

### **MEMORIAL LUNCH**

Sunday, February 1

The Family of Greg Davidian is providing lunch  
in honor of Greg, five years after his passing

### **JUNIOR ACYO**

We are excited to announce the **beginning of Junior ACYO**. Our Der Hayr held a **brief 15–20-minute gathering** with our children to introduce and **explain the mission of ACYO**. We officially launched Junior ACYO, creating space for our youth to grow in faith, serve, and build friendships. This will serve as preparation for the upcoming visit of the ACYO Central Council in February or March, which will include fellowship, a lecture, and a question and answer session.

### **SOUPER SUPPERS**

**Supper Suppers** will be held on **Wednesday, February 18, February 25, March 4, March 11, March 18 & March 25**. Soup will be served at **5:30 PM** followed by a **6:00 PM Lenten Service** in the church. All are invited to attend.

### **HOKEHANKISTS**

Sunday, January 25

***Amos Margosian,***

***Aron Margosian, and***

***George Margosian,***

requested by The Margosian Family

### **SCHEDULED FEBRUARY**

#### **HOKEHANKISTS**

**Sunday, February 1**

***Sark Davidian, Jr.***

One year after his passing,

requested by The Family of Sark Davidian, Jr.

***Greg Davidian***

Five years after his passing,

requested by The Family of Greg Davidian

**Sunday, February 8**

***Reba Ananian***

Eight years after her passing,

requested by Julie Bair and Shari Ananian

### **HOKEHANKIST DONATIONS**

Sunday, January 11

**For Repose of Bedros Stambouljian, Lucine**

**Stambouljian, Akop Oganessian, Oganessian,**

**Oganessian, and Vartui Oganessian Souls:**

***Anoush Oganessian***

Sunday, January 18

**For Repose of Rose Shuklian's Soul:**

***Amy Shuklian***

Sunday, January 25

**For Repose of Lucille Margosian's Soul:**

***Rose Marie Margosian,***

***The Pilavian Family, and***

***The Peters Family***

***Alan and Phyllis Borba***

### **LADIES SOCIETY**

The Ladies Society meeting is scheduled for **Saturday, February 7 at 11:30 AM** in the **Majarjian Hall**. We are glad to announce that we will be welcoming a **pilgrimage** from **St. Sarkis Church in Santa Clarita** to our fellowship.

### **POON PAREGENTAN**

The St. Mary Parish Council is hosting a **Poon Paregentan fellowship** after church services on **Sunday, February 15**. No reservations required. **Complimentary Food, Drink and Fun!** Poon Paregentan, the last Sunday before Great Lent, is a celebration of good living and happiness. (See flyer)

### PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council's next meeting will be held on **Thursday, February 19** via Zoom at **6:00 PM**.

### RECLAIM CONFERENCE

Dear Past Reclaim Conference Attendee,

**10th Annual Reclaim Conference** will take place in **Yetterm, California** on **March 6, 7 and 8**. This year's conference theme is "Reclaim Monasticism", shedding light on the sacred treasures of the Armenian Church and Tradition. The event will feature renowned speakers: Bishop Daniel Findikyan from Holy Etchmiadzin, Fr. Vazken Movsesian, Fr. Avedis Abovian, Fr. Mesrop Ash, Dr. Hratch Tchilingirian and Dr. George Stepaniants, along with ample opportunities for discussion and a most inspiring Agape Meal with Archbishop Hovnan Derderian. As always, it will be an uplifting and spiritual event for everyone. Conference ticket is \$125/person (Early bird \$100 by February 20 registration). Registration is open and includes all conference events. Details in the attached flyer and at <https://epostle.net/reclaim2026> The hotel for the Conference is Marriott Residence Inn in Visalia. Bus transportation is available with limited space at the bus fee of \$100 and includes round trip transportation from Burbank to the hotel and back, and to Yettem and back to the hotel. The bus will be leaving from the Diocesan headquarters on Friday March 6 at 12:00p.m. Hotel reservation is directly through the hotel by scanning the QR code at the Epostle website. Event registration ticket and bus reservation are through the registration QR Code; You have the choice to get ticket for Conference only or Conference and bus if you will be driving.

Join us with your family and feel free to forward to friends. Hope to see you at Reclaim 2026!

Maria Hamparian, on behalf of the Reclaim 2026 Committee. (See flyer)

### 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.**

### CHANGE OF EMAIL ADDRESS

Due to security concerns, Der Hayr will no longer be using the church email ([fathermashdots@stmaryyettem.org](mailto:fathermashdots@stmaryyettem.org)) account. An unfamiliar Gmail address has been using his name, which may cause confusion, as many people check only the sender's name and not the email address. For all church-related communication, please use the new email: [kahana.mashdotsk@gmail.com](mailto:kahana.mashdotsk@gmail.com)

### SUNDAY SCHOOL STUDENTS

Sunday School **meets** on the **second and fourth Sundays** of each month at **10:30 AM**, September-June. **Welcome all children!** If you have any questions, please contact **Adrienne Poochigian** at (559) 679-8452 or email [alskaff@gmail.com](mailto:alskaff@gmail.com)

### CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Our regular 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 those hours, you can email [kahana.mashdotsk@gmail.com](mailto:kahana.mashdotsk@gmail.com) or text/call (818) 293-9098 or email St. Mary Parish Council Chair Judy Skaff at [judy@thebelmontgroup.com](mailto:judy@thebelmontgroup.com) or text/call (559) 799-1198.

### 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](mailto:linda.hyewall@gmail.com)



We accept all types of vehicles. Plus, your donation qualifies for a tax donation. Contact Linda Farsakian-Wall at 559-786-1419 or [linda.hyewall@gmail.com](mailto:linda.hyewall@gmail.com) for more information.

Scan the QR code below to visit the official St. Mary Yettem website



# ST. MARY ARMENIAN CHURCH

## FEBRUARY 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 <b>Annual Parish Assembly Meeting after Church Services</b>	2	3	4	5	6	7 St. Sahag Bartev Catholicos <b>Ladies Society meeting in the Majarian Hall at 11:30 AM</b>
8 <b>Sunday School Children's Sermon</b>	9	10 St. Ghevont the Priest & his Companions	11	12 St. Vartan the Warrior & his Companions  Lincoln's Birthday	13	14 Valentine's Day  Presentation of the Lord to the Temple
15 Great Berekendan <b>Lent Begins</b> The Parish Council is hosting a Poon Paragentan Fellowship	16 <u>Presidents' Day</u>	17	18 <b>Souper Supper at 5:30 PM</b> <b>Lenten Service at 6:00 PM</b>	19 <b>The Parish Council meeting via Zoom at 6:00 PM</b>	20	21 St. Theodore the Warrior
22 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent (Expulsion) <b>Sunrise Service at 9:45 AM</b> <b>Divine Liturgy at 10:30 AM</b> Sunday School	23	24	25 <b>Souper Supper at 5:30 PM</b> <b>Lenten Service at 6:00 PM</b>	26	27	28 St. Cyril Patriarch of Jerusalem

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### 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  
818-293-9098 - Cell

St. Mary Armenian Apostolic Church  
**Christmas Yughakin 2026**  
*Thank you for all your Generous Donations*

Agajanian, Regina	Kizirian, Abe and Sandra
Ananian, Charlie	Krikorian, Gary and Nancy
Ananian, Gary and Janet	Lewis, Johnny & Joyce
Ananian, Serge and Judith	Lopez, Jr., Juan E. and Brooke B.
Arakelian, Fr. Kevork and Yn. Sandra	Margosian, Carrie
Asadoorian, Richard & Cowan, Barbara	Margosian, Rose Marie
Borba, Alan and Phyllis	Menendian, Laurie and Fredric Marrs
Dadian, Carol Ann and Arnold	Menendian, Mari Louise
Datian, John and Christine	Mikaelian, Michael and Sandra
Davidian Family, The Greg	Nunes, Richard and Joyce
Davidian, Charlie and Christina	Ouzounian, Shirley
Davidian, Edward and Georgia	Peloian, Joyce and Gary McCrea
Davidian, Margie L.	Peters, Darrell and Tina
Ekizian, Jeanette	Pilavian, Pierre and Melissa
Ekizian, Lesta	Poochigian, Julie
Emerzian, Leslie and Janice	Sarabian, Charles and Lori
Gomes, John and Janet	Skaff, Mike and Judy
Groefsema, Bruce and Gail	Tabibian, Neshan
Hagopian, Richard and Geraldine	Tamouzian, Mike
Hampar, Arthur	Tolegian, Madelaine
Hovannisian, Vars	Torosian, Patty
Kalfayan, Garo and Nancy	Valencia, Dr. Albert and Tracy
Kaloostian, Linda	Vartanian, Sandra
Kaprielian, John Ara and Sharon	Wall, Mark and Linda
Keshishian, Hagop Pegor & Vart Ann	Yahnian, David and Jennifer
	Zakarian, Archie and Kathy

Total Christmas Yughakin- \$9,410



# ST. MARY YETTEM



## FEBRUARY AND MARCH

<i>Sunday</i> <b>FEB 1</b>	<b>ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY</b> 	MAJARIAN HALL 12:00 NOON
<i>Sunday</i> <b>FEB 15</b>	<b>SUNDAY SCHOOL</b>  <b>POON PAREGENTAN FELLOWSHIP</b> 	MAJARIAN HALL AFTER CHURCH
<i>Wednesday</i> <b>FEB 18</b>	<b>SOUPER SUPER BEGINS</b>  BEFORE A SHORT SERVICE	-MAJARIAN HALL -CHURCH 5:30PM
<i>Sunday</i> <b>FEB 22</b>	<b>SUNDAY SCHOOL</b> 	CHURCH 10:30AM
<i>Fri, Sat, Sun</i> <b>MAR 6-8</b>	<b>10<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL RECLAIM RETREAT</b>  SEE FLYER	-CHURCH -MAJARIAN HALL ALL WEEKEND
<i>Sunday</i> <b>MAR 29</b>	<b>PALM SUNDAY</b>  <b>LADIES SOCIETY BAKE SALE</b> 	CHURCH



# Join us for Souper Supper

**Every Wednesday**

Begins - February 18

February 25

March 4

March 11

March 18

March 25



## *Souper Supper* 5:30pm

A warm and nourishing Lenten soup, generously sponsored by a parishioner, as we gather in fellowship during this sacred season

## *Evening Service* 6:00pm

Special prayers and hymns to help us grow spiritually and prepare for Easter

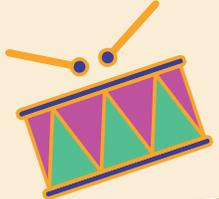


*All are welcomed  
No reservations required*





HOSTED BY THE ST. MARY YETTEM PARISH COUNCIL



# POON PAREGENTAN FELLOWSHIP

After Church Services

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2026

**NO RESERVATIONS REQUIRED  
COMPLIMENTARY FOOD . DRINK . FUN**

Poon Paregentan, the last Sunday before Great Lent,  
is a celebration of good living and happiness

10<sup>th</sup> Annual

# RECLAIM '26 MONASTICISM

March 6,7,8

Under the auspices of  
Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, Primate  
at the St. Mary Armenian Church, Yettem California  
Bishop Daniel Findikyan, Keynote Speaker

Pray 🙏 Learn 🙏 Grow

An enlightening and spiritually uplifting event,  
shedding light on the sacred treasures of the  
Armenian Church and Tradition.

For young and old - the seeker, the learned,  
the spiritual traveler... something for everyone.

Conference: \$125/person (Earlybird \$100 to 2/20) Includes: All conference events,  
welcome reception, speakers, presentations, materials, discussions and meals

Bus transportation available - Rd trip: Burbank ~ Yettem and transportation to and  
from hotel and events for all three days, return to Burbank

Hotel: Residence Inn, Visalia. Reserve NOW at [Epostle.net/Reclaim2026](http://Epostle.net/Reclaim2026)





# ***LENTEN LUNCH***

## ***“Meechink”***

Sponsored by

*St. Mary Yettem Ladies Society*

**Sunday, March 8, 2026**

**following church services**

### **MENU FEATURES:**

**vospov kufta (lentil kufta), hearty winter vegetable soup,  
eech (Lenten kheyma), potato piaz, green salad, bread, dessert**

*Donations are appreciated*

**For reservations call**

**Sonya at the church office - 559-528-6892  
or email - [lunch@stmaryyettem.org](mailto:lunch@stmaryyettem.org)**

***The food is delicious, the fellowship is even better!!  
Join in on this Yettem tradition!!!***

# Armenian Christmas



Godfather of the Cross  
Gregory Krikorian



## Armenian Christmas Lunch



Der Mashdots and Parish Council



(Continued from the front page)

## **Prayer in Daily Life**

Great Lent also calls us to rediscover prayer, not only in church, but in our homes, our cars, our workplaces, and our quiet moments.

Prayer does not require perfect words. It only requires a sincere heart. Even a simple prayer offered with faith opens the door for God to work within us.

In a world filled with noise, Lent invites us back into holy silence, where God's voice can be heard again.

## **A Shared Journey**

Great Lent is not meant to be walked alone. It is a shared journey of the Church. Together, as a parish family, we walk toward Easter with hope and trust.

Some will walk with strength, others with struggle. Yet all are embraced equally by God's mercy. This season reminds us that the Church is not a place for perfect people, but a home for growing souls.

## **Looking Toward the Resurrection**

Although Great Lent begins with reflection and repentance, it always points toward joy. The Cross is never the final word, the Resurrection is.

Each prayer, each effort, and each act of love becomes a quiet preparation for the light of Easter morning.

As we begin Great Lent on February 16, may this season become not only a tradition we observe, but a journey that shapes our hearts. May we emerge from these weeks renewed in faith, strengthened in hope, and united in love.

May Great Lent lead us gently, faithfully, and joyfully toward the Resurrection of our Lord.

Fr. Mashdots