



YETTEM ԵՊԵՄ

Հրատարակութիւն Եղեմի Ս. Աստուածածին Հայաստանեայց Եկեղեցւոյ

A Publication of St. Mary Armenian Church Yettem, California

Rev. Fr. Mashdots Keshishian, Parish Priest

October 2025

Why the Primate Visits Local Churches: A Sacred Bond Between Shepherd and Flock

In the life of the Armenian Apostolic Church, the pastoral visit of the Primate, the spiritual leader of a Diocese is a deeply meaningful and spiritually enriching event. It is not merely a formal obligation or ceremonial tradition, but rather a vital expression of the Church's living connection between its people and its hierarchy, between shepherd and flock.

A Shepherd Among His People

The title "Primate" refers to the chief bishop of a diocese. In the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church of North America, His Eminence Archbishop Hovnan Derderian serves as the Primate, guiding the clergy and faithful with fatherly love and spiritual wisdom. His visits to local parishes are not simply administrative, they are pastoral, prayerful, and personal.

When the Primate enters a local church, he comes as a shepherd among his people, just as Christ, the Good Shepherd, walked among His disciples. The presence of the Primate reminds us that we are not isolated communities, but part of the one, holy, and apostolic Church.

Strengthening Faith and Unity

The Primate's visit strengthens the spiritual life of the parish. It is an opportunity for:

Blessing and Encouragement: The faithful are uplifted by the arch pastoral presence, inspired to renew their commitment to Christ and to the Church.

Unity and Belonging: The visit affirms the unity of the Church, connecting the local parish to the larger body of the Diocese and the Armenian Church worldwide.

Dialogue and Vision: The Primate meets with the parish priest, parish council, and community members, listening to their hopes and challenges, offering guidance, and helping shape a shared vision for the future.

(Continued on the back page)

Parish Notes

ALTAR FLOWERS

September 7

***Jim Soxman and Family, and
Debbie and Rob Agnew and Family***

in memory of

Anahid Bea Soxman

Khacher and Takoui Mikaelian,
Michael Mikaelian, and Florence Mikaelian,
Mike and Carolyn Mikaelian, and
Ralph and Marian Hovannisian

The Charlie Ananian Family
in memory of Elizabeth Ananian on
Grandparents' Day

***Lisa and David Krause, Bryan and Terry
Ananian, and
Renee and Michelle Ananian***
in memory of Stella Ananian

***Janice and Rich McWilliams and Family,
Phyllis and Alan Borba and Family, and
Becky and Jeff Akin and Family***
in memory of
Harry and Laura Davidian,
Giragos and Aghavnie Davidian,
Chad Tellian, and
Haig and Rebecca Balakian

HOKEHANKIST REQUESTS

September 28

Deacon Hagop Keshishian
Eighteen years after his passing,
requested by
Fr. Mashdots, Yeretgin Maral Khanjian,
Hagop Pegor and Vart Ann

HOKEHANKIST DONATIONS

September 7

For Repose of Harry and Laura Davidian,
Giragos and Aghavnie Davidian, Chad Tellian
and Haig and Rebecca Balakian's Souls

***Janice and Rich McWilliams
Phyllis and Alan Borba***

For Repose of Stella Ananian's Soul
***Lisa and David Krause
Serge and Judith Ananian***

For Repose of Mike and Carolyn Mikaelian's
Souls
Michael and Sandra Mikaelian

SCHEDULED OCTOBER HOKEHANKISTS

Sunday, October 12

Jim McOmish

Ten years after his passing,
requested by
Mari Louise Menendian

MISCELLANEOUS DONATIONS

Joyce Iskenderian Lewis

in memory of her grandparents,
Dickran and Yerchanig Iskenderian

LADIES SOCIETY NEWS

Grandparents are the link to our past and a guide to our future. Without them, we wouldn't be the Yette community we are today. With this in our hearts, we celebrated our grandparents with much love. The annual Grandparent's Day brunch hosted by the Ladies Society was a joyous occasion. The Hall was filled with grandparents, grandchildren, and parishioners enjoying the fellowship and the copious amount of delicious food prepared by the committee. Thank you to the committee headed by Tina Peters and Donna Venturella for giving us an unforgettable day!

The annual Sister Churches luncheon was hosted by St. Paul, Fresno's Ladies Society. The event started with a musical performance in the sanctuary. A vocalist from each of the sister churches made up the chorus. Our church was adeptly represented by our member and choir director Mari Louise Menendian. It was a joyous beginning to a day of fellowship and lunch. Also attending the event with Mari Louise was Rose Marie Margosian, myself, and parish council chairman Judy Skaff.

Looking to the month of October, our monthly meeting is changed to Saturday, October 11, 11:30 am at the Majarian Hall. October is Armenian cultural month. What better way to embrace our culture than through food? Sandra Vartanian, a master pastry chef, will be teaching us how to make nazook. The class will start at 9:30 am in the hall. It is open to everyone in our Yette parish. If you would like to attend, please contact me by text at 559-786-1419 or by email at linda.hyewall@gmail.com.

See you all at our Shish Kebab luncheon fundraiser, Sunday, October 5 at the Visalia Elks Lodge!

*God's blessings to you,
Linda Farsakian-Wall*

NEW VOTING MEMBERS

We warmly welcome four new voting members to our community. Your dedication and voice are vital to our growth and success. Thank you for stepping up and committing to this important role.

Julie Bair Sandy Kalfayan
Nancy Krikorian Brooke Lopez

THANK YOU

Thank you to *Charlie Ananian* for repairing and painting the main entry gate latch.

PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council's next meeting will be held on **Thursday, October 16** via Zoom at **6:00 PM**

LADIES SOCIETY

The Ladies Society **October meeting** is scheduled for **Saturday, October 11** due to the **Shish Kebab Luncheon on Sunday, October 5.**

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

The Ways and Means Committee next meeting is **TO BE DETERMINED.**

RAFFLE

Our September, October and November raffles of 2025 were held on Sunday, September 7.

Congratulations to the **September winners...**

(\$150) Margie L. Davidian
(\$100) Lisa Krause
(\$50) Michael Tellian

Congratulations to the **October winners...**

(\$150) David Yahnian
(\$100) JoAnn Sheklian
(\$50) Sandra Vartanian

Congratulations to the **November winners...**

(\$150) Sandra Vartanian
(\$100) Madelaine Tolegian
(\$50) Lisa Krause

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.**

NO CHURCH SERVICES will be held at **St. Mary Yettem** on **Sunday, October 5** due to the Shish Kebab Luncheon at the Visalia Elks Lodge. A short service will be conducted before the luncheon starts.

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

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

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



Donating is easy. Pick-up is free. Your tax-deductible donation benefits our church. Call Linda Farsakian-Wall at 559-786-1419 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 fathermashdots@stmaryyettem.org or text/call (818) 293-9098 or text/call St. Mary Parish Council Chair Judy Skaff at (559) 799-1198 or email at judy@thebelmontgroup.com

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



Scan the QR code below to pay with PayPal or with Credit Cards.



Donate Online to St. Mary Yettem
Click on the QR Code to pay with PayPal or Credit Cards

ARMENIAN CULTURAL MONTH

October 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4 72 Disciples of Christ
5 Shish Kebab Luncheon at the Visalia Elks Lodge 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM Dine-In or Drive-Thru	6	7	8	9	10	Holy Translators 11 Ladies Society Nazook Baking Class-9:30am Meeting starts at 11:30am
12 Sunday School Children's Sermon	13 Indigenous Peoples' Day	14	15	16 Parish Council Meeting via Zoom 6:00 PM	17	18 Holy Evangelists Matthew, Mark, Luke & John
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 Discovery of the Holy Cross Sunday School	27	28	29	30 St. John Chrysostom Patriarch	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 Mashdoots can be reached at:
559-528-6892 – Office
818-293-9098 - Cell



LADIES SOCIETY
ANNUAL

Christmas BAZAAR AND COUNTRY STORE

SUNDAY,
DECEMBER 7,
2025

LUNCH WILL BE SERVED
HOMEMADE LASAGNA,
SALAD, GARLIC BREAD,
DESSERT, SNACKS & DRINKS
\$15 PER PERSON

COME EAT, SHOP & BE MERRY!
LIVE AUCTION
UNIQUE GIFTS
BAKED GOODS

GRANDPARENTS DAY CELEBRATION

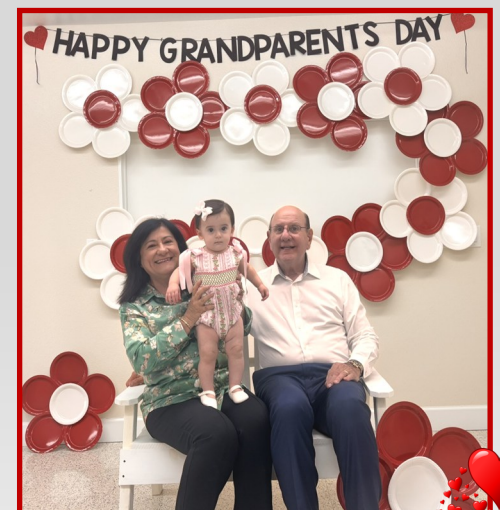
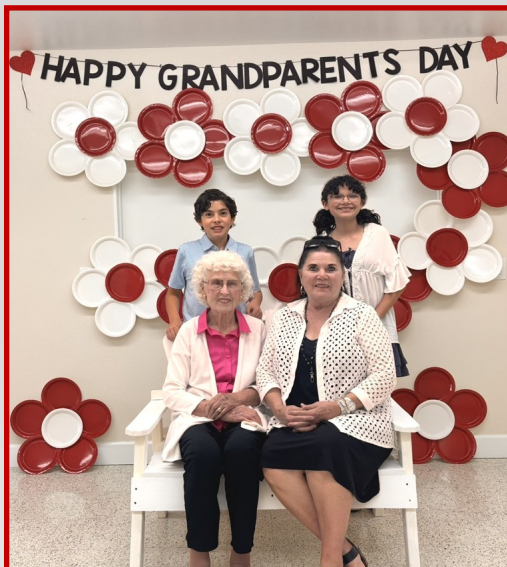
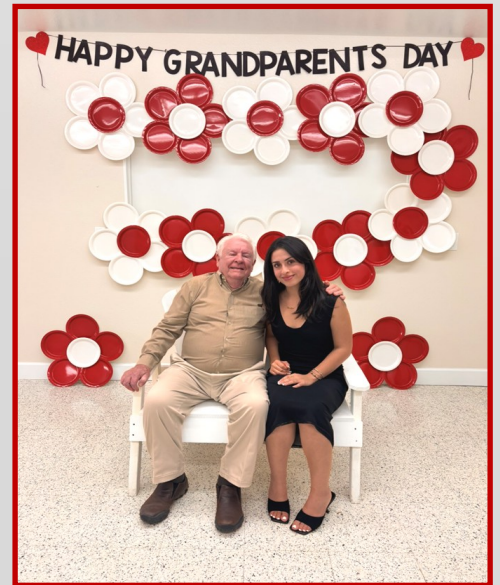
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2025

Thank you to the Amazing Ladies Society Committee

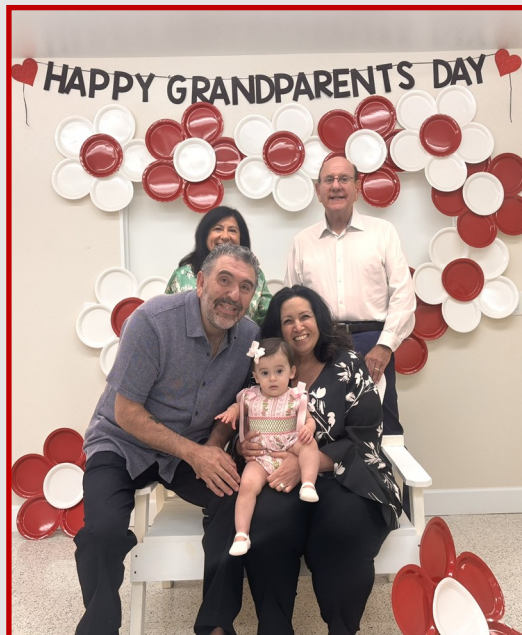
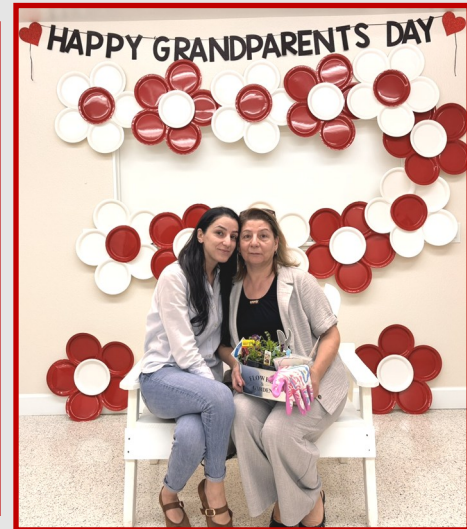
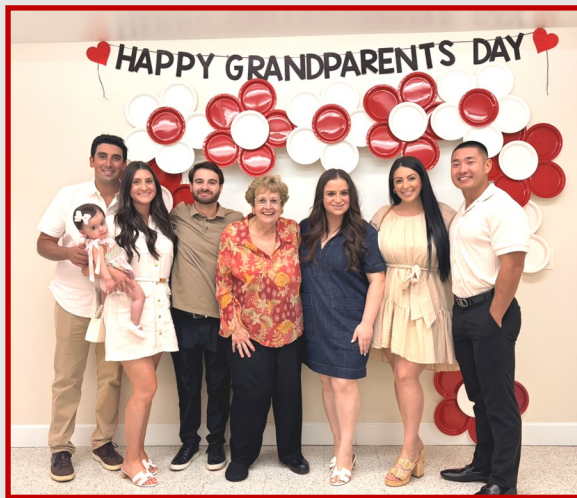
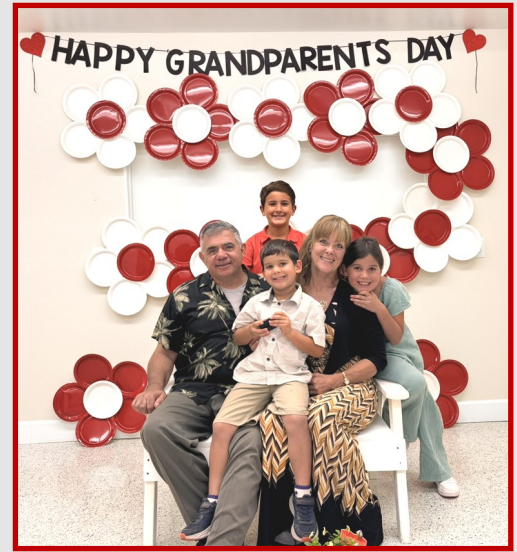
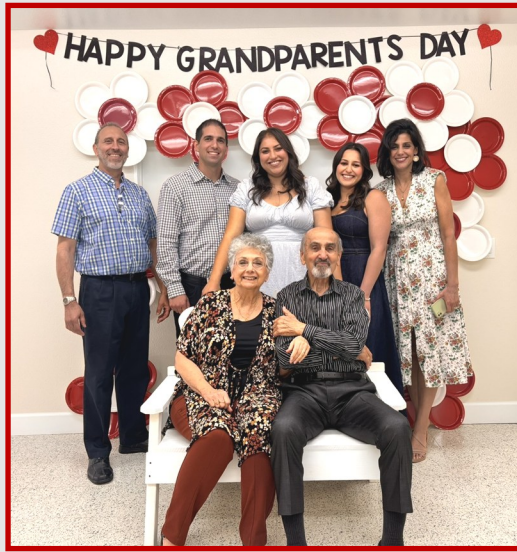
Gina Ananian, Janet Ananian, Michelle Ananian, Julie Bair, Margie L. Davidian, Sandy Kalfayan, Yeretzgin Maral
Nancy Krikorian, Laurie Menendian, Tina Peters, Tracy Valencia, Sandra Vartanian, Donna Venturella



BRUNCH WAS ENJOYED BY ALL WHO ATTENDED



WE OUR GRANDPARENTS



(Continued from the front page)

Celebrating Our Heritage and Mission

The Armenian Church is not only ancient, it is alive. During his visits, the Primate often participates in the Divine Liturgy (Badarak), delivers sermons, and offers special blessings to the youth, the elders, and the servants of the church. He may also consecrate altars, ordain acolytes, and recognize the work of devoted parishioners.

In doing so, he celebrates both our sacred heritage and our living mission, to serve God faithfully, to pass on the light of Christ, and to preserve the Armenian Christian identity for generations to come.

A Call to Renewal

The Primate's visit is also a call to renewal. It invites each of us to reflect on our own spiritual journey:

Are we growing in faith? Are we serving with love? Are we united in Christ?

The presence of the Primate stirs the heart and calls the community to rise together, to deepen their worship, and to serve more fully in the life of the Church.

As we reflect on this sacred occasion, may our hearts be open, our spirits uplifted, and our faith strengthened for the journey ahead. Next year, we are joyfully celebrating the 115th anniversary of our beloved church, and we warmly invite each and every one of you, our cherished parishioners, families, and friends, to join us in this historic and blessed celebration. It will be a time to honor our rich heritage, remember the faithful who built and nurtured this holy place, and rejoice together in the enduring love of Christ that binds us as one community. We are truly encouraged and filled with happiness as we look forward to sharing this special milestone with all of you, continuing our journey of faith, service, and fellowship, and strengthening our unity in the Armenian Apostolic Church. May this anniversary inspire us to deepen our devotion, renew our commitment to serve God and our neighbors, and joyfully carry forward the mission of our church for generations to come.

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

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