



ԵՂԵՍ

Հրատարակութիւն

Եղեմի Ս. Աստուծածին

Հայաստանեայց Եկեղեցւոյ



YETTEM

A publication of St. Mary

Armenian Church

Yettem, California

January 2018



WESTERN DIOCESE OF  
THE ARMENIAN CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA

Արեւմտեան Կաթողիկոսական Եկեղեցւոյ Արեւմտեան Կիւսիտեան Կենտրոնի Քրեմ

HIS EMINENCE ARCHBISHOP HOVNAN DERDERIAN, PRIMATE

## PRIMATE'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

*"Let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God." 2 Corinthians 7:1*

The birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is the presence of the Divine in the life of humanity that leads us to holiness and purity. God's creatures naturally depend on systematic spiritual renewal so that they may keep their innate faith actively engaged in all endeavors of life, reflecting God's will by deeds and words.

### **Christ is Born and Revealed! Blessed is the Revelation of Christ, our Lord!**

Every year, when we celebrate the Theophany and recite the above-mentioned proclamation, we feel the need for spiritual renewal in the depth of our souls. When we reiterate the Christmas greeting, we celebrate the beginning of a new life gifted to us by God Incarnate who is the path to wisdom, humility, and holiness.

*"Let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God "*

The miraculous birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ reawakens in us the very particles of life that has been breathed into us by God, turning us into living souls on the day of the Creation. Whoever comprehends this truth, walks on the path to purity and holiness 'in the fear of God ' which is nothing than the wisdom of God.

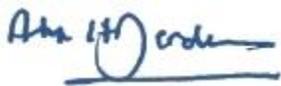
We live in a time when now more than ever, we need to feel the presence of God and do His holy will to be impeccable and stay away from the snares of evil.

Our forefathers felt the presence of God and lived their lives according to His will. They grasped the true meaning of Christmas and accepted God's invitation to 'cleanse themselves and live holy lives in the fear of God.' For them, Christ was the embodiment of holiness. His biblical teachings, our Christian values, a life lived with faith, the Armenian ancestral model family based on love and wisdom were all synonymous with our forefathers' understanding of holiness.

**Christ is Born and Revealed! Blessed is the Revelation of Christ, our Lord!**

Beloved faithful, the Theophany is the golden bridge that spans divinity to humanity. Glory be to the Almighty God for sending His Only Begotten Son to this world to guide us through darkness to light so we may see the path that leads us to holiness. Today, as we celebrate Christmas, we strive to reclaim that holiness in our lives. Our Christmas prayer for this year is that we may become instruments of peace and vessels of the Holy Spirit to live tranquil lives and continue to prosper as individuals and as faith communities `perfecting holiness in the fear of God' in our everyday lives.

**Christ is Born and Revealed! Blessed is the Revelation of Christ, our Lord!**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Arch. Hovnan Derderian", with a horizontal line underneath.

Archbishop Hovnan Derderian  
Primate

January 6, 2018  
Burbank, California



WESTERN DIOCESE OF THE ARMENIAN CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA

Հայաստանեայց Առաքելական Եկեղեցւոյ Հիւսիսային Ամերիկայի Արեւմտեան Թեմ

HIS EMINENCE ARCHBISHOP HOVNAN DERDERIAN, PRIMATE

ԳԵՐԱԾՆՈՐ՝ Տ. ՅՈՎՆԱՆ ԱՐԲԵՊՍ. ՏԷՐՏԵՐԻԱՆ, ԱՌԱՋՆՈՐ

**ԱՌԱՋՆՈՐԴ ՍՐԲԱՉԱՆ ՀՕՐ ՍՈՒՐԲ ԾՆՆԴԵԱՆ ՔԱՐՈՉԸ  
6 ՅՈՒՆԻՈՒԱՐ, 2018**

**«Կատարեսցուք զսրբութիւն ահիւն Աստուծոյ» (2 Կորնթ. 7:1)**

Քրիստոսի Սբ. Ծնունդն աշխարհի կեանքին մէջ մարդը դէպի սրբութիւն առաջնորդող աստուածայինին ներկայութիւնն է: Մարդուն կեանքը յարատեւօրէն պէտք ունի հոգեւոր նորոգութեան, որպէսզի հաւատքը մշտապէս գործէ մեր էութեանը մէջ եւ մեր խօսքն ու գործը ըլլայ արտացոլումն Աստուծոյ խօսքին:

**«Քրիստոս ծնաւ եւ յայտնեցաւ. Օրինեալ է Յայտնութիւնն Քրիստոսի»:**

Ամէն անգամ երբ կը տօնախմբենք մեր Տիրոջ եւ Փրկչի Յիսուսի հրաշալի Ծնունդը եւ կ'արտասանենք այս բառերը, ներքին ապրում մը կ'ունենանք հոգեւորոգութեան: Արդարեւ, նոր կեանք կ'ապրինք նոյն բառերուն արտասանութեամբ, որովհետեւ մեր հոգեւոր էութեանը մէջ կը զօրանայ ծնունդը Քրիստոսի, Աստուածորդու, որ երկինքէն երկիր խոնարհումով մեր առջեւ կը բանայ ճանապարհը Սրբութեան, ճանապարհը՝ կեանքն ապրելու Աստուծոյ իմաստութեամբ:

**«Կատարեսցուք զսրբութիւն ահիւն Աստուծոյ»:**

Ով հաւատքով կ'ընկալէ այս ճշմարտութիւնը՝ իր կեանքը կ'առաջնորդէ դէպի սրբութիւն եւ աւելին՝ կը դառնայ սրբութիւն ճարտարապետող անձ մը Աստուծոյ երկիւղովը, որն ուրիշ բան չէ, եթէ ոչ Աստուծոյ իմաստութիւնը:

Կ'ապրինք աշխարհի մը մէջ, ուր այսօր, առաւել քան երբեք պարտինք զգալ Աստուծոյ ներկայութիւնը եւ կատարել Անոր կամքը, որպէսզի սրբութիւնը բոլոր օտար խորհուրդներէ, որոնք հաշտ չեն Քրիստոսի Աւետարանէն ճառագայթող պատգամներուն հետ:

Աստուծոյ ներկայութիւնը իրենց կեանքին մէջ զգացին մեր նախնիները եւ իրենց կեանքը ապրեցան Աստուծոյ կամքին համաձայն: Անոնք Քրիստոսի Սբ. Ծննդեան խորհուրդին մէջ

ըմբռնեցին այն գերագոյն ճշմարտութիւնը, որ Աստուածորդու Սբ. Ծնունդը իր մէջ կը կրէր մարդուն կեանքը հրաշագործելու աստուածային զօրութիւնը: Քրիստոսի կեանքը իր ծնունդով մեր առջեւ բացուած կեանքի ճանապարհն է, որպէսզի նոյն կեանքը ապրինք սրբութեամբ: Եւ ի՞նչ է Սրբութիւնը. Քրիստոսի կեանքին օրինակով ապրիլը, անտարանական պատգամներուն հետեւիլը, մեր հայրերէն մեզի անանդուած հոգեւոր-բարոյական խրատներով առաջնորդելը: Սրբութիւնը հաւատքով ապրուած կեանքն է: Երբ հայ ընտանիքը կ'ապրի Աստուծոյ սիրով եւ իմաստութեամբ, ան կը դառնայ մարմնացումը սրբութեան: Մարդը կը կը սրբուի երբ իր հաւատքը կը կենսագործէ Աստուածաշունչ Մատեանէն պատգամուած խօսքերով, Տասնաբանեայ պատուիրաններով եւ բոլոր առակներով ու Քրիստոսաբոյր դասերով:

**«Քրիստոս ծնաւ եւ յայտնեցաւ. Օրհնեալ է Յայտնութիւնն Քրիստոսի»:**

Սիրելի բարեպաշտ հայորդի, Սբ. Ծնունդը ոսկէ կամուրջն է, մեզ Աստուծոյ հետ միացնող: Փառք վերառաքենք առ Աստուած, որ իր Միածին Որդին աշխարհ ուղարկեց, որպէսզի ուղեկորոյս մարդն այլեւս դուրս գայ խաւարի ճանապարհներէն եւ քալէ Աստուծոյ հետ՝ ըմբռնելով այն իրականութիւնը, որ ինք ստեղծուած է Աստուծոյ պատկերին համաձայն:

Քրիստոսի Սբ. Ծնունդը՝ Սրբութեան ճանապարհն է: Ով իր կեանքով կը տօնախմբէ Քրիստոսի Սբ. Ծնունդը, Սրբութեան տեսիլքը կ'ունենայ եւ իր կեանքը կ'ապրի ստեղծագործ ոգով:

Սբ. Ծննդեան Տօնին մեր աղօթքը կը յղենք առ Աստուած, որպէսզի լուսաւորէ մարդկանց հոգիները ու մտքերը՝ դարձնելով զանոնք խաղաղութեան գործիքներ: Մեր աղօթքն է առ բարին Աստուած, որ ինք խաղաղ ու անսասան պահէ մեր երկիրը, բարգաւաճ՝ մեր Սբ. Եկեղեցին ու անոր հաւատաւոր զաւակները, որպէսզի ամեն օր եւ ամեն ժամ «կատարեսցուք զսրբութիւն ահիւն Աստուծոյ»:

**«Քրիստոս ծնաւ եւ յայտնեցաւ. Օրհնեալ է Յայտնութիւնն Քրիստոսի»:**

  
Յովնան Արքեպիսկոպոս  
Առաջնորդ

## **Parish Notes**

### **ALTAR FLOWER DONATIONS**

- *December 10 – The family of Laura Davidian in memory of Laura Davidian*
- *December 10 – The Wall and Farsakian Families in memory of Betty Farsakian*
- *December 10 – The Skaff family in memory of Alice Dudukian*
- *December 24 – Jerry and Julie Poochigian*

### **HOKEHANKIST REQUESTS**

- *December 10 – The family of Laura Davidian in memory of Laura Davidian – forty days after her passing*
- *December 10 – The Wall and Farsakian families in memory of Betty Farsakian – four years after her passing*
- *December 10 – The Skaff family in memory of Alice Dudukian - fourteen years after her passing.*

*Our condolences to our church secretary Sonya Barton and son Seth on the loss of husband and father Randy Barton on December 19<sup>th</sup>. Services will be held on January 3, 2018 at 10 AM.*

*Armenian Christmas Services are as follows:*

*Saturday- January 6, 2018 Morning Services at 9:45a.m. Feast of the Nativity and Theophany of our Lord Jesus Christ Divine Liturgy at 10:30a.m.*

*Sunday – January 7, 2018 Morning Services at 9:45a.m. Divine Liturgy at 10:30a.m Blessing of Water/Baptism of the Cross will take place at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy Godfather of the Cross – Dustin Vartanian Celebrant & Preacher – Rev. Fr. Zaven Markosyan Home Blessing at the Church Hall*

*The ACYO Convention which historically was held on Thanksgiving vacation has been moved this year to January 12-14 in San Diego.*

*The Ways and Means Monthly meeting will take place on Tuesday, January 16 at Ryan's Place in Visalia.*

*The Ladies Society will be holding their monthly meeting on Wednesday, January 17<sup>th</sup> at Ryan's Place in Visalia. The Executive Committee will be meeting at 6 PM followed by the general meeting at 6:30.*

*Parish Council meeting will be held on Thursday, January 18 in the Majarian Hall at 7:00 p.m.*

*The ACYO will be meeting after church on Sunday, January 21.*

*The ACYO will be hosting a fellowship following services on Sunday, January 21.*

*Sunday School meets the second and fourth Sundays of each month.*

*The ACYO held their Christmas Party at Bowlero in Visalia. Officers elected for the 2018 year are:*

*Chairman: David Safrastian  
Vice Chairman: Melina Peters  
Secretary: Pete Safrastian  
Treasurer: Dustin Vartanian*



*Thank you to everyone who donated, participated or worked at our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Ladies Society Christmas Bazaar held on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. It was a fun day with great food and fellowship. With your help our ladies society made over \$6000 for our church.*

*Debbie Sheklian 2017 Ladies Society Chairman.*

### **COOKBOOK**

*By popular demand, a second edition of the "Treasured Recipes from the Garden of Eden" has been made available. If you are interested in purchasing a copy, call the church office at (559) 528-6892 or Debbie Sheklian at (559) 733-4417. The cost of the cookbook is \$30 or \$30 plus shipping if mailed.*

*Armenian Language classes are offered by request. If you are interested, please contact the Church Office at (559) 528-6892 or Fr. Zaven at (818) 644-9398.*

*DVD SET FOR SALE: St. Mary Armenian Church, 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, July 2, 2011. DVD set is \$25.00 and can be purchased by calling the Church office at (559) 528-6892. A \$6.00 charge for shipping and handling will be added to the price if you would like one mailed to you.*

*(Sponsored by the Ways and Means Committee)*

*The "Armenian Genocide Survivors and Heroes" book can be purchased for \$40 at the St. Mary Armenian Apostolic Church Office. Copies can be mailed for an additional cost. Call the church office at 528-6892 for details.*

### **REMINDER**

*If you have not sent in your 2017 Annual Stewardship Pledge and Voting Member Application, please do so as soon as possible. If you need a form, call the Church Office at (559) 528-6892.*

*The Parish Council has approved to have our weekly bulletin and the monthly newsletter available for sponsorships. We are not selling ads. If you would like to sponsor an edition of either publication please contact the office, or there is a form at the front desk in the church. The sponsorships for the weekly bulletin are \$25.00 per issue, and to sponsor the monthly newsletter is \$100.00 per issue.*

### **PAYPAL**

*You may access PayPal through the St. Mary YetteM web-site ([www.stmaryyetteM.org](http://www.stmaryyetteM.org)) and click on the "Donation" button on the bottom of the Home Page. You may donate for General Donations, Yughakins, Pledges, Membership Dues, In Lieu of Flowers, or pay for Altar Flowers you have ordered on behalf of the Church.*

*To St. Mary Parishioners: If you know of anyone ill or in the hospital, please call Rev. Fr. Zaven Markosyan at the Church Office (559) 528-6892 or his cell (818) 644-9398. St. Mary Armenian Apostolic Church Office hours are Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, from 9:30 - 2:30*

*The St. Mary Armenian Church webpage at [www.stmaryyetteM.org](http://www.stmaryyetteM.org) includes archived copies of church bulletins, pictures from events, a current church calendar, and an improved LIVE Camera System. View services on any desktop, laptop, or tablet!*

**If you wish to place any information in the monthly Bulletin, please notify the Church Office by the 20<sup>th</sup> of month.**

# St. Mary Armenian Church, Yetttem

## January 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b> New Year's Day	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Feast of the Nativity Divine Liturgy at 10:30 AM
<b>7</b> Armenian Christmas Services Morning Service 9:45 Divine Liturgy 10:30 Blessing of Water/Baptism of Cross Ways and Means Christmas Luncheon Sunday School Meets	<b>8</b> Remembrance of the Dead	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> ACYO Convention in San Diego	<b>13</b> ACYO Convention in San Diego
<b>14</b> ACYO Convention in San Diego	<b>15</b> Martin Luther King	<b>16</b> Ways and Means Meeting at 6 PM at Ryan's Place in Visalia	<b>17</b> Ladies Society Meeting – Ryan's Place 6 PM Executive Meeting 6:30 General Meeting	<b>18</b> Parrish Council Meeting at 7 PM in Majarian Hall	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> ACYO Fellowship ACYO Meeting after Church	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> Sunday School Meets	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>Notes:</b>		

### Sunday Schedule:

Morning Service (Matins) 9:45 AM  
Divine Liturgy – 10:30 AM

### Father Zaven can be reached at:

559-528-6892 – Office  
559-528-6897 – FAX  
818-644-9398 - Cell

## Why Do Armenians Celebrate Christmas on January 6<sup>th</sup>?



Frequently people ask why Armenians do not celebrate Christmas on December 25<sup>th</sup> with the rest of the world. The exact date of Christ's birth has not been historically established nor is it recorded in the Gospels. While it's true that we really don't know when exactly Jesus was born, quite actually it is a moot point. In fact, during the very early years of the Christian church, His birthday was not celebrated at all! Many early church fathers omit it entirely from their lists of feasts.

All Christian churches celebrated Christ's birth on January 6<sup>th</sup> until the fourth century. Although

there are many compelling theories as to the reason for moving the celebration of the Nativity from January 6 to December 25<sup>th</sup>, it is generally believed that the date was changed in order to override and subdue pagan feasts and practices dedicated to The Winter Solstice. Since the festivities appealed to Christians, the Epiphany or Baptism on January 6 remained and the celebration of the birth of Jesus was moved to December 25.

Armenia however, whose Christianity is of ancient Apostolic origins, did not adopt this change for the simple fact that there were no such pagan practices left in Armenia in the 5th century allowing them to remain faithful to the traditions of their forefathers. Thus, our church officially names this holiday "Asdvadza-Haydnutyun" (revelation of God, Theophany), because, during the birth (*Sourp Dznount*) and baptism of Jesus Christ, God perfectly manifested oneself to humanity and the divine word. The mystery of our Lord's baptism in the River of Jordan is remembered through the "Blessing of Water" (*Jurorhnek*) ceremony, which follows the Divine Liturgy.

In ancient times, this ceremony was celebrated by the riverside or sea shore, but, for various reasons, it was later confined to the interior of the churches. During the ceremony, the cross is dipped in water, recalling Christ's immersion in the Jordan River. Blessed oil, or Holy Chrism (Muron), is poured into the water from a dove-shaped container, symbolizing the appearance at the baptism of the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove and the voice of the Father proclaiming to all that Jesus is His Son. The Holy Chrism is prepared in Holy Etchmiadzin and is blessed by the Catholicos assisted by the bishops. Muron contains olive oil, balsam and the essence of forty different flowers and herbs. At the end of the ceremony, members of the congregation are given the blessed water to drink, thereby sharing in the life giving act of Christ. As water is essential to the life of the body, drinking the blessed water is a reminder that participation in the acts of Christ is essential for eternal life.



**ST. MARY  
ARMENIAN CHURCH, YETTEM  
WAYS AND MEANS  
COMMITTEE**

**Armenian Christmas Luncheon  
Sunday, January 7, 2018**

**immediately following the day's worship**

**Menu**

**Lamb & Chicken Kebab Combo Skewer  
Pilaf  
Salad  
Rolls  
Dessert  
Drinks**

**Adults--\$15.00**

**Children ten (10) and under--\$10.00**

**Special Christmas Program  
Presented by the Sunday School Students**

**Plan to attend with the entire family and enjoy the delicious luncheon and entertaining program.**



*SAVE THE DATE:*

*Saturday, February 10, 2018*

**POON PAREGENTAN**

*ST. MARY ARMENIAN CHURCH, YETTEM  
MAJARIAN HALL*

*Look for more information in the  
coming weeks...*

**Sponsored by the Ways and Means  
Committee**



# Ladies Society Bazaar - December 3, 2017





### Feast of the Holy Nativity and Theophany of Our Lord Jesus Christ



Each year, on January 6, the Armenian Apostolic Church celebrates the Feast of the Holy Nativity and Theophany of Our Lord Jesus Christ, which is the commemoration of the Birth and Baptism of Jesus Christ. God was incarnated and appeared to the people. During the Baptism of Jesus God the Father said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased" (Mt 3:17) and the Holy Spirit descended on Christ in the form of dove, so God appeared to the people for the second time. So, both Theophanies revealed by means of the Birth and Baptism of Jesus Christ are celebrated in the Armenian

Church jointly on January 6. The feast starts on the eve, in the evening of January 5, and is continued after the midnight. On the eve a solemn Candlelight Divine Liturgy is celebrated and on January 6 a solemn Divine Liturgy is celebrated. At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy Blessing of the Waters Service is conducted symbolizing the Baptism of Christ in the River Jordan at the commencement of His ministry. By means of His Baptism Jesus blessed water.

Celebrant priest pours out the Holy Chrism drop by drop into water and blesses the water. According to the tradition people take some blessed water with them to use it as a medicinal remedy for the sick. After Blessing of the Waters Service the priests visit the houses of the faithful to proclaim the Christmastide Good News of the Birth of Jesus Christ and hence the tradition of Blessing of the Houses was formed.

The Birth of Jesus happened in this way. "In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ... And everyone went to his own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn." (Lk 2:1-7) The Son of God was born in poverty, in a manger. The witnesses of His Birth were the shepherds living out in the fields nearby, whom the angels had appeared and brought the good news of the Birth of the Savior singing: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests." (Lk 2:18)

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St. Mary Armenian Church

Non-Profit Organization

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