



## YETTEM ԵՊԵՄ

Ջրատարակութիւն Եղեմի Ս. Աստուածածին Հայաստանեայց Եկեղեցւոյ

A Publication of St. Mary Armenian Church Yettem, California

Rev. Fr. Mashdots Keshishian, Parish Priest

### April 2026

#### Primate's Message on the Feast of Holy Resurrection of Christ

**We do not rely on ourselves, but on God who raises the dead” (2 Corinthians 1:9)**

Beloved brothers and sisters in Christ,

On the radiant feast of Christ's Resurrection, these words of St. Paul speak directly to our hearts. They remind us that our hope is not founded on our own strength, our own wisdom, or our own security. Our refuge is in God—the One who raises the dead.

So often we try to secure our lives by our own efforts. We lean on our abilities, our plans, our resources. Yet the Resurrection of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ reveals a greater truth: when human strength reaches its limit, God's power begins to shine. Christ rose from the tomb, trampling death by death. He showed us the path from despair to hope, from fear to courage, from spiritual death to new life.

Christ's Resurrection is not only an event of the past; it is a living reality in our lives today. Through His earthly mission, Christ lifted humanity toward God. In the light of his Resurrection, we begin to understand the Gospel more deeply as life-giving truth. The Resurrection is God breathing eternity into our daily existence.

Easter is a new beginning. Our Lenten journey leads us through repentance, reflection, and longing, until we arrive at the empty tomb. And if we have truly prepared our hearts, the joy we experience cannot be explained by words alone. It is felt, lived, and embodied. Just as we feel physical hunger, we also feel a spiritual hunger—a longing for meaning, for forgiveness, for love. That hunger is satisfied only in the presence of God.

The Feast of the Holy Resurrection is a personal rebirth for each of us. It is victory over temptation, over sin, over the darkness that tries to overwhelm us. It is a call to awaken—within our families, within our communities, within our own hearts. And we are called to answer with courage, boldness, and above all, faith.

(Continued on the back page)

## Parish Notes

### BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

On behalf of our parish, we would like to congratulate Doctor Deacon Christopher Sheklian and Elizabeth (Lizzy) Hewitt on the birth of their son, **Steven Neshan Sheklian** who was born on Wednesday, March 25, 2026. He weighed 7lbs and 8.2oz. Proud grandparents are Myron and Debbie Sheklian, Mary Gow, and the late Steven Hewitt.

### BAPTISM

Saturday, March 16

**Nezryn Marcy Babagian**

Nezryn is the daughter of

Stephen and Serena Babagian. She is the granddaughter of Peter and Mary Babagian, Edward Bonn, and Cynthia Peeples.

### EASTER SERVICES SCHEDULE

#### Great and Holy Thursday – April 2, 2026

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 3, 2026

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

#### Great and Holy Saturday – April 4, 2026

5:00 PM – Evening Service, Scripture Readings & Voch Inch Eh Bido

5:30 PM – Easter Eve Divine Liturgy

#### Easter Sunday – April 5, 2026

9:30 AM – Morning Service

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

### THANK YOU TO THE SOUPER SUPPER DONORS

February 18 – John & Sandy Kalfayan

February 25 – Judy Skaff

March 4 – John & Sandy Kalfayan

March 11 – Meechink Leftovers

March 18 – Linda Farsakian-Wall

March 25 – Judy Skaff

### DONATIONS

Charles H. Avsharian – Friend of Richard Hagopian

### HOKEHANKIST REQUESTS

Sunday, April 25

**Kaye Kachadoorian**

Four years after his passing, requested by Judy Kachadoorian, Kandy Kachadoorian Basmajian, Kris and Aida Kachadoorian and Family

### INSTALLATION OF NEW OFFICERS

March 22



-Pictured left to right-

#### Parish Council 2026 Officers

Tina Peters, Treasurer; Annie Davidian, Vice-Chair; Mike Tamouzian, Advisor; Sandra Vartanian, Advisor; Rev. Fr. Mashdots Keshishian; Judy Skaff, Chair; Julie Poochigian, Advisor; Tracy Valencia, Secretary



-Pictured left to right -

#### Ladies Society 2026 Officers

Lillian Safrazian, Vice-Chair; Donna Venturella, Rec. Secretary; Margie A. Davidian, Corr. Secretary; Rev. Fr. Mashdots Keshishian; Michelle Ananian, Advisor; Julie Poochigian, Treasurer; Linda Farsakian-Wall, Chair

### THANK YOU

Once again, thank you to Charlie Ananian for keeping the west parking lot clean and looking great.

### RECLAIM CONFERENCE

I would like to thank everyone who worked very hard to prepare delicious food for the Reclaim Conference. When we serve people, we are serving God and bring glory to Him.

**Judy Skaff, Parish Council Chair**

### GUEST CELEBRANT

We are pleased to announce that on April 19, our church in Yettem 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.

### 99<sup>th</sup> Diocesan Assembly

The Diocesan Assembly is being held in Fresno this year, April 30 through May 1.

### LADIES SOCIETY NEWS

March started with our church hosting the Western Diocese Reclaim Conference and finished with the annual Palm Sunday bake sale. Each event brought enthusiasm and camaraderie to our church community.

For the first time in the ten years of the conception of the Reclaim Conference, it was held at St. Mary Yettem. The conference brought together the faithful of our diocese to reflect on our commitment to God and the time we spend meditating and praying. I am most proud of our Yettem community who put their time into the event to make it such a success. Thank you to Yn. Maral Keshishian, Margie L. Davidian, Judy Skaff, and Sandra Vartanian who made up the committee organizing the menus. I'm most grateful to Yn. Maral who spearheaded the menu and worked in the kitchen tirelessly all day Saturday. She couldn't have done it without the dedication and help of our Ladies Society who cooked, set tables, cleaned up, and put their best Yettem foot forward. In addition to our ladies, who could forget David Menendian's passionate heartfelt talk on the history of Yettem. He made us all proud to be a Yettemite! Everyone who attended said how much they appreciated and enjoyed our Yettem hospitality. Many of them said they would be back. What better compliment!

Thank you to all who contributed to the Palm Sunday bake sale, the bakers and you, the shoppers who supported us. A special thank you to Michelle Ananian and her committee for organizing the event.

Looking ahead to May, plan now to attend our Mother's Day luncheon, Saturday, May 2.

***Krisdos Haryav ee Merelots!  
Christ is Risen from the Dead!  
Linda Farsakian-Wall, Ladies Society Chair***

### LADIES SOCIETY

The Ladies Society next meeting is scheduled for **Saturday, April 11** in the Majarian Hall at **11:30 AM**. The Ladies Society **Mother's Day Luncheon** will be held on **Saturday, May 2**. (See flyer)

### PARISH COUNCIL

The next Parish Council meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, April 15** via Zoom at **6:00 PM**.

### 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)

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

### 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)

### 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](mailto:sonya@stmaryyettem.org)

Scan to St. Mary Yettem Website



Scan to pay with PayPal or Credit Cards.



Scan to pay through Zelle



# ST. MARY ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH

## APRIL 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2 Great & Holy Thursday 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	3 Great & Holy Friday 6:00 PM – Service of the Entombment & Solemn Procession	4 Holy Saturday (Easter Eve) 5:00 PM – Evening Service, Scripture Readings & Voch Inch Eh Bido 5:30 PM – Easter Eve Divine Liturgy
5 Holy Easter 9:30 AM – Morning Service 10:15 AM – Divine Liturgy followed by Antasdan (Blessing of the Fields) Easter Luncheon and Tricky Tray after church services	6 Merelots, Memorial Day Service	7 Annunciation of Virgin Mary	8	9	10	11 The Ladies Society meeting in the Majarian Hall at 11:30 AM
12 New Sunday NO SERVICES AT ST. MARY YETTEM Pilgrimage to St. Sarkis in Santa Clarita	13	14	15 The Parish Council meeting via Zoom at 6 PM	16	17	18
19 Sunday of the World Church (Green Sunday) Guest Celebrant Fr. Sarkis Petoyan, Priest of St. Gregory, Pasadena	20	21	22	23	24 Feast of the Holy Martyrs of the Armenian Genocide 10:00 AM Dedication Ceremony of the Historical Roadside Marker in Yettem	25
26 Red Sunday Sunday School	27	28	29	30 99 <sup>th</sup> Diocesan Assembly in Fresno April 30-May 1		

### 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

# Wedding Congratulations

## Trent and Alik Nishimura



Married on Saturday, February 28, 2026 | Villa Lorian, San Luis Obispo



Parents of Alik

Pierre and Melissa Pilavian

Grandparents

Rose Marie Margosian  
and the late George Margosian,  
Lena Kalfayan and Jean Pilavian

Parents of Trent

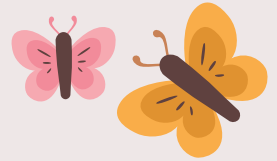
Irwin and Arlene Nishimura

Grandparent

Lily Doi



# APRIL AND MAY CALENDAR OF EVENTS



## ST. MARY YETTEM



**SUNDAY**  
**APR 05**

**EASTER SUNDAY**  
**10:15AM DIVINE LITURGY**  
**EASTER LUNCH & TRICKY TRAY RAFFLE**



**SATURDAY**  
**APR 11**

**11:30AM LADIES SOCIETY MEETING**



**SUNDAY**  
**APR 12**

**PILGRIMAGE TO ST. SARKIS, SANTA CLARITA**  
**NO CHURCH SERVICES OR SUNDAY SCHOOL**



**SUNDAY**  
**APR 19**

**GUEST CELEBRANT FR. SARKIS PETOYAN**  
**PRIEST OF ST. GREGORY, PASADENA**  
**WILL CELEBRATE THE HOLY BADARAK**



**FRIDAY**  
**APR 24**

**111<sup>TH</sup> ARMENIAN GENOCIDE REMEMBRANCE DAY**  
**10:00AM DEDICATION CEREMONY OF THE**  
**HISTORICAL ROADSIDE MARKER IN YETTEM**



**SATURDAY**  
**MAY 2**

**LADIES SOCIETY MOTHER'S DAY LUNCHEON**  
**TONY'S TAVERNA|43368 SIERRA DRIVE|THREE RIVERS**



**THURSDAY**  
**MAY 21**

**48<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL ARMENIAN FOOD FESTIVAL**  
**LULU OR CHICKEN KEBAB PLATE|BAKE SALE|MEZZA**  
**VISALIA ELKS LODGE**  
**LUNCH 11AM-1:30PM|DINNER 4:30PM-7PM**



FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT: [www.stmaryyettem.org](http://www.stmaryyettem.org)  
Facebook: StMary Yettem Church | Instagram: stmaryyettem

# Mother's Day Luncheon

sponsored by the St. Mary Yettem Ladies Society



♥♥♥♥♥  
Saturday, May 2, 2026 at 11:30am  
Buffet Lunch at Tony's Taverna  
43368 Sierra Drive, Three Rivers

## Buffet Lunch Includes

Chicken and Beef Kebab, Pilaf, Greek Salad, Hummus,  
Pita Bread, Soft Drinks and Dessert

\$50 per person  
(does not include tip)

.....♥.....  
All reservations and checks payable to **St. Mary Ladies Society**  
are due no later than Saturday, April 25

**Reservations:** Email or call - [sonya@stmaryyettem.org](mailto:sonya@stmaryyettem.org) or 559-528-6892

**Send Checks to:** St. Mary Ladies Society | PO Box 367 | Yettem, CA 93670

**48TH ANNUAL**

SPONSORED BY  
ST. MARY ARMENIAN CHURCH  
OF YETTEM

# ARMENIAN FOOD FESTIVAL

**THURSDAY  
MAY 21, 2026**

**VISALIA ELKS LODGE  
3100 WEST MAIN STREET**

**TICKETS WILL BE  
SENT THIS MONTH!**

**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 CHURCH 48TH ANNUAL FOOD FESTIVAL

## Sponsorship Form

PLEASE RETURN WITH PAYMENT BY FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2026

**ALL SPONSORS WILL BE RECOGNIZED ON THE LUNCHEON PLACEMAT**

DIAMOND \$2,000

SILVER \$500

PLATINUM \$1,000

BRONZE \$250

GOLD \$750

SUPPORTER \$100

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

COMPANY NAME (OPTIONAL) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM AND SEND CHECK PAYALBE TO  
ST. MARY YETTEM - WAYS AND MEANS**

ST. MARY ARMENIAN CHURCH | PO BOX 367 | YETTEM, CA 93670

OR PAY VIA ZELLE - YETTEMWMC@GMAIL.COM

NON-PROFIT TAX ID - 94-6074736

*Thank you for your Support and Sponsorship*

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE  
*Dedication Ceremony of the  
Historical Roadside Marker in Yettem*

FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 2026  
10:00AM

ST. MARY YETTEM CHURCH PARKING LOT

*Guests are invited to enjoy light refreshments after the ceremony*





# Reclaim Retreat Highlights in Yetteem | March 6-8, 2026 Spiritual, Enlightening, Fellowship

## Speakers and Presentations

Bishop Daniel Findikyan, Father Avedis Abovian, Father Mesrop Ash  
Dr. Hratch Tchilingirian, David Menendian, Gregory Beylerian



90 PARTICIPANTS | ONE POWERFUL EXPERIENCE  
10TH ANNUAL RECLAIM RETREAT IN YETTEM



(Continued from the front page)

Blessed is the one who makes Christ's Resurrection a mirror of their inner life. For when we root the mystery of the Resurrection deep within us, we begin to see life differently. We recognize that we carry within ourselves a reflection of the divine light.

The person who lives in the spirit of the Resurrection becomes grateful—grateful for the gift of life, grateful for grace, grateful even in trials. Strengthened by the Risen Christ, we find the true foundation to overcome evil and to live renewed by God's love.

The Resurrection is the path that leads us toward eternity. It is the hope for which humanity thirsts. To live with this faith is to celebrate not only a feast day, but the very promise of salvation and eternal life.

Therefore, let us not rely on ourselves, but on God who raises the dead. For in Christ's Resurrection, death is defeated, hope is reborn, and true life begins anew.

Christ is risen!

Blessed is the Resurrection of Christ!

Archbishop Hovnan Derderian

Primate

Western Diocese of the Armenian Church of North America

Easter, 2026

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

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Permit No.1