



YETTEM ԵՊԵՄ

Հրատարակուիլն Եղեմի Ս. Աստուածածիկն Հայաստանեայց Եկեղեցւոյ

A Publication of St. Mary Armenian Church Yettem, California

Rev. Fr. Mashdots Keshishian, Parish Priest

December 2025

THE NATIVITY AND THEOPHANY: AN INVITATION TO NEW LIFE

The birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is an invitation to new life for all humanity. To celebrate the Holy Nativity is to live anew in Christ and to rise toward the heights of the spiritual life. The Holy Birth of the Son of God reveals God's boundless love, leading the human soul toward light, truth, fuller life, and ultimately toward God.

Many sermons have been preached on the Nativity, yet this feast becomes meaningful only when prayer leads us into the quiet depths of our soul, where we discover the spiritual strength that renews us in Christ.

Through the Incarnation, the Nativity becomes the enduring bridge that unites God and humanity. As Christians, we are called to make this truth the guiding principle of the life entrusted to us.

The feast of the Nativity brings a divine light into our spiritual life, a light every one of us needs. If we wish to experience this feast fully, we must prepare ourselves through prayer, fasting, and spiritual reading. In this way, love for God grows deep within us and becomes a living sign of peace for a world that longs for peace more today than at any other time.

The celebration of the Nativity directs our mind and soul to see life with clarity and to live it with intention. Just as a student reviews lessons before an exam to be ready, we too must reflect on the blessings God has given us so that love may take root in us and be expressed generously. A Christian is called to grow beyond his former self, and this growth unfolds through a life lived with Christ. When Christ becomes the One who shapes our way of life, we offer ourselves to follow His example. At that moment, the miracle of the Nativity becomes real within us, for the love of Christ begins to shine in our life and encapsulates the mystery of the Son of God who came down from heaven in humility.

How, then, do we celebrate the Nativity in our spiritual life?

We begin by turning our life toward prayer and faith in God. Yet this alone is not enough. We must also entrust our life into God's hands. This is the first step that prepares the soil of our soul to receive Christ. The second step is to open the doors of our heart to the Infant Savior and to walk with Him on the path of spiritual growth. In this sense, the feast of Theophany invites us to behold within ourselves the light of the Nativity and to allow that light to brighten our life. (Continued on the back page)

Parish Notes

ARMENIAN CHRISTMAS

Armenian Christmas will be celebrated on **Sunday, January 4, 2026**. (See flyer)

ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY MEETING

The **Annual Parish Assembly meeting** will be held on **Sunday, February 1, 2026**, after church services. A **light lunch** will be offered. **Please make every effort to attend.** (See flyer)

ALTAR FLOWERS

November 16

Mrs. Carrie Margosian and Family, and Mr. & Mrs. Mark and Dawn Golden and Family

in honor of the newly married couple,

Mr. & Mrs. Matthew & Margo Golden.

Matthew and Margo were married on Saturday, November 15, which was Margo's late grandparents, Amos & Lucille Margosian's wedding anniversary

November 23

The Yahnian Family

David, Jennifer, and Renee

in memory of Sark and Sylvia Yahnian

HOKEHANKIST DONATIONS

November 9

For Repose of WWII Soldier,

Charlie Davidian's Soul

Margie L. Davidian

SCHEDULED DECEMBER

HOKEHANKIST

December 14

Alice Dudukian

Twenty-two years after her passing,

requested by

Judy and Mike Skaff and Family

Betty Farsakian

Twelve years after her passing,

requested by

Alan, Marceen, Nick and Shant Farsakian, and
Linda, Mark and Ben Wall

CAR DONATION

Thank you to Dr. George Rivello for donating his car to our church's vehicle donation program. When he told his neighbor Sandra Vartanian, he was thinking of donating his car somewhere, she gave him our donation information. Thank you, Sandra!

LADIES SOCIETY NEWS

November was a busy month for our organization. We held our yearly election, made kufta, and hosted a craft day. As busy as we were, there was always laughter and joy to be heard and felt at each event.

The theme of Craft Day was Thanksgiving. The idea of decorating a pumpkin for the Thanksgiving centerpiece was inspired by Der Mashdots Keshishian. The centerpieces brought to life the meaning of Thanksgiving and our faith and love for God, our family, and each other. Each participant put their own creative touch on the pumpkins using flowers, stickers, and paint pens. They were all spectacular and will add a festive and meaningful touch to their Thanksgiving tables.

Kufta is made and will be for sale at the upcoming annual Holiday Bazaar, Sunday, December 7th. This year due to several unforeseen circumstances, we were unable to make our usual quantity. Therefore, only 1 dozen will be available to each family. Those in attendance at the bazaar will have priority to purchase them.

Election of 2026 officers was held. Executive committee is Linda Farsakian-Wall – chairman, Lillian Safrazian – vice chairman, Donna Venturella – recording secretary, Margie A. Davidian – corresponding secretary, Julie Poochigian – treasurer, Michelle Ananian and Kohar Sheklian – advisors. Delegate is Mari Louise Menendian and alternate is Shirley Ouzounian. Auditing committee is Nancy Krikorian and Gina Ananian. Nominating committee is Margie L. Davidian and Adrienne Poochigian. We look forward to a wonderful year ahead.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from all of us at Ladies Society!

Linda Farsakian-Wall

STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE

Just a reminder that your **Stewardship Pledge** is **due**, and we invite you to **complete** it at your **earliest convenience**. (Please see **pledge form on page 11**) Your commitment helps support our ongoing mission. We are grateful for your prayerful consideration and for the many ways you contribute to the life and growth of our church. Thank you for your continued support and dedication.

SAVE THE DATE



35TH ANNIVERSARY OF
HIS EMINENCE
ARCHBISHOP
HOVNAN DERDERIAN'S
EPISCOPAL ORDINATION
FRIDAY, JANUARY 30, 2026
HOSTED BY CENTRAL VALLEY
WESTERN DIOCESE ARMENIAN CHURCHES
MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW

THANK YOU

The Parish Council would like to thank everyone who gave of their time, energy and resources this year. It was a busy year of projects aimed at keeping our beloved St. Mary looking it's best. There are so many who never hesitate when asked whether it's for advice or for help with a project. Many volunteer without being asked. They see a need and jump right in to help or get something done. For this we are forever grateful. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council's next meeting will be held on **Wednesday, December 17** via Zoom at **6:30 PM.**

MEMBERSHIP DUES

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

YEAR END TAX DONATION

Are you in need of a tax deduction before year end?

Please consider donating to the St. Mary Armenian Church in Yetem.

Any amount of support would be greatly appreciated.

Hassle Free online donation

Zelle: Saintmaryyettem@gmail.com

Credit Cards via PayPal QR Code



Checks appreciated too!

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.**

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 alskaff@gmail.com



Christmas is a time for giving. Donate your vehicle. We accept all types of vehicles running or not. Pick-up is free. Your donation is tax deductible. Get started today by calling Linda Farsakian-Wall at 559-786-1419.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

The **church office** will be **closed December 24 - 26 and on January 1, 2026.** 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 email St. Mary Parish Council Chair Judy Skaff at judy@thebelmontgroup.com or text/call (559) 799-1198.

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



ST. MARY ARMENIAN CHURCH

December 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 The Ladies Society Christmas Bazaar, Country Store & Lunch December Raffle	8	9 Conception of the Holy Virgin Mary St. Anna	10	11	12	13 St. James the Bishop of Nisibis
14 Sunday School Children's Sermon	15	16	17 The Parish Council meeting via Zoom at 6:30 PM	18	19	20 St. Abkar the First Christian King
21 Deacon Services Only 10 to 11:00 AM	22	23 Sts. David the Prophet & James the Apostle	24 Church Office will be Closed	25 Christmas St. Stephen the Protodeacon & first Martyr Church Office will be Closed	26 Church Office will be Closed	27 Sts. Peter & Paul, Apostles
28 Sunday School	29 Sts. James the Apostle & John the Evangelist	30 Church Office will be Open	31 Church Office will be Open			

4

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

JUST
married

Congratulations to the Newlyweds
Mr. and Mrs. Matthew and Margo Golden



Parents of the Bride

Carrie Margosian and
Resting in Peace Aron Margosian

Parents of the Groom

Mark and Dawn Golden

Bride and Groom's Grandparents

Chuck Missakian and Resting in Peace
Marilyn Missakian, Amos and Lucille Margosian

Doris Hosfeldt and Resting in Peace
Donald Hosfeldt, Edward and Darlene Golden

Officiants

Rev. Father Mashdots Keshishian and Rev. Father Kevork Arakelian

Subdeacon Dustin Vartanian • Soloist Olivia Vartanian

Organist Mari Louise Menendian • Wedding Coordinator Judy Skaff

LADIES SOCIETY

LIVE AUCTION

Christmas

BAZAAR

AND

COUNTRY STORE

Baked
Goods

Unique
Gifts

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2025

LUNCH WILL BE SERVED

HOMEMADE LASAGNA, SALAD, GARLIC BREAD,

DESSERT, SNACKS & DRINKS

ADULTS \$15 | CHILDREN \$10

***PLEASE BRING AN ITEM (OR A FEW!) TO
DONATE TO THE AUCTION OR COUNTRY STORE
EVERY DONATION HELPS MAKE
OUR BAZAAR A SUCCESS!***

Reservations

E-mail - lunches@stmaryyettem.org

Call: 559-528-6892

Celebrate the Birth of Jesus

"But the angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, 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 Services - 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*

ST. MARY ARMENIAN CHURCH OF YETTEM
115TH ANNIVERSARY (1911-2026)
2026 EVENTS

SUN JANUARY 4	ARMENIAN CHRISTMAS LUNCH
FRI JANUARY 30	35TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS EMINENCE ARCHBISHOP HOVNAN DERDERIAN'S EPISCOPAL ORDINATION
SUN FEBRUARY 1	PARISH ASSEMBLY MEETING
SUN FEBRUARY 15	LENT BEGINS
FRI-SUN MARCH 6-8	10TH ANNUAL WESTERN DIOCESE RECLAIM CONFERENCE IN YETTEM
SUN MARCH 29	PALM SUNDAY LADIES SOCIETY BAKE SALE
SUN APRIL 5	EASTER SUNDAY ACYO EASTER LUNCHEON
THUR MAY 21	48TH ANNUAL ARMENIAN FOOD FESTIVAL
SUN AUGUST 16	ASDVADZADZIN LUNCH "BLESSING OF THE GRAPES" LADIES SOCIETY BAKE SALE
SUN SEPTEMBER 13	GRANDPARENTS DAY BRUNCH SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS
SUN OCTOBER 4 (TENTATIVE DATE)	2ND ANNUAL SHISH KEBAB LUNCH
SUN DECEMBER 6	LADIES SOCIETY CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Reservations - lunches@stmaryyettem.org or 559|528|6892

You can find more details on our website
www.stmaryyettem.org

ALL VOTING MEMBERS ARE REQUESTED TO ATTEND

St. Mary Armenian Apostolic Church
★ Annual
Parish Assembly ★

Sunday, February 1, 2026
After Church Services
Majarian Hall

- Report from Father Mashdots
- Reports from Organization Chairs
- Financial Statement of the Parish Council
- Elections of Officers and Delegates
- Adoption of the 2026 Annual Budget
- Old and New Business
- Prayer and Dismissal

★ Lunch will be served before the meeting ★

**Please pay your 2026 Membership Dues
before the Assembly**



Yette's Ladies Society Famous Kufta

will be sold at the Christmas Bazaar, Sunday December 7

Limited to one dozen per family - \$35 per dozen

Attendees at the bazaar will receive first priority



THANKSGIVING CENTERPIECE CRAFT DAY A FUN TIME FOR ALL WHO ATTENDED



BLESSINGS

TRADITIONS

GRATITUDE

THANKFUL



St. Mary Armenian Apostolic Church of Yettem Stewardship Pledge for 2026

Last Name

First Name

Street

City

State

Zip Code

Email

Home Phone

Cell Phone

My Total Pledge for the calendar year 2026 is \$ _____

I will contribute Annually Semi-Annually Quarterly Monthly Weekly

Signature

Date



St. Mary Armenian Apostolic Church of Yettem Stewardship Pledge for 2026

Last Name

First Name

Street

City

State

Zip Code

Email

Home Phone

Cell Phone

My Total Pledge for the calendar year 2026 is \$ _____

I will contribute Annually Semi-Annually Quarterly Monthly Weekly

Signature

Date

(Continued from the front page)

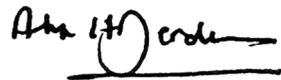
We must become childlike with Jesus and, with courage, cleanse our inner world by setting aside the “old self.” As the Apostle Paul teaches, “Put off the old self with its practices” (Col. 3:9), and “put on the new self, created in righteousness and true holiness after the likeness of God” (Eph. 4:24). It is difficult for anyone to change or to let go of long-held habits, yet in Christ it becomes possible to turn away from the self that has drifted from God and to walk the path He has shown us.

Blessed is the life lived in Christ. When we proclaim the birth of Christ with a joyful heart, God’s love begins to fill our being. The thirst of a suffering humanity is satisfied only through the birth of Jesus. At the doorway of our life stands the Prince of Peace. Let us open the doors of our souls and pledge ourselves to building a new life through united prayer, the faith of our forefathers, and a vision of a strong homeland and Church as one. Let us give meaning to the life God has entrusted to us by turning it into a source of light, a ray shining from Bethlehem, so that every Armenian home becomes a reflection of Mother Armenia and Holy Etchmiadzin.

Let us proclaim the wondrous birth of Christ with courage, for through this faith our life is transformed.

“Christ is born and revealed. Blessed is the revelation of Christ.”

Prayerfully,



Archbishop Hovnan Derderian

Primate of the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church of North America

January 6, 2026

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

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