



YETTEM ԵՊԵՄ

Հրատարակութիւն Եղեմի Ս. Աստուածածին Հայաստանեայց Եկեղեցւոյ

A Publication of St. Mary Armenian Church Yettem, California

Rev. Fr. Mashdots Keshishian, Parish Priest

April 2025

LET US TURN THE GAZE OF OUR SOULS TO THE RISEN CHRIST

"For now, it is the moment for you to wake from sleep." (Romans 13:11)

The morning of Easter Sunday is the dawn of our new life. Through the glorious mystery of Christ's Resurrection, our lives are renewed with the birth of a living hope leading us to eternity. The profound mystery of Christ's Resurrection cannot be confined to mere words, for in it, we find the spiritual strength that transforms and renews the depths of our souls. It is an inexplicable inner joy, a divine radiance that illuminates our being. This is why the Apostle Paul proclaims with fervor and faith: *"For to me, to live is Christ." (Philippians 1:21)*

With a resounding voice, the Church proclaims: *"Christ is risen from the dead! Blessed is the Resurrection of Christ!"* This is the moment when, united in faith, the body of believers becomes the Church, lifting up their voices in glory and praise to His holy name.

How fitting it is to recall the Apostle's words as we walk in faith toward the mystery of the Resurrection: *"For now, it is the moment for you to wake from sleep."*

Indeed, in Christ's Resurrection, the faithful awaken to new life. This is why we observe the forty-day period of fasting, prayer, spiritual reflection, and preparation, so that with open hearts, we may journey toward confession, holiness, and self-discovery. It is only through this path that the consciousness and living experience of the Resurrection take root within our spiritual essence.

As Christians, especially in these times, we are called to re-evaluate our lives. Knowledge and science undoubtedly bring enlightenment, but they cannot lead us to perfection. Only God is perfect, and the Resurrection of the Son of God opens before us the door to that path of perfection.

"Christ is risen from the dead! Blessed is the Resurrection of Christ!"

This proclamation, uttered from our lips, is the confession of our unshakable faith, deeply rooted within our souls. Each time we proclaim the good news of the Resurrection, it illuminates our spiritual life, for in doing so, we cast off the burden of sin, cleansing our hearts and awakening within us the new man in Christ. This is the moment when true renewal takes place, as the divine presence of God moves within us, transforming our very being.

"For now, it is the moment for you to wake from sleep."

(Continued on page 2)

The Apostle's words encompass the full essence of Christ's Resurrection, calling us to dispel the darkness within and to become living vessels of love, radiating its light to all. This is the command placed upon us - to ensure that only words of goodness flow from our lips and that our hearts become the guiding force of the Gospel's wisdom.

The dawn of Resurrection is a divine invitation to renew the Christian spirit within us - to walk in love and respect toward one another, embracing forgiveness and humility in our interactions.

Our Christian life must be one of constant faith, unwavering prayer, and tireless spiritual devotion. As children of our nation, we are called to be the living Church, with Christ the Son of God at its head, for His Resurrection is the very foundation of our faith and service. Wherever we are, love must reign over every aspect of our spiritual journey.

The mystery of Christ's Resurrection becomes tangible and visible when we are helpful to one another, when we live with awareness of the truth, and when we come together in unity and harmony to build up both the Church and our Homeland, setting aside our differences and humbling ourselves before the sacred traditions that define our very existence.

No matter how far we may be from our Homeland physically, our faith remains anchored in Holy Etchmiadzin and Motherland Armenia, united as one body and one bridge to God. Wherever we find ourselves, we must uphold our civic duties, live exemplary lives, and share with our neighbors the spiritual legacy entrusted to us by our ancestors.

"Christ is risen from the dead! Blessed is the Resurrection of Christ!"

Let us turn the gaze of our souls to the Risen Christ, so that, guided by His victory over death, we may usher in a new dawn in our lives.

We build this new dawn when we fill the souls of our children with love for God and the spirit of prayer. We build this new dawn when we bind the hearts of our youth to our Homeland, inspiring in them the vision of a greater truth - the Armenian Christian family, a living symbol and reflection of Holy Etchmiadzin and Mother Armenia.

Finally, we build this new dawn when we stand together in prayer, offering a fragrant incense of faith, in which we behold the splendor of Christ's glorious Resurrection.

"Christ is risen from the dead! Blessed is the Resurrection of Christ!"

Prayerfully,

Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, Primate
Western Diocese of the Armenian Church of North America

Easter, 2025

Parish Notes

ALTAR CANDLE OIL

March 16th

Alan, Marceen, Nickolas and Shant Farsakian
in honor of
Linda Farsakian-Wall's 70th birthday

ALTAR FLOWERS

March 2nd

The Davidian and Ogata Families
in memory of Sark Davidian, Jr.,
forty days after his passing

March 23rd

***Karon Penny and family,
Sharon and John Kaprielian and family, and
Carrie Margosian and family***
in memory of Lucille Margosian

HOKEHANKIST REQUESTS

March 2nd

Sark Davidian, Jr.
forty days after his passing,
requested by
The Davidian and Ogata Families

March 23rd

Lucille Margosian
forty days after her passing and her 93rd birthday
requested by
Karon Penny and family,
Sharon and John Kaprielian and family, and
Carrie Margosian and family

HOKEHANKIST DONATIONS

March 2nd

***For Repose of Sark Davidian, Jr.'s Soul:
Charlie and Christine Davidian
Margie L. Davidian***

March 23rd

***For Repose of Lucille Margosian's Soul:
Rose Marie Margosian,
The Pilavian Family, and
The Peters Family***

THANK YOU

Thank you, Lernik Sarkisian, for your hard work, generosity, and for covering the expenses in repairing the storage room roof. Your kindness and dedication are truly appreciated.

MISCELLANEOUS DONATIONS

Betty Skaff Jacobo

EASTER SERVICES SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday – April 13, 2025

9:30 AM – Morning Service & Opening of the Altar Curtain
10:15 AM – Divine Liturgy followed by Children's Procession and Blessing, Opening of the Portals

Great and Holy Thursday – April 17, 2025

9:30 AM – Morning Service
10:15 AM – Divine Liturgy Memorial of the Last Supper
6:00 PM – Service of the Washing of Feet
7:00 PM – Service of the Betrayal & Sufferings of our Lord

Good Friday – April 18, 2025

6:00 PM – Service of the Entombment & Solemn Procession

Great and Holy Saturday – April 19, 2025

5:00 PM – Evening Service, Scripture Readings & Voch Inch Eh Bido
5:30 PM – Easter Eve Divine Liturgy

Easter Sunday – April 20, 2025

9:30 AM – Morning Service
10:15 AM – Divine Liturgy followed by Antasdan (Blessing of the Fields) Celebrant: Rev. Fr. Mashdots Keshishian, Parish Priest

2025 INSTALLATION



- (Pictured left to right) -

Laurie Menendian, Parish Assembly Secretary;
Linda Farsakian-Wall, Ladies Society Chair;
Renee Ananian, Ladies Society Advisor; Fr.
Mashdots Keshishian, Parish Priest; Michelle
Ananian, Ladies Society Advisor; Julie
Poochigian, Ladies Society Treasurer;
Janel Zerounian, Ladies Society Rec. Secretary

LADIES SOCIETY NEWS

The “*I am thankful for . . .*” is in full swing! A pinwheel acknowledging your gratitude decorates our church yard, and your message of thanks is published in the church’s May newsletter. With each message of thankfulness, we acknowledge God’s abundant blessings in our lives. We want to see our church yard blossom with pinwheels! See enclosed flier for details.

We hosted the annual Meechink fellowship on Sunday, March 23. The fellowship was Yettem strong, and the food was delicious and plentiful. The committee led by Laurie Menendian pulled out all the stops and made this a spectacular event. Thank you Laurie and committee, for your efforts.

Easter week is upon us, and we are ready! Palm Sunday, April 13th, is our annual bake sale featuring Armenian baked goods and specialty desserts. We accept and appreciate donations on the day of the sale. You won’t want to miss these delicious treats.

The bake sale is followed by our annual Easter egg sale Sunday, April 20th. The tradition of egg fights is enjoyed by the young and old. We appreciate your donation of one dozen eggs to be sold. Just think, one of those eggs could be your winner!

Join us May 4th after church for our Mother’s Day celebration. We are hosting a fellowship to honor all mothers. There will be no shortage of delicious food and heartwarming fellowship. A slideshow honoring our mothers will highlight the day. I am requesting pictures of past and present mothers be submitted to me or emailed to me at linda.hyewall@gmail.com by April 20th.

*God’s blessings to you,
Linda Farsakian-Wall, Chair*

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 fathermashdots@stmaryyettem.org or text/call (818) 293-9098 or email St. Mary Parish Council Chair Judy Skaff at judy@thebelmontgroup.com or text/call (559) 799-1198.

SCHEDULED APRIL HOKEHANKISTS

April 27th

George Ouzounian

one year after his passing,
requested by Shirley Ouzounian,
Craig, Annie, Audrey, and Maddy Ouzounian,
and Lisa, Paul, Vaughn, and Theo Dermenjian

SOUPER SUPPERS

Souper Suppers will be held on **Wednesday, April 2nd & 9th**. Soup will be served at **5:30 PM** followed by a **6:00 PM Lenten Service** in the church. All are invited to attend.

RAFFLE

Our **April, May, and June drawings of 2025** will be held on **Sunday, April 13th**. If you would like tickets, contact Tina Peters at (559) 967-2593 by phone or text.

SAVE THE DATES

Palm Sunday Bake Sale – **Sunday, April 13th**

Easter Luncheon – **Sunday, April 20th**

The Ladies making Yalanchi & Crescent Cookies for the Food Festival in the Majarian Hall at **9 AM – April 26th**

Mother’s Day Fellowship – **Sunday, May 4th**

We look forward to your participation!

PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council’s next meeting will be held on **Wednesday, April 23rd** via Zoom at **6:00 PM**



Donating is easy. Pick-up is free. It’s a win for you and a win for our church! For more information, call Linda Farsakian-Wall at 559-786-1419 or email linda.hyewall@gmail.com

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

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

ST. MARY ARMENIAN CHURCH

APRIL 2025

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Souper Supper at 5:30 PM Lenten Service at 6:00 PM	3	4 Choir Practice at 10:30 AM	5 St. Gregory the Illuminator Commitment of the Pit The Ladies Society meeting in the Majarian Hall
6 th Sunday of Lent (Advent)	7 Annunciation of the Virgin Mary	8	9 Souper Supper at 5:30 PM Lenten Service at 6:00 PM	10	11 Choir Practice at 10:30 AM	12 Remembrance of the Raising of Lazarus
13 Palm Sunday Sunday School Children's Sermon Ladies Society Palm Sunday Bake Sale April, May & June Raffles	14	15 Remembrance of the Ten Virgins	16	17 Great & Holy Thursday	18 Great & Holy Friday	19 Great & Holy Saturday Service (Easter Eve)
20 Holy Easter Easter Luncheon after church services	21 Remembrance of the dead	22	23	24 Feast of the Holy Martyrs of the Armenian Genocide	25	26 9:00 AM The Ladies making Yalanchi & Crescent Cookies for The Food Festival
27 New Sunday Sunday School	28	29	30			

Sunday Schedule:

Sunrise Service (Matins) 9:45 AM
Divine Liturgy 10:30 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 Ladies Society

I am thankful for . . .

Pinwheel Fundraiser

Gratitude is a prayer of the heart. As we give thanks, we acknowledge God's abundant blessings in our lives. Let your pinwheel be a symbol of your thankfulness, a reminder that "every good gift comes from above." (James 1:17)



Let the church yard bloom with pinwheels. Express your thankfulness with one or more pinwheel(s), and your message. Your message will be printed in the monthly church newsletter.

One large pinwheel is a donation of \$100. Smaller pinwheels are a donation of \$20 for one pinwheel or 6 pinwheels for \$100.

.....

Name _____

Address _____

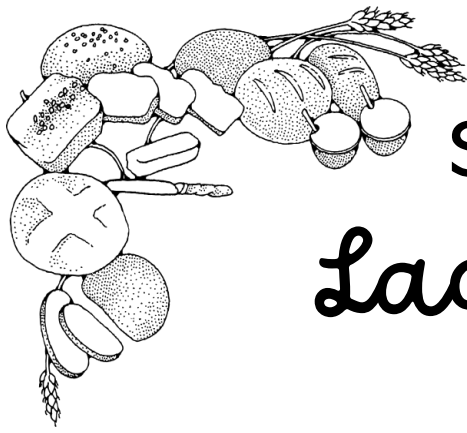
Enclosed is my \$ _____ check for _____ large pinwheel(s); _____ smaller pinwheel(s)

I am thankful for _____

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

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

Deadline for your donation is April 13, 2025



Sponsored by the
Ladies Society



Palm Sunday **BAKE SALE**

After Church Services

Sunday, April 13, 2025

ALL PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT OUR CHURCH



Donations of any Armenian Baked Goods or
Specialty Desserts will be accepted and appreciated
on the day of the Bake Sale.

☞Any Questions☞

Text or Call Linda Farsakian-Wall—(559) 786-1419



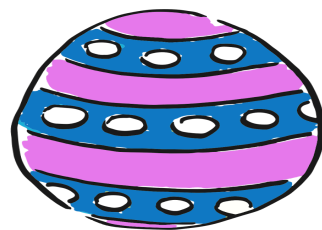
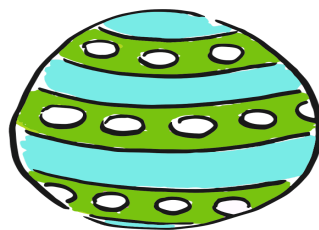
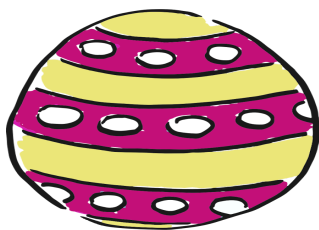
Join our Sunday School for a Joyful Easter Egg Hunt!

Date: Easter Sunday
Time: After Church Services

Children of all ages are invited to hunt eggs, enjoy treats, and celebrate the joy of Easter together.

We can't wait to see you there!

For more information, contact Adrienne Poochigian at 559-679-8452





St. Mary Armenian Church of Yettem

Easter Luncheon

Sunday, April 20, 2025

Beef Kebab

Salad, Pilaf, Green Beans, Cheese Borag,
Armenian Bread, Dessert and Beverages

Adults: \$25 per adult

Children 10 and under: \$15 per child

Reservations Requested by Wednesday, April 16

Call the Church Office—(559) 528-6892 -or-

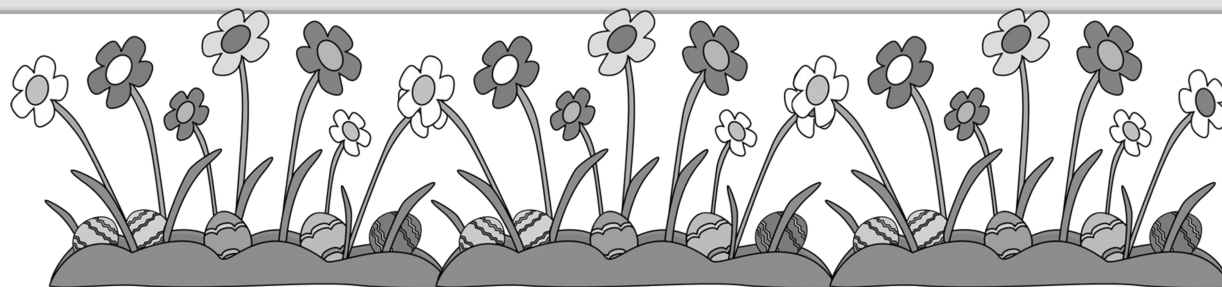
E-mail—lunches@stmaryyettem.org

Tricky Tray Raffle

“Fun and Useful” items

\$15 for 26 tickets

If you would like to donate a basket(s) or any item(s)
please bring your donation on Easter Sunday





ST. MARY YETTEM LADIES SOCIETY

REMINDER

**PLEASE BRING
ONE DOZEN COLORED EASTER EGGS**

TO CHURCH ON EASTER SUNDAY

BE PART OF THIS LIVELY

EASTER TRADITION





Join Us For A Mother's Day Celebration!

*The Ladies Society Invites You To
A Fellowship In Honor of Our Mothers
Sunday, May 4th. In The Church Hall*

Seeking Photos of Mothers Past and Present

To be Included In a Slideshow

Please Submit Photos to Linda Farsakian-Wall or Email to

(linda.hyewall@gmail.com) by April 20th

. All Photos Will be Returned

RSVP by May 1st. lunches@stmaryyettem.org

Donations Welcome



St. Mary Armenian Apostolic Church of Yettem

Physical Address: 14395 Avenue 384, Yettem, CA 93670

Mailing Address: PO Box 367, Yettem, CA 93670

Church Office: (559) 528-6892

Website: www.stmaryyettem.org

Facebook: SaintMary YettemChurch

Parish Priest	Ways and Means
Rev Fr. Mashdots Keshishian Cell: (818) 293-9098 fathermashdots@stmaryyettem.org	Margie L. Davidian, Co-Chair zaroohie@gmail.com Judy Skaff, Co-Chair judy@thebelmontgroup.com Debbie Sheklian, <i>Rec. Secretary</i> Tina Peters, <i>Treasurer</i>
Church Secretary	Sunday School
Sonya Barton Office: (559) 528-6892 sonya@stmaryyettem.org	Adrienne Poochigian, Superintendent alskaff@gmail.com Ani Valencia, <i>Teacher</i> Margie A. Davidian, <i>Advisor-Music</i> Annie Davidian, <i>Spec. Programs Coord.</i> Tina Maleksarkessians, <i>Armenian Language</i>
Parish Council	CHOIR DIRECTOR/ORGANIST
Judy Skaff, Chair judy@thebelmontgroup.com Annie Davidian, <i>Vice Chair</i> Tracy Valancia, <i>Secretary</i> Tina Peters, <i>Treasurer</i> Julie Poochigian, <i>Advisor</i> Mike Tamouzian, <i>Advisor</i> Sandra Vartanian, <i>Advisor</i>	Mari Louise Menendian mlmenen@aol.com
Ladies Society	YETTEM SOCIAL HYES
Linda Farsakian-Wall, Chair linda.hyewall@gmail.com Donna Venturella, <i>Vice Chair</i> Janel Zerounian, <i>Rec. Secretary</i> Margie A. Davidian, <i>Corr. Secretary</i> Julie Poochigian, <i>Treasurer</i> Michelle Ananian, <i>Advisor</i> Renee Ananian, <i>Advisor</i>	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>

Upcoming April 2025 Events & Meetings

Choir Practice – Friday, April 4 & 11 – 10:30 AM (Church)
Ladies Society Meeting - Saturday, April 5 - 11:30am (Church Hall)
Sunday School – Sunday, April 13 & 27 – 10:30 am (Classroom)
Souper Suppers & Lenten Services – Wednesday, April 2 & 9 – 5:30 (Hall) & 6:00 (Church)
Ladies Society Palm Sunday Bake Sale & April, May & June Raffles – Sunday, April 13 (Church Hall)
Easter Luncheon – Sunday, April 20 (Church Hall)
Parish Council Meeting – Wednesday, April 23 – 6:00 pm (via Zoom)
The Ladies Making Yalanchi & Crescent Cookies – Saturday, April 26 – 9:00 am (Church Hall)



ST. MARY
ARMENIAN
CHURCH of YETTEM

47th ARMENIAN FOOD FESTIVAL

Thursday, May 15, 2025
LUNCH-11am-1:30pm
DINNER-4:30pm-7:00pm
Dine-In or Drive-Thru



Visalia Elks Lodge—3100 West Main

CHOICE OF TWO ENTRÉE PLATES

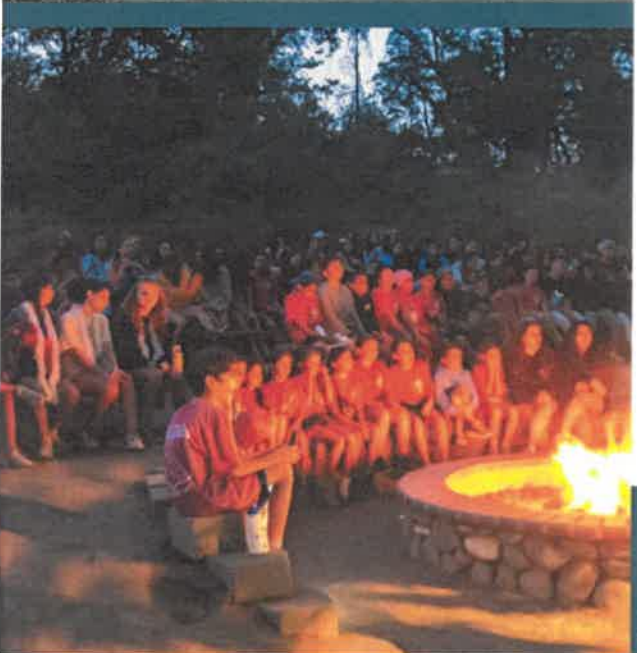
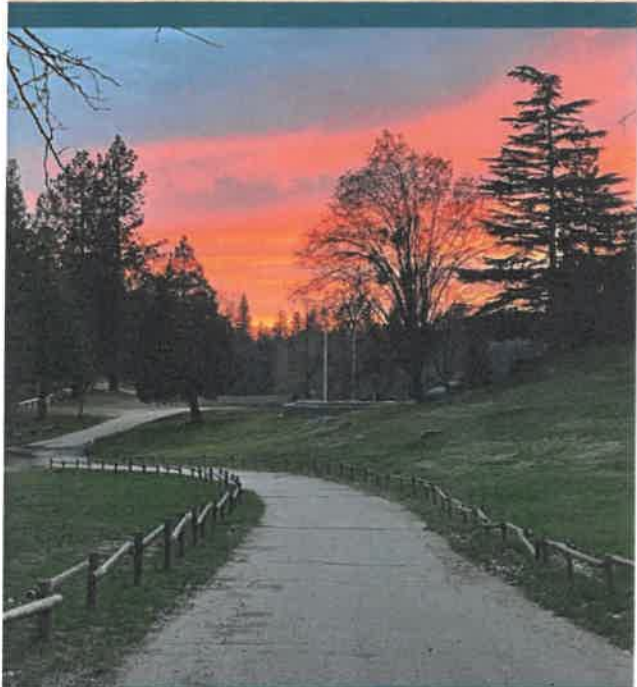
Lulu Kebab –or– Chicken Kebab

Pilaf, Salad, Peda Bread and Dessert

Donation-\$25 per person

BAKE SALE—Grape Leaves, Crescent Cookies, Nazook and More

Prepaid Tickets will be mailed in April!



HYE CAMP 2025



Sessions:

Week 1: July 13-19

Week 2: July 20-26

Week 3: July 27-Aug 2

Week 4: Aug 3-9

Campers ages 8-17

Counselors/Staff age 18+



Camper Registration Opens on
APRIL 1st at 10:00am



Join us for Family Day
on **APRIL 26th at Hye Camp**



Hye Camp Location:

45000 E. Kings Canyon Rd
Dunlap, CA 93621

Hye Camp offers four one-week overnight summer camp sessions which provide an awesome experience for Campers and Staff to learn about their faith, culture, and Armenian community! Activities include religious and cultural classes, basketball, swimming, boating, arts & crafts, soccer, archery, volleyball, Armenian dance, campfires, stargazing and so much more!

Camper Scholarships Available!

Registration:
hyecamp.com
Questions?
info@hyecamp.com



Follow us for updates



hyecamp

A SPIRITUAL JOURNEY FROM PALM SUNDAY TO EASTER

The final station of the Lenten spiritual journey begins with Palm Sunday, leading us through Holy Week to Easter - the glorious Resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Since my childhood, Holy Week has been the pinnacle of my spiritual life, a sacred time when I have felt as though I was walking step by step with Jesus. Our Christian faith is founded on Christ himself and His sacrificial love, but the journey from Palm Sunday to Easter brings this truth into focus in a profound way.

Palm Sunday marks Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem, welcomed with hymns of Hosanna! Yet this moment is not simply an event of the past - it is ever-present in the life of every believer. Just as Christ entered Jerusalem, so too must He enter the heart of each Christian, making it a Holy City where He dwells. When we read in the Gospels how the people laid their garments at His feet in reverence, we are reminded that this is more than a historical scene. It is a call to faith, drawing us toward Golgotha and the Cross, where the journey finds its fulfillment in the Resurrection.

Holy Week unfolds as a series of "*spiritual steps*" leading us ever closer to the Most Merciful God. The Divine Liturgy of Palm Sunday is followed by the "*Opening of the Doors*" ceremony, a prayerful dialogue between God and the repentant soul. The Kingdom of Heaven is not entered by mere desire but by humble confession, as the believer knocks upon the door of the Church, symbolizing the gates of eternity. In that moment, not only is the curtain of the Holy Altar drawn open, but so too is our heart, so that the Heavenly Bridegroom - Christ - may visibly dwell within us.

How profound is the Parable of the Ten Virgins, spoken by Christ Himself, which reminds us that our hearts must be ever-burning lamps of God, where prayer serves as the eternal oil keeping the flame alive.

Soon after, we read of Christ's entry into the Temple, where He cleanses His Father's house, driving out those who had turned it into a place of commerce. Our very being is meant to be a living temple of prayer, yet when we neglect a life of prayer, foreign and distracting thoughts take root within us. Thus, Christ warns us against evil and awakens us, urging to keep our souls pure, never forgetting that we are the dwelling place of God's presence.

With vigilant faith, we follow Christ to the Last Supper, where He institutes the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist. In this moment, He does not merely share a meal with His disciples; He offers Himself as the Bread of Life. And so, each time we

(Continued from page 15)

partake in the Divine Liturgy, it is Christ Himself who is sacrificed, drawing us into communion with Him so that we may be sanctified and renewed in His divine presence.

Shortly after, Christ kneels in humility to wash the feet of His disciples, teaching them - and us - that humility and meekness must become the guiding principles of our lives. People would be blessed if they truly understood the meaning of this divine act, for we would live in a transformed world. And since Christ remains ever-present, we are continually invited to examine our hearts, correct our shortcomings, and fulfill the will of the Master.

The road to Golgotha now stretches before us. Christ, bearing the weight of the Cross, takes upon Himself the sin of all humanity, ultimately defeating it through His salvific Crucifixion. Even from the Cross, He reminds us that just as He forgave the repentant thief, so too must we make forgiveness the essence of our spiritual lives.

And so, we lift our voices in hymns of praise, glorifying Christ's Crucifixion and Holy Burial, knowing that through these sacred mysteries, God's infinite love is revealed - the love made manifest in the coming of His Only-Begotten Son for the salvation of all souls.

Stay vigilant, for soon the myrrh-bearing women will return from Christ's Holy Tomb to proclaim the joyful news of the Resurrection: "He is not here; He is risen! Behold the place where they laid Him." (Mark 16:6)

Prayerfully,

Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, Primate
Western Diocese of the Armenian Church of North America

From Palm Sunday to Easter, 2025