



YETTEM ԵՊԵՄ

Ջրատարակուրթիւն Եղեմի Ս. Աստուածածին Հայաստանեայց Եկեղեցւոյ

A Publication of St. Mary Armenian Church Yettem, California

Rev. Fr. Mashdots Keshishian, Parish Priest

March 2026

In the Midst of Great Lent: Walking Closer to Christ

"Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you." (James 4:8)

We are now in the heart of Great Lent, a sacred time that invites us to pause, reflect, and draw nearer to God. Great Lent is not just a season of fasting, it is a journey of transformation, a spiritual marathon designed to renew our hearts and souls. It is a time for prayer, repentance, sharing with others, and deepening our relationship with Christ, who endured the ultimate sacrifice for our salvation.

During these forty days, we are reminded that life is fleeting and that true joy is found not in the things of the world, but in the love of God and service to others. The disciplines of Great Lent, fasting from certain foods, practicing self-denial, increasing our prayer life, and engaging in acts of kindness, are all meant to train us in spiritual resilience. Each small sacrifice becomes a step toward humility and spiritual clarity, helping us to let go of distractions that pull us away from God.

Fasting, often misunderstood as mere self-denial, is in fact a powerful tool for spiritual growth. By denying our bodies certain pleasures, we open our hearts to God's grace and become more attuned to the needs of others. Prayer and reflection accompany fasting, offering an opportunity to examine our lives, confess our shortcomings, and embrace God's mercy. This is a time to ask ourselves: *Am I living in a way that honors God? Am I loving my neighbor as Christ has taught us?*

Sharing with others, too, is a central aspect of Great Lent. When we give generously to those in need, through time, talent, or resources, we reflect Christ's love in a tangible way. Small acts of kindness, a listening ear, or helping someone in need are all Lenten offerings that please God and nurture our souls. As Saint Gregory of Nyssa teaches, *"Charity is the soul's light in darkness."* Each act of generosity becomes a beacon of God's love in our world. (Continued on the back page)

Parish Notes

ALTAR FLOWERS

Sunday, February 1

The Family of Greg Davidian

In memory of Greg five years after his passing

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

***Nahapetyan, Benjamin, Karagashyan,
Gyurjyan, Hakobyan, Mirijanyan, Papikyan
of the old and new deceased members
of the great families,***

requested by Sargon and Lilit Benjamin

HOKEHANKIST DONATIONS

Sunday, January 25

For Repose of Lucille Margosian's Soul:
Carrie Margosian

Sunday, February 1

For Repose of Greg Davidian's Soul:
***The Family of Greg Davidian
Shirley Dawson***

Sunday, February 1

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

Sunday, February 8

For Repose of Reba Ananian's Soul:
Julie and Tom Bair

Shari Ananian

Jeff and Anna Ananian

**For Repose of Nahapetyan, Benjamin,
Karagashyan, Gyurjyan, Hakobyan, Mirijanyan,
Papikyan of the old and new deceased members
of the great families Souls:**
Sargon and Lilit Benjamin

PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council's next meeting will be held on
Sunday, March 22 after church services.

DONATION

Linda and Mark Wall in memory of Betty Farsakian on the 90th anniversary of her birth, Sunday, February 1.

CAR DONATION

Thank you to Nabil Hebesha for donating the 1983 Mercedes Benz 300 Class to our church's vehicle donation program.

THANK YOU

Thank you to Charlie Ananian for having the front west-side gate repaired and for always keeping the west parking lot clean and level.

Thank you to Charlie Davidian for replacing the water pump in the back southwest parking lot once again.

Thank you to Margie A. Davidian, Annie, Skylar, and Gregory Davidian, and Shirley Dawson for providing the delicious lunch in honor of Greg Davidian on Sunday, February 1.

SOUPER SUPPERS

Supper Suppers will be held on **Wednesdays, 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. We **need volunteers to sponsor the soup and bread on March 4, & March 25.** If you can help, please call the church office.

PILGRIMAGE TO ST. SARKIS

Please note that St. Mary Armenian Church of Yetem will making a **pilgrimage to St. Sarkis Armenian Church in Santa Clarita on Sunday, April 12.** There will be **NO SERVICES at St. Mary Yetem on Sunday, April 12.** We encourage all parishioners to join us for this special pilgrimage and worship together at St. Sarkis. Please see Flyer for details.

LADIES SOCIETY

The Ladies Society meeting is scheduled for **Saturday, March 14 at 11:30 AM** in the **Majorian Hall.**

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

LADIES SOCIETY NEWS

February has come and gone. Hard to believe we are entering our third month of the year! Looking back on February, our church community was busy. We hosted Der Zaven & his St. Sarkis parishioners, held a cookie sale, celebrated Poon Paregantan, held a Vartanantz remembrance, began the Lenten season, and started Wednesday night soup and Lenten services.

What a joy to share a meal and visit Der Zaven, Yn. Adrine, Maneh, and Sarah along with the St. Sarkis parishioners. Der Zaven has gotten a little grayer, but he still has that warm, embracing smile! Yn., Maneh, and Sarah just got more beautiful. It was a pleasure to visit and get to know the parishioners. I can't wait to visit with them on April 12 when our church makes a pilgrimage to St. Sarkis.

The 1st annual cookie sale was a success! Each cookie hit just the right sweet spot! Thank you to Donna Venturella for organizing this fundraiser and to Tina Peters for making the flier and sending out advertisements. We could not have done it without the bakers, Janel Zerounian, Donna Venturella, Sandra Vartanian, Reilly Vartanian, Tracy Valencia, Kohar Sheklian, Laurie Menendian, Janice McWilliams, Marceen Farsakian, Margie Lynn Davidian, and Julie Bair. Boy do these ladies know how to bake! Thank you, bakers!

If you liked these cookies or missed out, come to our bake sale on Palm Sunday! A variety of goodies will be sold! An opportunity to scoop up these tasty delights only comes twice a year. So don't miss out on this chance!

Linda Farsakian-Wall, Ladies Society Chair

SPRING FORWARD

Daylight Savings Time – Clocks Spring Forward One Hour

MARCH 8 SCHEDULE

9:30 AM – Sunrise Service
10:00 AM – Divine Liturgy
11:40 AM – Mid-Lent Lunch

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

(See Flyers for Details)

Sunday, March 29 – Palm Sunday

Ladies Society Bake Sale

Sunday, April 5 – Easter

Children's Easter Egg Hunt
Ladies Society Easter Egg Sale
Annual Easter Luncheon and Tricky Tray Raffle

Sunday, April 12 - Pilgrimage

St. Sarkis Armenian Church of Santa Clarita
A Chartered bus will be provided
NO Services will be held in Yetem.

Saturday, May 2

Ladies Society Mother's Day Luncheon

Thursday, May 21

48th Annual Armenian Food Festival
Visalia Elks Lodge
Please see inserted **SPONSORSHIP** flyer

GUEST CELEBRANT

We are pleased to announce that on April 19, our church in Yetem will welcome guest celebrant Fr. Sarkis Petoyan, Parish Priest of St. Gregory Armenian Church in Pasadena, who will celebrate the Holy Badarak. We warmly invite all to participate in this special service.

DONATE YOUR VEHICLE, BOAT, RV

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

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 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.

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



ST. MARY ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH

MARCH 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 3 rd Sunday of Lent (Prodigal Son)	2	3	4 Souper Supper at 5:30 PM Lenten Service at 6:00 PM	5	6	7 St. John Patriarch of Jerusalem ·Reclaim Retreat
8 Daylight Savings Time 4 th Sunday of Lent (Steward) ·Sunday School ·Ladies Society Lenten Luncheon "Meechink"	9	10	11 Median day of Lent Souper Supper at 5:30 PM Lenten Service at 6:00 PM	12	13	14 Forty Martyrs of Sebastia Ladies Society Meeting 11:30am
15 5 th Sunday of Lent (Judge)	16	17	18 Souper Supper at 5:30 PM Lenten Service at 6:00 PM	19	20	21 St. Gregory the Illuminator Commitment to the Pit
22 6 th Sunday of Lent (Advent) <u>Sunday School</u> ·Installation of the New Officers ·Parish Council Meeting	23	24	25 Souper Supper at 5:30 PM Lenten Service at 6:00 PM	26	27	28 Remembrance of the Raising Lazarus
29 Palm Sunday Ladies Society Bake Sale	30	31 Remembrance of the Ten Virgins				

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
818-293-9098 - Cell

Join us for Souper Supper

Every Wednesday

In March

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*



SPONSORED BY
THE LADIES SOCIETY

Palm Sunday Bake Sale



SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 2026

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 Michelle Ananian

559|845|5000



St. Sarkis, Santa Clarita
Pilgrimage to
St. Mary, Yettam
Saturday, February 7, 2026



Reverend Father Zaven and Reverend Father Mashdots
with Parishioners from St. Sarkis and St. Mary



*Welcoming All
with
Prayer and Hospitality*

SAVE THE DATE

St. Mary Ladies Society

Mother's Day
LUNCHEON

SATURDAY, MAY 2, 2026

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
WILL BE SHARED SOON

Father Mashdots and The Parish Council
Invite you, family and friends to join us for a

**PILGRIMAGE TO
ST. SARKIS ARMENIAN
APOSTOLIC CHURCH
OF SANTA CLARITA**

Parish Priest | Father Zaven Markosyan
Address | 24626 Kansas St | Newhall

**Sunday, April 12, 2026
Divine Liturgy 10:30am**

**-[Pilgrimage Details]-
Travel with Us!**

Round-trip chartered bus service available for \$45 per person

Pick up-7:30am | Return-4:30pm

Wyndham Visalia - 9000 W Airport Dr.

**Whether you travel with us or drive your own vehicle
Please call the office or email by Friday, March 20**

(559) 528-6892 or email Sonya@stmaryyettem.org

**NO CHURCH SERVICES WILL BE OFFERED
AT ST. MARY YETTEM ON THIS SUNDAY**

ST. MARY YETTEM

Easter Luncheon

SUNDAY, APRIL 5, 2026

**Beef Kebab, Salad, Pilaf,
Green Beans, Cheese Boreg
Bread, Dessert and Beverages**

\$25/Adult | \$15/ Child

Reservations requested by Thursday, March 26

Call: (559) 528-6892 or Email-Lunches @stmaryyettem.org

(Tables will be reserved for groups of 8 or more)

Tricky Tray Raffle - \$20 for 26 Tickets

Please bring your donated item(s) on Easter Sunday



48TH ANNUAL

*Sponsored by
St. Mary Armenian Church
of Yettem*

ARMENIAN FOOD FESTIVAL

**THURSDAY
MAY 21, 2026**

**VISALIA ELKS LODGE
3100 WEST MAIN STREET**

**ADVANCE TICKETS
AVAILABLE IN APRIL**

DONATION \$25

**TWO
SERVINGS**

**11:00AM - 1:30PM
4:30PM - 7:00PM**

**CHOICE OF
LULU KEBAB OR
CHICKEN KEBAB PLATE
INCLUDES
SALAD, PILAF, BREAD,
GARLIC SAUCE,
BOURMA**

**DINE-IN
DRIVE-THRU
TO-GO
ALSO OFFERED
ARMENIAN
BAKE SALE AND
APPETIZERS**

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 Yettem Church & Instagram: St Mary Yettem Church

Parish Priest	Ways and Means
<p align="center">Rev Fr. Mashdots Keshishian Cell: (818) 293-9098 kahana.mashdotsk@gmail.com</p> <p align="center">Sonya Barton Office: (559) 528-6892 sonya@stmaryyettem.org</p>	<p align="center">Co-Chair Position to be filled</p> <p align="center">Co-Chair Position to be filled Tina Peters, <i>Treasurer</i> Dn. Alan Farsakian, <i>Advisor</i></p>
Parish Council	Sunday School
<p align="center">Judy Skaff, Chair judy@thebelmontgroup.com Annie Davidian, <i>Vice-Chair</i> Tina Peters, <i>Treasurer</i> Tracy Valencia, <i>Secretary</i> Julie Poochigian, <i>Advisor</i> Mike Tamouzian, <i>Advisor</i> Sandra Vartanian, <i>Advisor</i></p>	<p align="center">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></p>
Ladies Society	CHOIR DIRECTOR/ORGANIST
<p align="center">Linda Farsakian-Wall, Chair linda.hyewall@gmail.com Lillian Safrazian, <i>Vice-Chair</i> Donna Venturella, <i>Rec. Secretary</i> Margie A. Davidian, <i>Corr. Secretary</i> Julie Poochigian, <i>Treasurer</i> Michelle Ananian, <i>Advisor</i> Position To Be Filled, <i>Advisor</i></p>	<p align="center">Mari Louise Menendian mlmenen@aol.com</p>
	We Need Volunteers
	<p align="center">Ways and Means Committee is in need of Co-Chairs. If you would like to Volunteer, please contact Sonya at 559-528-6892 or email sonya@stmaryyettem.org</p>

Upcoming March 2025 Events & Meetings

Souper Suppers & Lenten Services – Wed., March 4, 11, 18, & 25 (Majarian Hall & Church)

Reclaim Retreat – March 6-8 (St. Mary Yettem)

Ladies Society “Meechink” Luncheon – Sunday, March 8 (Majarian Hall)

Ladies Society Meeting – Saturday, March 14 – 11:30 AM (Majarian Hall)

Sunday School – Sunday, March 8 & 22 – 10:30 AM (Classroom)

Installation of New Officers – Sunday, March 22 (Church)

Parish Council Meeting – Sunday, March 22 after Church Services (Majarian Hall)

Ladies Society Bake Sale – Sunday, March 29 (After Church Services)

(Continued from the front page)

Great Lent is also a time for renewal of the heart through repentance. As we reflect on our actions and choices, we recognize the moments we have fallen short and seek forgiveness from God and one another. This inner purification prepares us to celebrate the joy of *Pascha*, (Hebrew word means Passover, represents renewal, victory, a new life) when we rejoice in the Resurrection of our Lord. The struggles of Lent are not meant to discourage us but to strengthen us, to remind us that God's mercy is endless and His love ever-present.

Let us also remember that Great Lent is a communal journey. Though each of us faces personal challenges, we walk this path together as members of the Body of Christ. We support each other in prayer, encourage each other in acts of kindness, and share in the joy of spiritual growth. The Church, through her services, hymns, and readings, guides us along this sacred path, reminding us that Christ's light shines most brightly in our darkest moments.

As we continue through this season, let us approach each day with intentionality. Let us embrace fasting not as a burden, but as a gift. Let us approach prayer not as a routine, but as a heartfelt conversation with our Creator. Let us perform acts of kindness not as obligations, but as opportunities to share God's love. And above all, let us open our hearts fully to repentance, trusting that Christ will renew us and lead us closer to eternal joy.

May this Great Lent deepen your faith, strengthen your spirit, and fill your heart with peace and hope. Let us journey together, united in prayer and love, until we celebrate the Resurrection with renewed hearts and renewed lives.

Fr. Mashdots

St. Mary Armenian Church
P.O. Box 367
Yetter, California 93670
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