



YETTEM ԵՊԵՄ

Հրատարակուիլն Եղեմի Ս. Աստուածածին Հայաստանեայց Եկեղեցւոյ

A Publication of St. Mary Armenian Church Yettem, California

Rev. Fr. Mashdots Keshishian, Parish Priest

May 2026

Remembering with Purpose: A Spiritual Reflection on Memorial Day

“Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.” (John 15:13)

Each year, as our nation observes Memorial Day, we pause to remember the men and women who gave their lives in service to our country. It is a day marked by flags, ceremonies, and quiet moments at gravesides. Yet beyond these visible expressions lies a deeper calling, one that speaks directly to our spiritual life.

To remember is not simply to recall the past. In the Christian understanding, remembrance is sacred. It is active, living, and transformative. When we remember, we enter into a deeper awareness of sacrifice, love, and the enduring value of life given for others.

Our Lord Jesus Christ teaches us that the greatest love is shown through sacrifice. This truth becomes especially meaningful on Memorial Day. Those we honor lived out this love in a real and costly way, giving their lives so that others may live in peace and freedom.

Memorial Day, therefore, is not only a national observance, it is also a spiritual invitation.

It invites us:

- To remember with gratitude, not only emotion
- To honor not only with words, but with our way of life
- To reflect on the meaning of sacrifice in our own daily living

As Christians, remembrance is always connected with prayer. We remember the departed by entrusting them to God’s eternal care. We ask the Lord to grant rest to their souls and to bring comfort and strength to their families.

True remembrance is not only about looking back, but also about being changed in the present. When we truly honor sacrifice, it shapes our character, it softens our hearts, deepens our compassion, and strengthens our commitment to live not for ourselves alone, but for God, for others, and for the peace of the world. In this way, the memory of the fallen becomes a living witness that continues to call us toward goodness and faithfulness. (Continued on the back page)

Parish Notes

CONDOLENCES

On behalf of our St. Mary Parish family, we wish to extend our deepest sympathy to Terry and Bryan Ananian. Terry's mother, ***Donna Tice*** passed on Thursday, March 5, 2026.

Also, to ***The Family of Dodd Yahnian***, the St. Mary Parish family wishes to extend our deepest sympathy. Dodd passed on Wednesday, April 8, 2026. A graveside service was held on Tuesday, April 21 at the Visalia Public Cemetery.

Also, our deepest sympathy to Keleen, David, Noah, Mason, and Hunter Miller, Margie A. Davidian, and Annie, Skylar and Gregory Davidian. ***Diana Davidian Biswell*** passed away on Thursday, April 23, 2026. Services are pending. Our thoughts and prayers are with these families.

BAPTISM

Saturday, April 4

Ada Jeanne Zahigian

Ada is the daughter of Daniel and Justine (Nichols-Turner) Zahigian. She is the granddaughter of Madlen Zahigian and the late Edward Zahigian, and Wendy Nichols and Bill Turner.

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

On behalf of our parish, we would like to congratulate Dr. Nune Grigoryan and Dn. Dr. Ezras Tellalian on the birth of their first son, ***Arman Tellalian*** born February 12, 2026, in Clovis, California. Proud grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Gagik and Silva Grigoryan, Dn. Randal Tellalian and Mrs. Carolyn Tellalian. Proud great-grandmother is Mrs. Norma Kakligian.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Sunday, April 26

Shirley Ouzounian, Craig, Annie, Audrey and Maddy Ouzounian and Lisa, Paul, Vaughn and Theo Dermenjian

in memory of George Ouzounian

***Judy Kachadoorian,
Kandy Kachadoorian Basmajian,
Kris and Aida Kachadoorian and family***
in memory of Kaye Kachadoorian

HOKEHANKIST DONATIONS

***For Repose of Kaye Kachadoorian's Soul:
Judy Kachadoorian and Family***

HOKEHANKIST REQUESTS

Sunday, April 19

Hasmik Enfiedjian

One year after her passing,
requested by Fr. Sarkis & Yn. Taline Petoyan

Vartan Khanjian

Eight years after his passing,
requested by Fr. Mashdots, Yn. Maral,
Hagop Pegor, Vart Ann and Family

Sunday, April 26

George Ouzounian

Two years after his passing,
requested by Shirley Ouzounian,
Craig, Annie, Audrey and Maddy Ouzounian and
Lisa, Paul, Vaughn and Theo Dermenjian

Kaye Kachadoorian

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

SCHEDULED MAY

HOKEHANKIST REQUESTS

Sunday, May 10

All the deceased mothers

THANK YOU

A heartfelt thank you to the Parish Council for the delicious Easter lunch, to the Ladies Society for all the wonderful desserts, and to the Sunday School for the beautiful centerpieces and drinks. It was truly a lovely gathering enjoyed by all!

HOLY WEEK DONATIONS

Butter for Washing of the Feet

Julie Poochigian

Easter Altar Candle Oil

Carrie Margosian and Family

Janice & Rich McWilliams,

Phyllis & Alan Borba, and

Becky & Jeff Akin, and their Families

in honor of their father, Harry Davidian's
99th Birthday, April 23 & His Name Day

Easter Altar Flowers

The Grandchildren and Great-Grandchildren

of Papa Harry and Lolo Davidian

in memory of them

In honor of

Chad Tellian's 50th Birthday

Easter Lilies

Alan and Phyllis Borba

Laurie Menendian and Fred Marrs

LADIES SOCIETY NEWS

Mother’s Day is coming. What would we do without our mothers? Well, the obvious – we won’t be here! We won’t know unconditional love. We won’t have our Christian faith. We won’t know discipline and hard work. We won’t know an embracing hug. We won’t know that smile and pure joy when she sees us. I could go on and on. I’m blessed to have my mother, Betty Farsakian, be all that and more. She got married at 18 and had me at 19. She navigated a new life with her husband, ran a household, and had 3 children by the age of 22! (Unimaginable today.) My mom was like so many of your mothers, marrying and having children at a young age. Our moms were warriors establishing themselves in a society whose customs and beliefs were changing. Yet they held on to their faith, values, and heritage while carving a new path for us. We are all better children because of our mothers! I miss my mom and everyday wish she was still with me. I carry with me her unconditional love, pearls of wisdom, and her memories. For those of you who still have your mothers with you, cherish them, pay attention to them, and listen up!

Happy Mother’s Day and God’s blessings to all our mothers past and present!

Linda Farsakian-Wall, Ladies Society Chair

DONATIONS

*Skylar and Gregory Davidian,
and Shirley Dawson*

in memory of Greg Davidian’s 75th Birthday

GRADUATION ANNOUNCEMENT

GRADUATION season is here once again. We would like to **acknowledge our graduates** in the **June 2026** issue of YETTEM. You are asked to submit the names, pertinent information and a photo to sonya@stmaryyettem.org or call the church office at (559) 528-6892 **no later than Monday, May 18, 2026.**

LADIES SOCIETY

The Ladies Society **Mother’s Day Luncheon** will be held at **Tony’s Taverna** in **Three Rivers** on **Saturday, May 2 at 11:30 AM.**

PARISH COUNCIL

The next Parish Council meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, May 27 via Zoom at 6:00 PM.**

SUNDAY SCHOOL STUDENTS

Sunday School will meet on **Sunday, May 3** for Sunday School and on **Sunday, May 17** for the **Sunday School Commencement and Fellowship.** Sunday School will **resume** on **Sunday, September 13,** Grandparent’s Day at **10:30 AM.** Sunday School **meets** on the **second and fourth Sundays** of each month at **10:30 AM,** September-May. If you have any questions, please contact **Adrienne Poochigian** at (559) 679-8452 or email 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 for more information.

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 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 to St. Mary YetteM Website



Scan to pay with PayPal or with Credit Cards.



Scan to pay through Zelle



ST. MARY ARMENIAN CHURCH

MAY 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2 Mother's Day Luncheon at Tony's Taverna in Three Rivers at 11:30 AM
3 Apparition of the Holy Cross Sunday School	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 Mother's Day	11	12	13	14 Ascension of Christ	15	16
17 Second Palm Sunday Sunday School Commencement & Fellowship	18	19	20	21 The Ways and Means Committee 48 th Annual Food Festival at the Visalia Elks Lodge	22	23
24 Pentecost	25 Memorial Day	26	27 The Parish Council meeting via Zoom at 6:00 PM	28 Anniversary of First Republic of Armenia	29	30
31 Remembrance of The Prophet Elijah						

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

St. Mary Armenian Apostolic Church
Easter Yughakin

2026

•Thank You for your donations•

Agnew, Robert and Debra	Krikorian, Gary and Nancy
Ananian, Bryan and Terry	Lopez, Jr., Juan E. and Brooke B.
Ananian, Charlie	Margosian, Carrie
Ananian, Gary and Janet	Margosian, Rose Marie
Ananian, Jeff and Anna	McWilliams, Richard and Janice
Ananian, Serge and Judith	Menendian, Laurie and Fredric Marrs
Arakelian, Fr. Kevork and Sandra	Menendian, Mari Louise
Asadoorian, Richard & Cowan, Barbara	Mikaelian, Michael and Sandra
Borba, Alan and Phyllis	Mortanian, Ronald and Barbara
The Greg Davidian Family	Nunes, Richard and Joyce
Davidian, Charlie and Christina A.	Ouzounian, Shirley
Davidian, Margie L.	Peloian, Joyce and Gary McCrea
Dawson, Shirley	Peters, Darrell and Tina
Ekizian, Lesta	Pilavian, Pierre and Melissa
Emerzian, Leslie and Janice	Poochigian, Julie
Farsakian, Dn. Alan and Marceen	Safrazian, Richard and Lillian
Farsakian, Dr. Larry and Wendy	Sarabian, Charles and Lori
Gomes, John and Janet	Shapazian, Jerry
Groefsema, Bruce and Gail	Skaff, Judy and Mike
Hagopian, Richard and Geraldine	Tamouzian, Mike
Hampar, Arthur	Torosian, Patty
Hovannisian, Vars	Valencia, Dr. Albert and Tracy
Kalfayan, Garo and Nancy	Vartanian, Sandra
Kalfayan, John and Sandra	Wall, Mark and Linda
Kaloostian, Linda	Zakarian, Archie and Kathy
Kaprielian, John Ara and Sharon	Zerounian, Janel E.
Kizirian, Abe and Sandra	Zerounian, Marilyn

Total Easter Yughakin Donations \$7,740

St. Mary Armenian Church of Yettem

THIS MONTH

Tickets Available at the Door or Drive-Thru

**ARMENIAN
FOOD FESTIVAL**

- ARMENIAN -
FOOD, BAKE SALE, APPETIZERS

THURSDAY, MAY 21, 2026

**11am-1:30pm
4:30pm-7:00pm**

**VISALIA ELKS LODGE
3100 W. MAIN STREET**

Donation \$25

Sponsored by The Ladies Society

St. Mary Yettem
115th Anniversary
PICNIC

SUNDAY | JUNE 14 | 2026

FOLLOWING CHURCH SERVICES

**Enjoy food, games, a silent auction and
unique displays by our parishioners**

RSVP by Sunday, June 7

lunches@stmaryyettem.org or 559-528-6892

We are blessed with a community rich in creativity and talent,
and we would love to celebrate it!
If you have a special skill or craft
—whether it's art, crocheting, quilting, woodworking,
creative writing or any other unique expertise—
we invite you to share it with our parish family during the picnic.

If you're interested in featuring your work, please contact
Laurie Menendian | 559-731-7050 by May 19, 2026



Holy Week 2026



EASTER EGG HUNT



CELEBRATING EASTER SURROUNDED BY FAMILY AND LOVE



DRESSED UP FOR EASTER, POWERED BY YETTEM LOVE

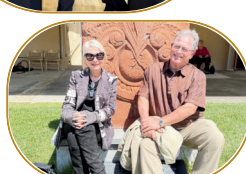
One journey, one faith, one family in Christ



Pilgrims in faith, united as one Church



Pilgrimage to St. Sarkis Armenian Church of Santa Clarita - Sunday, April 12, 2026



To the Parishioners of the St. Mary Armenian Church in Yetteem,

And let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell in their midst. (Exodus 25:2-8)

As you're aware, our Parish Council has been on a mission to renovate and beautify our magnificent Yetteem. One of the most significant hurdles has been the inability to use our church live stream. Now resolved, those who are unable to attend in person can watch services through our church website. *Thank you to Alan Borba and Michael Michaelian for generously donating our new live stream camera.* I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the time, dedication, and effort Der Mashdots and Tina Peters placed into accomplishing this goal. Attending church services in person is ideal, as it affords us the blessed opportunity to come together as God's people, in His house. For those who are unable to join us, we welcome you to worship with us Sunday mornings via the live stream. In addition to the new camera, we have also replaced three computers and the router making our daily operations more efficient and up to date. *Thank you to The George and Stella Ananian Memorial Fund for underwriting the cost of the computers and router.*

We have also made improvements to the landscape of our church. The cypress trees on the grounds were removed, and new cypress trees were planted. *Thank you to Mike Tamouzian for making this happen.* There have also been landscape improvements made to the front gate church entrance. This includes the addition of 16 olive plants, added rock, and irrigation repairs.

The church hall has numerous visible improvements, making it a gathering place that is both inviting and memorable. What isn't visible is the new water filtration system that has been installed, providing us with purified water for drinking and food preparation. *This project was made possible by The George and Stella Ananian Memorial Fund.*

In the process of installation is a new laptop computer and projector for the church hall. This will give us the capability to view years of memories through photographs and videos on a large screen, accompanied by lively music. *Thank you to Janice McWilliams, Annie Davidian and Tina Peters for this contribution.*

By the time this article reaches you, our grounds will be adorned with three granite benches for the Sunday School walkway, graciously *donated by Sharon Kaprielian, Karon Penny, Carrie Margosian and Families, as well as the "Davidian Girls" Janice McWilliams, Phyllis Borba, and Becky Akin.* These will be situated near the charming potted trees that have been thoughtfully placed by Tracy Valencia.

Thank you to Charlie and Darren Ananian for coordinating the maintenance of our yard irrigation and removing unnecessary cables and debris.

It has been inspiring to watch each of these improvements come together like pieces of a puzzle. With every thoughtful addition, I am delighted that my children and their Sunday School family will grow up surrounded by the restored beauty that is our Yetteem.

The list of those who have contributed to enhancing the grounds of our church is numerous. On behalf of Der Mashdots and Parish Council, please know the deep gratitude we have for the contributions you have individually made. Our vision is a work in progress, but how glorious it is to witness how far we've come.

All my best,

Annie Davidian, Parish Council Vice-Chair

(Continued from the front page)

But remembrance also calls us to responsibility.

If others gave their lives for peace, justice, and freedom, then we are called to live in a way that honors that gift. This means becoming people of peace, practicing compassion, and standing firm in faith and truth.

Memorial Day asks each of us:

- How am I living the freedom that others have secured?
- Do I use my life in service of God and others?
- Do I carry the spirit of sacrifice in my daily actions?

In our Christian heritage, remembrance is not only sorrow, it is faithfulness. We remember not to remain in grief, but to remain grounded in hope. In remembering, we find strength. In remembering, we find identity. In remembering, we find purpose.

On this Memorial Day, let us do more than observe. Let us remember with purpose.

Let us offer prayers for the fallen.

Let us support their families.

Let us live lives worthy of their sacrifice.

And above all, let us draw closer to Christ, who is the source of all love, sacrifice, and eternal life.

May God bless the souls of the departed.

May He bring peace to their families.

And may He guide us to live with faith, gratitude, and purpose.

With prayerful remembrance,

Fr. Mashdots

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