



YETTEM ԵՊԵՄ

Հրատարակութիւն Եղեմի Ս. Աստուածածին Հայաստանեայց Եկեղեցւոյ

A Publication of St. Mary Armenian Church Yettem, California

Rev. Fr. Mashdots Keshishian, Parish Priest

May 2025

The Heart of Motherhood

On this blessed Mother's Day, we pause to honor not just the role of a mother, but the spirit of motherhood that breathes life, love, and grace into our world. A mother's love is a reflection of God's own tenderness, a quiet strength, a constant presence, a selfless devotion that shapes generations.

"Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her." Proverbs 31:28

A mother prays in silence when no one sees. She wipes away tears, both her own and others, and yet greets each day with a hopeful heart. Her sacrifices are many, often unnoticed by the world, but seen and cherished by God.

"She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come." Proverbs 31:25

Motherhood is not just a title, it is a calling, a mission of the soul. Whether by birth or by love, mothers teach us how to walk in faith, to give without expecting, and to trust in God's perfect timing. They are the first to offer grace, and the last to give up on those they love.

And today, we also give thanks for the spiritual mothers in our midst, the women who uplift our church and nurture our community with the same gentleness and strength. We especially honor the women of the Ladies Society, who are the heart of the church.

Like mothers, they serve quietly but powerfully. With loving hands and faithful hearts, they prepare, organize, comfort, and lead. They cook and clean not just to fill stomachs, but to fill souls. They visit the sick, support the grieving, celebrate the joyful, and carry the burdens of the community like a mother carries her child. Their love weaves the church family together with prayer, compassion, and service.

"She opens her arms to the poor and extends her hands to the needy." Proverbs 31:20

The Ladies Society doesn't just serve the church, they are the church in action. Their example teaches younger generations how to love selflessly, serve joyfully, and walk humbly with God.

(Continued on the back page)

Parish Notes

In Loving Memory of Betty and Hasmik

With heavy hearts, we share the passing of two cherished members of our church family, **Betty Krikorian**, and **Hasmik Enfiedjian**. We extend our deepest condolences to Gary, Nancy, and Gregory Krikorian, Rick, Kathryn, Hannah and Julia Krikorian, and Dean Krikorian on the passing of Betty. She passed on April 18th. Also, we extend our deepest condolences to Sarkis Enfiedjian and family on the passing of Hasmik. She passed on April 16th. Services will be held on Tuesday, April 29th at 10:00 am at St. Gregory Armenian Apostolic Church, 2215 E. Colorado Blvd., Pasadena, California. We offer prayers to their families during this difficult time. May the Lord grant them eternal rest, and may their memory be a source of comfort and blessing to all who knew and loved them.

WEEKLY BULLETIN SPONSORSHIP

The April 27th weekly bulletin was sponsored by:
Sarkis Enfiedjian and family
in memory of Hasmik Enfiedjian

BUTTER FOR WASHING OF THE FEET & EASTER ALTAR CANDLE OIL

Janice and Richard McWilliams
Phyllis and Alan Borba
Becky and Jeff Akin
in memory of their parents,
Harry and Laura Davidian

ALTAR FLOWERS

Easter Sunday, April 20th

Alan and Phyllis Borba

in honor of their grandchildren,
Laura, Marley, Braxton, and Parker at Easter

April 27th

***Shirley Ouzounian, Craig, Annie, Audrey and
Maddy Ouzounian and Lisa, Paul, Vaughn
and Theo Dermenjian***

in memory of George Ouzounian

Judy Kachadoorian,
Kandy Kachadoorian Basmajian,
Kris and Aida Kachadoorian and family
in memory of Kaye Kachadoorian

HOKEHANKIST REQUESTS

April 27th

Hasmik Enfiedjian

requested by Sarkis Enfiedjian and family

George Ouzounian

one year after his passing,

requested by Shirley Ouzounian,
Craig, Annie, Audrey and Maddy Ouzounian and
Lisa, Paul, Vaughn and Theo Dermenjian

Kaye Kachadoorian

three years after his passing,

requested by Judy Kachadoorian,
Kandy Kachadoorian Basmajian,
Kris and Aida Kachadoorian and family

Vartan Khanjian

seven years after his passing,

requested by Yn. Maral, Fr. Mashdots,
Hagop Pegor, Vart Ann and family

SCHEDULED MAY HOKEHANKISTS

May 4th

Pete, Idalene and Jack Barsamian

requested by

Richard, Lillian, Pete and David Safrastian

May 25th

Hasmik Enfiedjian

forty days after her passing,

requested by Sarkis Enfiedjian and family

Elizabeth Ananian

one year after her passing,

requested by Charlie Ananian and family

FAREWELL,

VERY REV. FR. ANANIA TSATURYAN

Hayr Soorp, we are grateful for your time with us and the kindness, faith, and warmth you brought to our community. You will be missed, and we wish you many blessings on your journey ahead.



LADIES SOCIETY NEWS

Our annual Palm Sunday was a big success! We raised \$1,877 for the church. The success of this event was due to our talented bakers and the generosity of our Yettem community. Thank you bakers! Thank you community for your purchases. Michelle Ananian did an outstanding job chairing the event. Thank you Michelle for stepping up when I needed your help.

Der Mashdots, Ladies Society visitation committee, and Parish Council Chairman Judy Skaff made a heartwarming visitation to our Yettemites living at the Armenian Home in Fresno. We visited and prayed with Margaret Parsons, Violet Derderian, and Renee Yahnian. The visit brought us all so much joy!



Mother's Day fellowship is Sunday, May 4. A light meal and a fun afternoon honoring our mothers is planned. RSVP to lunches@stmaryyettem.org. You won't want to miss this!

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

EASTER LUNCHEON DONATIONS

Darrell & Tina Peters – Meat

Darrell Peters & Mike Tamouzian – Barbequers

Alan & Phyllis Borba – Salad and Bread

Mike & Judy Skaff – Pilaf

Albert & Tracy Valencia – Green Beans

Sandra Vartanian – Cheese Boreg

Sargon & Lilit Benjamin – 14 Easter Cakes

EASTER DONATIONS

Laurie Menendian – Yellow lilies in clay pots

Richard and Janice McWilliams - Easter lilies

Mike and Judy Skaff – Easter lilies

David and Ardemis Menendian – Plastic Easter Eggs

MISCELLANEOUS DONATIONS

Skylar and Gregory Davidian
in memory of Greg Davidian's 74th birthday

Joyce Lewis
in memory of her parents,
Arson and Roxie Iskenderian

Alice Vartanian
Philip Vartanian
Christine Vartanian Datian
Donation to the Yettem Newsletter

THANK YOU

On Palm Sunday in the Armenian Church, a deacon or priest knocks on the closed church door with a special hammer, marking Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem. This act symbolizes Christ knocking on the door of our hearts, and the priest opens the doors to welcome the King of Glory.

We thank David Menendian and his family for donating both the new knocking hammer (mallet) and for donating the knocking of the wood during the Trnpatsek service. The hammer is made of oak (կաղնի) wood. Your generous gift enriches our worship and honors this meaningful ritual.

We also want to thank Margie L. Davidian, Linda Farsakian-Wall, Tina Maleksarkessians, Tina Peters, Judy Skaff, Tracy Valencia for washing all the dishes and the carts. They cleaned and reorganized the back kitchen.

Thank you to Tina Peters and Sarkis Davidian, III for cleaning and trimming back the north flower bed of the Majarian Hall.

Thank you to Lauren and Ani Valencia for taking pictures in front of the Easter background in the hall on Easter Day. You captured such beautiful memories, we appreciate it!

Thank you, Annie Davidian for kindly arranging for the gardener to fix the church sprinklers. We appreciate your help and thoughtfulness.

RAFFLE

Our April, May and June raffles of 2025 were held on Palm Sunday, April 13th.

Congratulations to the April winners...

(\$150) Dr. Steven Koobatian

(\$100) Brayden Bolduc

(\$50) Alan Farsakian

Congratulations to the May winners...

(\$150) Sonya Barton

(\$100) Meagan Kaloostian

(\$50) Lisa Krause

Congratulations to the June winners...

(\$150) Lesta Ekizian

(\$100) Kathryn Ananian

(\$50) Lisa Krause

Our **July and August drawings of 2025** will be held on **Sunday, August 17th**. If you would like tickets, contact Tina Peters at (559) 967-2593 by phone or text.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School will be held on **May 4th** and **May 18th**. The Sunday School Commencement will be held on the **18th** followed by a fellowship. Please make every effort to attend. Sunday School will resume on **Sunday, September 7th**.

CHOIR

Choir practice is scheduled for **Wednesday, May 14th** and **Friday, May 23rd** at 10:30 AM in the church.

FOOD FESTIVAL

We will be holding our **47th Annual Food Festival Luncheon and Dinner** this year on **Thursday, May 15th**. This major event sponsored by the St. Mary Yettem Ways and Means Committee will be held again at the **Elks Lodge in Visalia**. This is a major fund raiser for our church and depends on the willingness of the extended Armenian community and their friends to help work on that day. If you can help with a shift on May 15th, please contact The Ways and Means Co-Chairs Margie L. Davidian at 559-679-8794 or Judy Skaff at 559-799-1198. Mark your calendars and spread the word. (See flier)

PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council's next meeting will be held on **Sunday, May 25th after church services**.

SOUPER SUPPER DONATIONS

March 5th – Judy Skaff

March 12th – Linda Farsakian-Wall

March 19th - Sandra Vartanian

April 2nd – John and Sandy Kalfayan

April 9th – Laurie Menendian

THE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

The Ways and Means Committee next scheduled meeting will be held on **Thursday, June 12th** via Zoom at **6:30 PM**.

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



Spring is here! Time to clear out that old vehicle and donate it! What are you waiting for? Call Linda Farsakian-Wall at 559-786-1419 for more information.

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

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

SPECIAL THANK YOU

Thank you, Jason Takhtadjian, (a reporter with KSEE 24 & CBS 47) for taking the time to visit and create a beautiful video about our Easter celebration. Your work truly captured the spirit of the day and means a lot to our church community.

ST. MARY ARMENIAN CHURCH

May 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Sunday of the World Church (Green Sunday) Sunday School Children's Sermon Mother's Day fellowship after church services						
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Red Sunday Mother's Day			Choir Practice at 10:30 AM	The Ways and Means Committee 47 th Annual Food Festival at the Visalia Elks Lodge		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Apparition of the Holy Cross Sunday School Commencement & Fellowship					Choir Practice at 10:30 AM	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
The Parish Council meeting after church services	Memorial Day		Anniversary of First Republic of Armenia	Ascension of Christ		

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

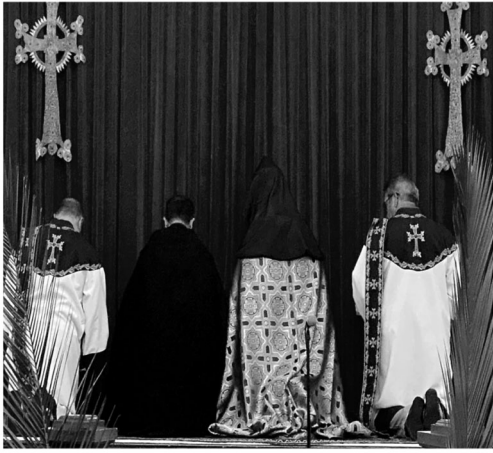
St. Mary Armenian Apostolic Church
Easter Yughakin
2025

Agajanian, Regina
Agnew, Robert and Debra
Ananian, Bryan and Terry
Ananian, Charlie
Ananian, Gary and Janet
Ananian, Serge and Judith
Arakelian, Fr. George and Sandra
Borba, Alan and Phyllis
Datian, John and Christine
The Greg Davidian Family
Davidian, Charlie and Christina A.
Davidian, Edward and Georgia Ann
Davidian, Margie L.
Ekizian, Lesta
Farsakian, Dn. Alan and Marceen
Farsakian, Dr. Larry and Wendy
Gomes, John and Janet
Groefsema, Bruce and Gail
Hagopian, Richard and Geraldine
Hampar, Arthur
Hovannisian, Vars
Jendian, Dn. Allan and Rosemary
Kalfayan, Garo and Nancy
Kaloostian, Linda
Kaprielian, John Ara and Sharon
Kizirian, Abe and Sandra
Krikorian, Gary and Nancy

Margosian, Carrie
Margosian, Rose Marie
McWilliams, Richard and Janice
Menendian, Laurie and Fredric Marrs
Menendian, Mari Louise
Nunes, Richard and Joyce
Ouzounian, Shirley
Peloian, James & Mary
Peloian, Joyce and Gary McCrea
Peters, Darrell and Tina
Pilavian, Pierre and Melissa
Poochigian, Julie
Safrazian, Richard and Lillian
Sarabian, Charles and Lori
Shapazian, Jerry
Skaff, Judy and Mike
Tabibian, Dr. Neshan
Tamouzian, Mike
Torosian, Patty
Valencia, Dr. Albert and Tracy
Vartanian, David
Vartanian, Sandra
Wall, Mark and Linda
Zakarian, Archie and Kathy
Zerounian, Janel E.
Zerounian, Marilyn

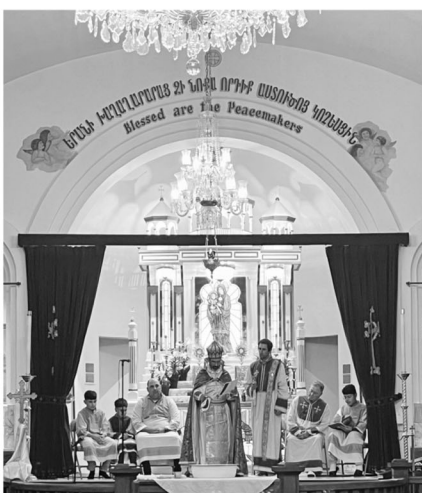
Total Easter Yughakin Donations \$6,795.00

•THANK YOU for your donations•



Palm Sunday ✝ Holy Week Farewell to Hayr Anania

2025



72nd Annual Easter Lunch

Sunday + April 20, 2025

Cooking with a SMILE!



Albert and Tracy



Sandra



Mike and Darrell



Judy and Tina

The Yettem Community—Family and Friends



72nd Annual Easter Lunch

Sunday † April 20, 2025

The Yettem Community—Family and Friends



St. Mary Ladies Society takes on glass blowing



On Saturday, April 17, members of the St. Mary Armenian Apostolic Church Ladies Society attended a glass-blowing class and made decorative Easter eggs.

The class was held at Ballis Glass in Fresno from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and was taught by owner Cory Ballis and Lead Assistant Nick Vermillion.

Approximately 20 Ladies Society members attended the class, all of whom were mesmerized by the process.

Ballis began by modeling a demonstration of how to choose the egg color, mold the glass and place it into the cooler. We thought, how in the world are we supposed to do that?

Later on, Ballis explained that the molten glass is heated to 2100 degrees before it is ready to work with. After the glass is gathered on the pipe, it is important to continuously rotate it so that the glass does not melt off.

The class members went one-by-one, laughing and filming one another.

The eggs took approximately two weeks to cure and be sent home, and they were passed out at the Easter luncheon.

Many of the attendees expressed their joy and gratitude for the experience of glass-blowing after the event, and some even said that they want to go back and do it again.

Anahid Valencia



I am thankful for . . .

My recent heart valve repair and my wife's, Barbara Cowan's, love and support throughout the ordeal. Seerem kez.

Richard Asadoorian

My family that God has blessed me with.

Lesta Ekizian

My children

Sandra Vartanian

God, church, my children, my grandchildren, my great-child, family, and friends. It's just that simple.

Rose Marie Margosian

My grandparents, my parents, my siblings; my St Mary Yettem Church which I love and which loves me; cherished friendships that could so easily slip away but which remain strong even if separated by time and distance; our beloved mountains just a half hour away; Mahler's Resurrection Symphony; my Jim and the gifts he gave to the story of my life.

Mari Louise Menendian

Mark, Ben, and my family who give me unconditional love.

Linda Farsakian-Wall

We are thankful for our faith, our family, and our good health.

Serge Ananian Family

Good health; Family near and far; My St. Mary family; Treasured memories of childhood; Abundance of life-giving valley crops; Lessons learned from those who survived and thrived through strength and perseverance.

Laurie Menendian

My little brother

Kenneth Bedrosian

Our son Brody Bedros Lopez

Brooke & John Lopez

My family; "In every walk with nature, one receives far more than he seeks." John Muir

Sandy Kalfayan

Having a healthy family

Tina Maleksarkessians

God

Hagop Pegor Keshishian

The earth

Laura Ananian

Food, family, water, and life

Myla Danielian

My friends and family

Gregory Davidian

I am thankful for God, family, safety, and freedom

Marley Ananian



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

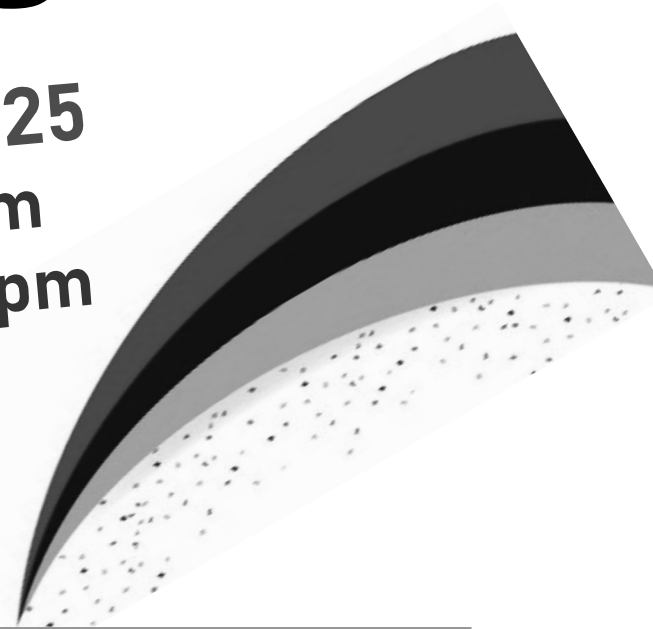




ST. MARY
ARMENIAN
CHURCH of YETTEM

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

Buy your tickets at the DOOR or DRIVE –THRU



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



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 May 2025 Events & Meetings

Choir Practice – Wednesday, May 14 & Friday, May 23 – 10:30 AM (Church)

Ladies Society Mother's Day Fellowship – Sunday, May 4 – (after services Majarian Hall)

Sunday School – Sunday, May 4 & 18 (Commencement & Fellowship) – 10:30 am (Classroom)

The Ways & Means Committee Food Festival – Thursday, May 15 (Visalia Elks Lodge)

Parish Council Meeting – Sunday, May 25 – (after services Majarian Hall)

(Continued from the front page)

Through every event they prepare, every flower they place, every hand they hold, they reflect the love of Christ.

To be a mother is to live with your heart outside your body, constantly giving, constantly hoping, and endlessly loving. It is to sow seeds you may never see bloom, and yet still water them with faith. Mothers and spiritual women alike plant the unseen gardens of tomorrow, trusting that God will bring forth the beauty in His time.

A mother's love is a sacred gift, an unspoken language that transcends time and distance. It is an unwavering beacon of light that guides us through the darkest moments of life. Whether near or far, a mother's heart remains steadfast, her love unyielding, always ready to embrace, protect, and inspire. She shapes our world in ways we often don't realize until we look back and see the depth of her devotion. Her love is the foundation upon which we build our strength and faith.

And so today, we thank every woman who has mothered others, through birth, through faith, through service. You are a blessing beyond words. You are the soul of our homes, the strength of our churches, and the hope of our people.

May God bless you abundantly for the love you give.

May He crown your days with peace and surround you with joy.

May your hearts always know how deeply you are appreciated and cherished.

"As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you" Isaiah 66:13

Happy Mother's Day to all the beautiful women who make the world more loving, more faithful, and more like home.

Der Mashdots