



YETTEM ԵՊԵՄ

Հրատարակութիւն Եղեմի Ս. Աստուածածին Հայաստանեայց Եկեղեցւոյ

A Publication of St. Mary Armenian Church Yettem, California

Rev. Fr. Mashdots Keshishian, Parish Priest

August 2025

The Assumption of Saint Mary: A Light for Today's Mothers

On August 15, the Church joyfully remembers the Assumption of the Holy Mother of God, Saint Mary, when, at the end of her earthly life, she was taken body and soul into heavenly glory. This feast is not only a celebration of Mary's unique holiness and closeness to Christ, but also a beacon of hope and purpose for all faithful, especially for mothers today, who quietly and courageously walk in Mary's footsteps.

Saint Mary: A Life of Silent Strength

Saint Mary's life was not one of grandeur or comfort. She bore the Son of God, not in a palace but in a stable. She lived a simple and humble life, marked by quiet obedience, service, and deep trust in God. She experienced sorrow, uncertainty, and pain, especially as she witnessed the suffering of her beloved Son. Yet through it all, she remained faithful, pondering God's will in her heart, accepting it with humility and grace.

The Assumption is God's response to her faithfulness. Her body, the vessel that bore the Savior, was not left to decay. She was taken into Heaven, not by her own power, but by the power and love of God. It is a promise of what awaits all who live in faith, especially those who offer their lives for others.

The Feast in the Armenian Church

In the Armenian Apostolic Church, the Assumption of the Holy Mother of God is one of the five major feasts, a day rich with deep meaning and sacred beauty. While the Western Church observes the Assumption on August 15, the Armenian Church celebrates it on the nearest Sunday to August 15, allowing the faithful to gather in full to honor the Theotokos.

On this sacred day, we also observe the Blessing of the Grapes, a tradition unique to the Armenian Church. It is more than a custom, it is a symbol of spiritual offering and thanksgiving.

The Blessing of the Grapes

Grapes are the first fruits of the harvest in the Armenian highlands and among the most valued crops. In ancient times, these first fruits were offered to God in gratitude before any were consumed. In the Christian context, grapes also carry a deep Eucharistic meaning: they remind us of Christ, who said, *"I am the vine, you are the branches"* (John 15:5), and whose Blood is represented through wine in the Holy Communion.

The blessing of grapes on the Feast of the Assumption reflects both of these themes:

- Thanksgiving for the physical and spiritual blessings God has given.
- Dedication of the first and best of our lives to the Lord.
- And the honoring of the Holy Mother of God, who offered the first and most precious fruit of all, Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

(Continued on the back page)

Parish Notes

CONGRATULATIONS

On behalf of our St. Mary Parish family, we wish to congratulate **Elizabeth Torosian and Steven Stewart** who were married on June 12, 2025, in Scotland, UK. Elizabeth's parents are Donna and Del Venturella and Alan and Erika Torosian. Steven's parents are Frances McAvoy and Alan and Joanne Stewart.



BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT



Congratulations to Grant and Kelly Bedrosian on the birth of their son, **Kevin Grant Bedrosian** born on Sunday June 22. The proud grandparents are George and Gail Bedrosian and Jay and Stephanie Louie.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Sunday, July 6
The Hebesha and Velasquez Families
in memory of Madlien Hebesha

Sunday, July 27
The Menendian Family

MISCELLANEOUS DONATIONS

Betty Skaff Jacobo

John and Sharon Kaprielian
in memory of Aron Margosian

HOKEHANKIST DONATIONS

For Repose of Madlien Hebesha's Soul
Nivin and Craig Velasquez and Family,
Rasha Hebesha, and
Sharif and Amanda Hebesha and Family

Linda and Mark Wall

SCHEDULED AUGUST HOKEHANKISTS

Sunday, August 3

Walter Benjamin

One year after his passing,
Albert Nahapetyan, Benjamin, Karagashyan,
Gyurjyan, Hakobyan, Mirijanyan, Papikyan,
and Nahapetyan,
old and new families
requested by Sargon and Lilit Benjamin

Gary John Zarounian

Two years after his passing,
requested by
Vernon and Carol Hovannisian and Family,
Bruce and Gail Groefsema and Family,
and Sally Zarounian and Family

George and Jessie Zarounian

Katche and Alice Halbourian

Gladys Zarounian

Bruce Groefsema, Jr.

John, Siranoush, and Gary Zarounian

Zeroun Zerounian

requested by
Vernon and Carol Hovannisian and Family, and
Bruce and Gail Groefsema and Family

Sunday, August 10

Souren Sam and Betty Farsakian

Eight years after Sam's passing,
Hrant and Mayreni Farsakian,
Zabel Farsakian, Levon Roupinian,
and Ohan Kuchukian,

requested by
Linda, Mark and Ben Wall, and
Alan, Marceen, Nickolas and Shant Farsakian

CHOIR

Choir practice is scheduled for **Thursday, August 7** and **Thursday, August 14** at **10:30 AM** in the church.

LADIES SOCIETY

The Ladies Society **August meeting** will be held on **Saturday, August 9**. The **Executive board meeting** at **11:00 AM** and the **General meeting** at **11:30 AM** in the Majarian Hall.

**PASTORAL VISITATION AND
HYE SPIRIT AWARDS
LUNCHEON DONATIONS**

Thank you to *John and Sharon Kaprielian and Family, Karon Penny and Family, and Carrie Margosian and Family* for donating the new Crozier (Staff) and Hand Cross in memory of *Lucille Margosian*. Also, thank you to the *Kaprielian and Margosian Families* for donating the mezza.

Thank you to *Skylar and Gregory Davidian* for donating the luncheon in honor of their grandmother, *Margie Ann Davidian*.

Thank you to *Mike Tamouzian* for donating the cake in honor of the Hye Spirit Award recipients.

Thank you to *David Menendian* for taking all the pictures on this special occasion.

**DONATIONS IN HONOR OF THE
HYE SPIRIT AWARD RECIPIENTS
MARGIE ANN DAVIDIAN AND
MARI LOUISE MENENDIAN**

David & Ardemis Menendian
Garo & Nancy Kalfayan
John and Sharon Kaprielian
Gary & Nancy Krikorian

RAFFLE

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

SAVE THE DATE

Grandparents' Day brunch will be held on **Sunday, September 7** after church services. (See flier)

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

The Ways and Means Committee next scheduled meeting is **Tuesday, September 9** via Zoom at **6:30 PM**.

PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council's next meeting will be held on **Thursday, August 21** 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

SUNDAY SCHOOL

It's almost time for Sunday School to start again! All classes will start on **Sunday, September 7, Grandparents' Day** and we will be meeting on the second and fourth Sundays of each month at **11:00 AM** during the school year. Welcome all children! If you have any questions, please contact **Adrienne Poochigian** at (559) 679-8452 or email: alskaff@gmail.com

**PHOTOS FROM MAKING CHEOREG FOR
HYE CAMP AT MARGIE L. DAVIDIAN'S
HOME ON SATURDAY, JUNE 28**



Hall Renovation Completed!

The Parish Council would like to thank all our Parishioners for their patience and cooperation during the weeks of the Hall Renovation.

We are happy and excited to announce that the renovation has been completed on schedule.

Here is a summary of the Renovation:

- Painted entire hall, entryway, conference room, stage and bathrooms
 - Added painted wood baseboard
 - Painted the Supply cabinet
 - Installed 21 LED Panel lights
 - Installed 6 new Fans
 - Installed new light fixtures in the Entryway (*donated by Rich and Janice McWilliams*)
 - Installed new window coverings in the entryway and hall
(*donated by Janice McWilliams, Phyllis Borba, Becky Akin and Margie L. Davidian*)
 - Replaced all outlet plugs and switches to white
 - Installed a New Sound System and Speakers along with new wireless microphones
 - Installed new light fixtures, recessed lighting and mirrors in the Men's and Women's bathrooms
 - Stripped, waxed and sealed the floors in the entire building
-

We would like to thank the following Vendors who completed all these tasks on time.

- Painting - Nick's Painting
- Electrical - Rufert Electric Service – Jake Rufert
- Sound System - Backstage Theatrical – Randy Garabedian.
Randy donated his labor cost which significantly reduced the cost of installation.
- Window Coverings - Blinds for Less – Mike Ayres
- Floor Cleaning – Gold Standard Floor Care

We hope that you will come to see the transformation of what has been completed and join us in many upcoming events that will take place in the renovated Yettem Hall.



Follow Us for Upcoming Events:
Website: www.stmaryyettem.org

Facebook: (StMary Yettem Church) • Instagram: (stmaryyettem)

With pleasure and accomplishment † St. Mary Yettem Parish Council

Asdvadzadin Luncheon

†Blessing of the Grapest

Sunday, August 17, 2025

Tri-tip, Pilaf, Vegetables, Salad, Bread

Beverages and Dessert

\$20 Adults ÷ \$15 Children



RESERVATIONS REQUESTED BY WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13

E-MAIL: LUNCHES@STMARYYETTEM.ORG OR CALL (559) 528-6892

Sponsored by
Ladies Society



BAKE SALE

FARMERS MARKET

Sunday, August 17, 2025

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

Any questions please text or Call Michelle Ananian - 559-397-9083

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All Proceeds to Benefit our Church

SPONSORED BY THE LADIES SOCIETY



Grandparents' Day Brunch

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2025

AFTER CHURCH SERVICES IN THE MAJARIAN HALL

FEATURING THE FAMOUS YETTEM BEESHEE,
SUJUK & EGGS AND MUCH MORE....



ADULTS \$20 • CHILDREN \$15

RESERVATIONS REQUESTED BY WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27

E-MAIL: LUNCHES@STMARYYETTEM.ORG -OR-

CALL 559•528•6892

Performance by our
Sunday School ☺



St. Mary Armenian Church of Yettam

SHISH KEBAB LUNCH

FEATURING THE FAMOUS
HAGOPIAN'S DELI SHISH KEBAB

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2025

11:00 AM - 3:00 PM

VISALIA ELKS LODGE

3100 WEST MAIN STREET, VISALIA

LIMITED TICKETS AVAILABLE

DINE-IN OR DRIVE-THRU

LUNCH INCLUDES:

SALAD, PILAF, PEDA BREAD AND BOURMA

DONATION \$30 PER PERSON

PREPAID TICKETS WILL BE SENT IN SEPTEMBER



◆ Congratulations ◆

2025 Hye Spirit Award Recipients
Margie Ann Davidian and Mari Louise Menendian



✙ Thank you ✙

Kaprielian, Penny and Margosian Families
for the donation of a
new Crozier (Staff) and Hand Cross
donated in
Memory of their Mother Lucille Margosian





His Eminence Archbishop Hovnan Dorderian Pastoral Visit on Sunday July 27, 2025



Lunch in The Yettom Hall



ST. MARY ARMENIAN CHURCH

August 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 St. Thaddeus the Apostle & Sandoukht the Virgin
3	4	5	6	7 Choir Practice at 10:30 AM in the Church	8	9 200 Fathers of the Holy Council of Ephesus The Ladies Society meeting in the Majarian Hall at 11:30 AM
10 Barekendan of the Fast of Assumption	11	12	13	14 Choir Practice at 10:30 AM in the Church	15	16 Showers of Radiance of Holy Etchmiadzin
17 Assumption of the Holy Mother-of-God Asdvadzadzin The Parish Council Luncheon Ladies Society Bake Sale July & August Raffles	18 Remembrance of the dead	19	20	21 The Parish Council meeting via Zoom at 6:00 PM	22	23
24	25	26 Sts. Joachim & Anna, Parents of the Holy Mother-of-God	27	28	29	30
31						

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

(Continued from the front page)

By blessing and sharing grapes, the Church invites us to reflect on what we offer to God, not just fruit, but our time, talents, families, and faith.

A Reflection for Today's Mothers

Today's mothers, like Mary, live lives full of sacrifice and quiet strength. Whether raising children, working jobs, caring for families, or supporting communities, they often go unseen, their exhaustion unnoticed, their love assumed. But just as God saw Mary's faithfulness in silence, He sees every act of love mothers offer in the hidden corners of life.

Saint Mary's life exemplifies humility, unwavering faith, and steadfast love. In a world often driven by quick results and visible success, Mary's quiet strength reminds us that true greatness is found in patience, trust, and faithful perseverance. Her courage to say "yes" to God's plan, without knowing all the details, shows a profound surrender and hope that resonates deeply with the challenges faced by mothers today.

Just as Mary carried her mission with grace amid hardship and uncertainty, modern mothers embody that same resilience and devotion in their daily lives. They nurture, protect, and sacrifice often without recognition, reflecting Mary's gentle yet powerful presence. Her example invites all of us to honor the hidden, faithful love that shapes families and communities quietly but profoundly.

A mother helping her child with homework late at night, comforting them in illness, or praying silently for her family, these moments echo Mary's tenderness. And in each of these moments, a mother is living her own "fiat," her own yes to God's plan, even without knowing the full picture.

One day years ago, in a small village, a woman named Mariam raised four children alone after her husband's passing. Her home was poor, her body often tired, but her heart was full of faith. She lit candles each morning and whispered prayers each night. She taught her children kindness, respect, and prayer, not with many words, but with how she lived. Today, her grandchildren are serving others across the world, teachers, nurses, and church servants, rooted in the quiet holiness they saw in their grandmother's life.

This is what Mary's Assumption teaches us: God honors those who live with humility and faith. He lifts up the lowly. He remembers the quiet workers in His vineyard.

May the Feast of the Assumption and the Blessing of the Grapes fill your home and heart with joy and may the Holy Mother of God intercede for all mothers, guiding them in love, patience, and quiet holiness, until we, too, are lifted toward heaven.

Compiled by Der Mashdots