



YETTEM GAGU

Յրատարակութիւն Եդեմի Ս. Աստուածածին Յայաստանեայց Եկեղեցւոյ A Publication of St. Mary Armenian Church Yettem, California

Rev. Fr. Mashdots Keshishian, Parish Priest

November 2025

A Season of Thanksgiving and Grace

As autumn paints the earth with colors of gold and crimson, our hearts are gently reminded of the season of Thanksgiving, a time to pause, reflect, and give thanks to Almighty God for His endless blessings. Though we are called to live in gratitude throughout the year, this season invites us in a special way to open our hearts and truly see how God's grace surrounds us each day.

Thanksgiving is not merely a holiday or a single moment of celebration; it is a sacred posture of the soul, a way of living that recognizes God's hand in both our joys and our challenges. True gratitude flows not only from abundance, but also from faith, the kind of faith that says, "The Lord is good, a refuge in times of trouble; He cares for those who trust in Him." (Nahum 1:7)

When we look closely, we begin to see blessings everywhere, in the morning sunlight that warms the day, in the kindness of a friend, in the laughter of children, and in the quiet peace that prayer brings to our hearts. Every moment becomes a gift, and every breath a reminder that we live in the presence of God's love.

This season also calls us to extend that love outward, to share our blessings with those who have less, to comfort the lonely, and to lift the spirits of those in need. Thanksgiving becomes complete when gratitude leads to generosity. As St. Paul writes, "In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." (1 Thessalonians 5:18)

Let us, then, make this November not only a time of words, but of action, to give thanks by serving to honor God by loving, and to remember that every gift we have is meant to be shared.

May your homes be filled with peace, your tables with joy, and your hearts with the warmth of faith. And as we gather with family and friends, may we pause to thank the Giver for all good things, our Heavenly Father, whose love endures forever. (Continued on the back page)

Parish Notes

ALTAR FLOWERS

October 12

The Sylvia Davidian Family in memory of their mother, Sylvia

Mari Louise Menendian in memory of Jim McOmish

OCTOBER HOKEHANKIST REQUESTS

October 12

Sylvia Davidian

Ten years after her passing, requested by The Sylvia Davidian Family

HOKEHANKIST DONATIONS

September 28

For Repose of Khacher and Takoui Mikaelian, Michael Mikaelian, and Florence Mikaelian, Mike and Carolyn Mikaelian, and Ralph and Marian Hovannisian's Souls The Valencia Family

October 12 For Repose of Sylvia Davidian's Soul Margie L. Davidian

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

The Ways and Means Committee would like to extend a very special THANK YOU to Mr. Richard Hagopian who so graciously said "Yes" when we asked him if we could feature his delicious shish kebab recipe in this year's luncheon. He not only said yes but volunteered to marinade the 400lbs of meat himself. Thanks to his expertise and guidance our luncheon was a huge success.

Also, thanks and appreciation for the generosity of our sponsors. Of course, we thank all our church family and community who never let us down on the day of the event by volunteering their time.

Thanks again to everyone, together we net profited \$24,742.05. This year the Ways and Means Committee has contributed a total of \$50,000 to our church.

Thank You St. Mary Yettem Family that would not have happened without YOU!

God Bless Everyone

LADIES SOCIETY NEWS

In recognition of Armenian Cultural Month, Society hosted a nazook baking Ladies demonstration instructed by our own master pastry chef, Sandra Vartanian. After she demonstrated making the dough and filling, we each rolled out the dough and filled it with the mixture of flour, sugar, and butter. Baked to perfection, we served the nazook at our monthly general meeting for all to enjoy and received rave reviews for our scrumptious delights. Thank you, Sandra, for your expert instruction. If you would like a copy of the recipe, contact Sandra. She is happy to share it.

Saturday, November 8, 9:30 at church we are making kufta. Come join us in making this traditional dish and the recipe handed down from our grandmothers and mothers.

Ladies Society is hosting a Thanksgiving centerpiece craft day Sunday, November 9 following church. Bring your family and enjoy fellowship with your church family. See enclosed flier for details.

Mark your calendars for our annual bazaar Sunday, December 7, following church. So many wonderful treasures will be found at the country store and the live auction. See the enclosed flier for details. (I received a special message from the North Pole that Santa is making a special appearance!)

God's blessings to you, Linda Farsakian-Wall

SCHEDULED NOVEMBER

HOKEHANKISTS

November 9

World War II Soldiers, Archie Akizian Jack Cherkezian Charlie Davidian Armen Kendig Haig Michaelian

November 23

Sark and Sylvia Yahnian

Four years after their passing, requested by The Yahnian Family, David, Jennifer and Renee

MISCELLANEOUS DONATION

Principal Financial Group Foundation, Davy Vartanian

THANK YOU

Thank you to Charlie Davidian for replacing the back parking lot pump.

PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council's next meeting will be held on **Sunday, November 16** after church services.

LADIES SOCIETY

The Ladies Society keshkeg/elections luncheon meeting is scheduled for Saturday, November 1 in the Majarian Hall at 11:30 AM

RAFFLE

Our **December drawing of 2025** will be held on **Sunday, December 7.**

BULLETIN SPONSORSHIP

If you are interested in sponsoring a monthly bulletin or a weekly bulletin, please call the church office at (559) 528-6892. Sponsorships are a good way to remember or honor family members or friends. Sponsorships for the weekly bulletin are \$25 or more and a \$250 minimum donation for the monthly bulletin.

UPCOMING NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2025 EVENTS & MEETINGS

The Ladies Making Kufta

Saturday, November 8 – 9:30 AM (Church Hall)

Sunday School

Sunday, November 9 & 23 - 10:30AM (Classroom)

The Ladies Society Is Hosting A Thanksgiving Centerpiece Craft Day

Sunday, November 9 – (Church Hall)

Parish Council Meeting

Sunday, November 16 - (Church Hall)

Ladies Society Christmas Bazaar

Sunday, December 7 – (Church Hall)

Ways and Means Committee December Raffle

Sunday, December 7 – (Church Hall)



For your convenience, **membership dues** can be paid through **Zelle**. Just send your payment to saintmaryyettem@gmail.com

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

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 <u>alskaff@gmail.com</u>

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 <u>fathermashdots@stmaryyettem.org</u> or text/call (818) 293-9098 or text/call St. Mary Parish Council Chair Judy Skaff at (559) 799-1198 or email <u>judy@thebelmontgroup.com</u>

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



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ST. MARY ARMENIAN CHURCH

November 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						All Saints' Day The Ladies Society keshkeg/elections meeting in the Majarian Hall at 11:30 AM
Daylight Saving Time ends The Parish Council is holding an Organizational meeting after church services	3	4	5 26 th Anniversary of the Enthronement of H.H. Karekin II, Catholicos of All Armenians	6	7	Holy Archangels Gabriel & Michael The Ladies will be making kufta in the hall at 9: 30 AM All are welcome!
Sunday School Children's Sermon The Ladies Society is hosting a Thanksgiving Centerpiece craft day after church services	10]] Veterans' Day	12	13	14	15 Sts. Andrew & Phillip Apostles
Barekendan of the Fast of Advent The Parish Council meeting will be held after church services	17	18	19	20	Presentation of the Holy Mother-of-God to the Temple	22
Sunday School	24	25	26	27 Thanksgiving Day	28	29 Sts. Thaddeus and Bartholomew, Apostles

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



TO JOIN
ST. MARY YETTEM
WAYS AND MEANS
COMMITTEE

- 10. You'll be welcomed with open arms
- 9. No minimum or maximum age limit
- 8. No annual dues to be part of Ways and Means
 - 7. No monthly meetings to attend
 - 6. Meetings are held on zoom
 - 5. A way to give back to your Church family
 - 4. Be a part of planning the financial future of St. Mary Yettem
 - 3. Your voice will be heard
 - 2. Fresh ideas are great ideas

And the Number I reason to join Ways and Means... You can make a difference

Are you interested?...we know you are...

Call, Text or E-mail - Tracy Valencia

559-824-0913 or Tracyvalencia@gmail.com



SHISH KEBAB LUNCH













THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS



















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Dr. Neshan Tabibian









Selebrate the Birth of Jesus

"But the angel said to her, 'Do not be alraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus.'" — Luke 1:30=31

Armenian Christmas Lunch Sunday, January 4, 2026

After Church Pervices - Majarian Hall

Dolma, Sarma, Salad,

Pilaf, Cheese Borag, Lavash

Dessert and Drinks

Adults \$20 | Children \$10



Call or E-Mail for Reservations by Tuesday, December 30 Tables will be reserved for groups of 8 or more 559-528-6892 or lunches@stmaryyettem.org

DONATE YOUR

→ VEHICLE-BOAT-TRACTOR-RV ←



That old boat never made it out of the driveway this summer?

Your RV never saw the open road this year?

Your tractor collecting spider webs?

Need to get that old car/truck out of your driveway?

- Donate them to our Yettem Church
- •Donating is <u>EASY</u> •Pick-up is <u>FREE</u> •100%<u>Tax Deductible</u> Call Linda Farsakian-Wall at 559-786-1419 for details.

(Continued from the front page)

"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His mercy endures forever." (Psalm 107:1)

As we enter this season of Thanksgiving, our hearts are called to recognize God's abundant blessings in every part of our lives. This is a time to pause and reflect on His love, mercy, and provision, from the laughter of family and friends to the quiet moments of peace and prayer. Gratitude transforms ordinary days into sacred opportunities to see God's hand at work, and it invites us to share our blessings with others, offering kindness, generosity, and compassion. May this Thanksgiving fill your homes with joy, your hearts with faith, and your lives with the enduring presence of God's grace.

May we each remember that Thanksgiving is not only about what we have, but about who we have in Christ. When our hearts overflow with gratitude, we become vessels of His light to the world, spreading hope, faith, and love wherever we go.

Let our thanksgiving be more than words spoken at the table, let it be a daily song of faith. When we thank God in every circumstance, whether in abundance or in need, we discover a joy that no circumstance can take away, because it is rooted in His eternal goodness and love.

May this season inspire us to live every day with grateful hearts, to see God's blessings even in small things, and to walk humbly in His grace. For a thankful heart is a peaceful heart, and where gratitude dwells, there the presence of Christ shines brightly.

With love, prayers, and blessings for a joyous and grace-filled Thanksgiving, Der Mashdots

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