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Հրատարակություն  
Եղևի Ս. Աստուծածին  
Հայաստանեայց Եկեղեցւոյ

SEPTEMBER 2020

YETTEM  
A publication of St. Mary  
Armenian Church  
Yettem, California

### Message from Parish Council Chair

On Pentecost Sunday, May 31, 1903, the first religious services were held in Yettem, under the trees. Cloudy weather prevailed over much of California, but in the interior of California the temperature reached high of 98 degrees in the Fresno area. Sound familiar? Also interesting, that same year, the name “Yettem” was officially adopted.

One hundred seventeen years later, about 100 faithful again gathered under the trees in Yettem in 107 degree weather to hold services. On September 13, 2020, we will again gather under the trees to celebrate Holy Badarak together for the first time with our eleventh full-time parish priest, Father Mashdots Keshishian. It will be a joyous day in our parish’s history.

During the interim period without a full-time priest, we have been faithfully served by many. First and foremost, Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, Primate, has provided support and guidance in securing coverage for all services here in Yettem. Father Vatche Hayrapetyan traveled from Southern California six times, often with Deacon Armen Sargsyan, to celebrate the Divine Liturgy. Deacon Kevork Kevorkian drove from Glendale with his wife to perform church services in July. Father Vazken Movsesian gathered pilgrims from Southern California (including Deacon Jeff Hazarian) and journeyed to Yettem on August 16<sup>th</sup> to conduct Adzvadzadzin services and the grape blessing. Father Kevork Arakelian provided solace to one of our families by conducting a graveside funeral service for a loved one. Father Zaven Markosyan visited parishioners AFTER moving to Southern California and continued to provide guidance to our Parish Council. Father Vartan Kasparian always makes himself available to share information and assistance in any way that he can. And finally, Dn. Randy Tellalian, Dn. David Safrazian, sDn. Alan Farsakian and sDn. David Yahnian have made sure that Deacon Services have been offered every Sunday not covered by priests. Deacon Ryan Tellalian is back in California and is now joining them. Mari Louise Menendian too has shared her time to accompany on the organ the altar servers and priests.

As we start this next chapter in our history with Father Mashdots as our Parish Priest, we all need to think about each of our roles in this parish. To remain resilient as a body, we each need to give what we can. This is not about money, although that too is very necessary, but about sharing ourselves. God has given each of us unique strengths and talents. Are you able to head or be able to be a part of one of our organizations or committees? Can you assist with individual services or social events? Are you handy in the kitchen? Do you have carpentry or trade skills? Can you sing? Do you have a strong back? Do you like yard work? Do you have clerical skills? Do you like to write? Do you pray for the well-being of our church? All of us can contribute something. By the Grace of God, we have received a wonderful and willing Parish Priest for Yettem. It will take all of us to keep us strong!

In faith,  
Myron Sheklian  
Parish Council Chairman

## **Parish Notes**

### **CONDOLENCES**

*Our condolences to Kay Barsamian's family. He entered his eternal rest on July 27, 2020. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family.*

### **THANK YOUS**

*Thank you to Sarkis Enfiedjian for asking Michael Missakian to again donate 5 boxes of assorted grapes for Asdvadzadzin. Thank you to Charlie Davidian for securing donations of several boxes of grapes from both Heath Macklin and Mark Savage. Thank you to Darrell and Tina Peters for two boxes of grapes for Asdvadzadzin. May God abundantly bless their fields.*

*Thank you to Charlie and Darren Ananian for delivering the HUGE water-cooled fan owned by Alan and Phyllis Borba that helped with our 107 degree heat on Asdvadzadzin! Thanks to Gina for making the offer! 😊*

*Thank to Charlie Davidian for donating the use of, and delivering his giant packing house fan on August 16<sup>th</sup>. Actually, he could have used it behind the hall while he was barbecuing the meat for the luncheon that day but generously shared it with parishioners instead!*

### **BIRTH**

*Congratulations to Chad and Layne Borba on the birth of their son Braxton David Borba. Braxton joined this wonderful family on August 18, 2020, weighing in at 8 lbs. 1 oz. and 19 1/2 long. Alan and Phyllis Borba are the proud grandparents and Gina and Darren Ananian are his aunt and uncle.*

### **ALTAR FLOWERS**

*•August 16 – Mari Louise Menendian in honor of Asdvadzadzin and all the ladies named Mary*

### **HOKEHANKIST (Repose of Soul)**

#### **DONATIONS**

*(July 24, 2020 – August 25, 2020)*

***For Repose of Souren Sam Farsakian's Soul***

- July 26 – Alan and Marceen Farsakian and Family*
- July 26 – Linda and Mark Wall and Family*

### **Ways & Means Committee Ending**

*The Ways & Means Committee was formed in 1987 in order to organize activities that would contribute to the financial well-being of the Yettem church. These activities have included the Memorial Wall, bake sales, golf tournaments, wine and 50/50 raffles, Yettem Cabarets and Casino Nights, Poon Paregentan celebrations, Shish Kebob Luncheons, and the Armenian Christmas Luncheon. Since 2000 these activities have raised more than \$360,000 for our Parish.*

*At the start of this year the Committee had 14 members. By the end of the year 5 will have moved away from the area. Several of the remaining are physically unable to continue to assist in the fund-raising activities, leaving too few members to function. With this in mind, our Committee has decided to disband the current Committee. We have two suggestions for the continuance of these activities and/or other ways to financially support our church. The first suggestion is to have the Parish Council meet with the church organizations and distribute the activities among them. This would lighten the work and get more parishioners involved. Rather than sponsoring 6 or 7 activities each year, each organization could concentrate on one.*

*The second suggestion is to replace the departing committee members with new ones. This could infuse the committee with new energy, enthusiasm, and ideas. If this sounds like a path you could support, please contact Myron Sheklian (see bottom of page) and indicate you would be willing to serve. The present committee members pledge to continue to support the church in any way we are able. It is our hope that St. Mary Armenian Church, Yettem, will continue to thrive and tend to the spiritual needs of our community.*

*Jim Soxman, Ways & Means Committee Chairman*

*Myron Sheklian  
733-4417 (home), 280-7315 (cell), 734-6538 (fax)*

### **SAVE THE DATE**

*Sunrise Service & Campout will be held on Friday, October 9<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, October 10<sup>th</sup>.*

## Ladies Society News

*I am so excited to be welcoming Fr. Mashdots and his family to our church. The time he celebrated badarak with us, I felt the warmth of his smile and his heartfelt sermon. I look forward to getting to know him and his family.*

*WELCOME Keshishian family!*

*This month we celebrate Grandparents' Day. For me, I reflect on my grandparents, Myreni and Hrant Farsakian and Rose and Charlie Simonian and of my great-grandmother Araksie Panosian. Their unconditional love has carried me through life. I cannot pass the day without also honoring my great-uncle Levon Roupenian. Uncle Levon was like a grandparent in every way to Larry, Alan, and me. He attended all our school's open houses, our awards ceremonies, our piano recitals, our graduations, and every other important event in our lives. He was frequently at our house enjoying dinner with us and educating us on past and present topics. His love and teachings are a big part of me. I wish I could spend one more day with my grandparents and Uncle Levon. God rest their souls.*

*I'm sure each of you also have loving memories of your grandparents. They were the backbone of our church. They taught us to work hard, be honest, honor your family and church, and to never forget our heritage. I say a prayer that God blesses all our grandparents. Remember to make your reservations for our annual Grandparents' Day brunch on September 13, immediately after church. Once again the meal features BEESHIG!. A take-out option is also available. Be assured, Covid-19 safe practices will be observed. Do not miss out on this grand tradition!*

*Our first in-person general meeting since the Covid virus was held August 1. Thank you, Adrienne Poochigian and her committee, for planning the fun activity which included prizes! Our next meeting is Saturday, September 5 at 10:00 a.m. This will be a Zoom meeting. So get out your cup of coffee and choreg and join us for our first every virtual meeting. If you need help setting up Zoom, give me a call (559-786-1419).*

*Birthday wishes for September goes out to Sadie Derrick and Lillian Safrazian. We wish them both God's blessings.*

*With God's love and guidance,  
Linda Farsakian-Wall  
Chairlady*

*Ladies Society will be having a Zoom meeting on Saturday, September 5, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.*

*September 6 – Deacon Service  
September 13 – Fr. Mashdots Keshishian, Fr. Vazken Movsesian*

*A Pilgrimage to YetteM organized by the Ladies Society of the Western Diocese will be on Sunday, September 13, 2020 for Exaltation of the Holy Cross.*

*Parish Council Zoom meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 16, 2020*

### DONATIONS REQUESTED

*Without in-person services being held, our operating income has plummeted. Bills for visiting clergy, clerical help, utilities, expanded cleaning, office supplies, mailings, maintenance, and now for the salary of our new parish priest. Enclosed in this issue of the bulletin is a pre-addressed envelope. If you are in a position to help out financially, please consider donating. Thank you!*

*During this time of unusual circumstances the St. Mary Armenian Church webpage at [www.stmaryyetteM.org](http://www.stmaryyetteM.org) is an important tool for receiving important information affecting our parish. ALL services that are scheduled are livestreamed on our YetteM Cam. The improved LIVE Camera System allows you to watch services on any desktop, laptop, or tablet! The website also includes archived copies of church bulletins, pictures from events, and a current church calendar.*

*Both our FaceBook page and website will keep you informed about our church schedules, events and miscellaneous happenings.*

*If you know of anyone ill or in the hospital, please call the Church Office (559) 528-6892 or Parish Council Chairman Myron Sheklian at 280-7315.*

*Church office hours are Tuesday - Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. If you are in need of something quickly, call Parish Council Chairman Myron Sheklian at 280-7315.*

# St. Mary Armenian Church, Yettem

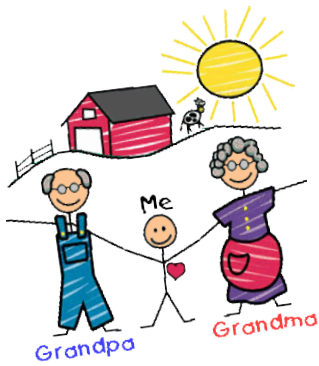
SEPTEMBER 2020						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31	1	2	3	4	5 Ladies Society Zoom Meeting at 10:00 a.m.
6	7 Labor Day	8 Feast of the Nativity of the Holy Mother-of- God	9	10	11	12
13 Barekendan of the Fast of Holy Cross Fr. Mashdots Keshishian/Fr. Vazken Movsesian Pilgrimage Ladies Society Grandparents' Day Brunch/ACYO Bake Sale	14 Remembrance of the dead	15	16 Parish Council Zoom Meeting	17	18	19
20 Barekendan of the Fast of Holy cross of Varak	21 Independence Day of the Republic of Armenia	22	23	24	25	26
27 Holy Cross of Varak	28	29	30	1	2	3

**Sunday Schedule:**

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

**Myron Sheklian can be reached at:**

559-280-7315 – Cell  
559-733-4417 – Home  
559-528-6892 – Church Office



St. Mary Ladies Society  
Invites you to a Brunch  
in Celebration of



# 'Grandparents' Day'

Sunday, September 13, 2020

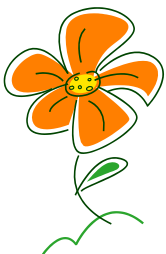
*Immediately following church services*

*'Outside' Under the Trees Or Take Out Available*

☞ Enjoy a Delicious Box Lunch  
featuring—Beeshee and  
traditional Grandparents Day foods☞

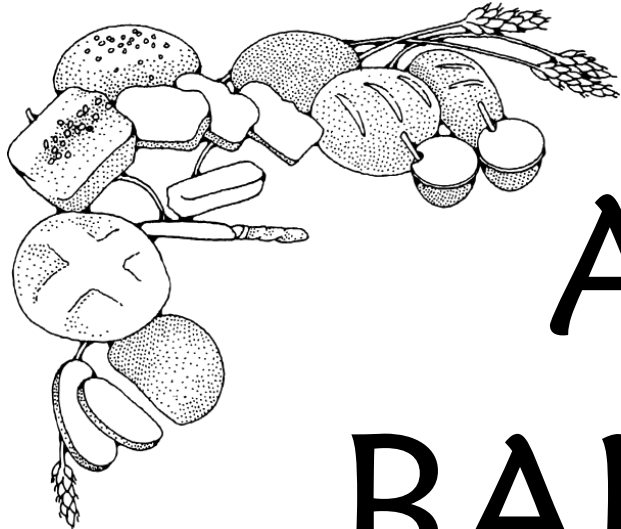
**\*\*Cost \*\*Adults and Children (\$12)\*\***

**RESERVATIONS FOR**  
**SEATING -OR- TAKE OUT**  
**ARE REQUIRED**



Call or Text - Tina Peters 559-967-2593 or  
e-mail: [hyetinapeters@live.com](mailto:hyetinapeters@live.com) by September 8.

Celebrate our dear GRANDPARENTS...



# ACYO BAKE SALE

After Church Services  
Sunday, September 13, 2020  
(Grandparent's Day)

Freshly Baked Armenian Desserts  
Handmade by  
the ACYO Members.



**\*\*SUPPORT your ACYO YETTEM Bake Sale\*\***  
Donations of any Armenian Baked Goods or  
Specialty Desserts will be greatly  
appreciated and accepted  
the day of the Bake Sale.  
\*\*\*\*\*  
**\*YOUR SUPPORT IS APPRECIATED\***





**Asdvadzdzin & Grape Blessing 2020**



## Meet Our New Parish Priest – Father Mashdots Keshishian



Father Mashdots (baptismal name Garabed) graduated from the Theological Seminary of the Catholicosate of the Great House of Cilicia in 2004, served as the Cantor of St. Hovhanou Garabed Armenian Apostolic Church of Neos Kozmos in Greece during 2005, and served in the same capacity as the Cantor of St. Vartan Armenian Apostolic Church in Bourj Hammoud, Lebanon. As a deacon, he married on April 30, 2011, Maral Khandjian, then was ordained as a married priest by his Eminence Archbishop Kegham Khatcherian, Prelacy of Lebanon, on October 2, 2011, and renamed Father Mashdots. After ordination as a Priest of the Armenian Apostolic Church in October 2012, he was appointed as the Pastor, Parish Priest of St. Mary Church of New Adana in Beirut, Lebanon. Additional duties performed by Der Mashdots at this time include serving as a member of the religious assembly of Clergy of the Armenian Apostolic Church; administering Deacon Trainings; administering the choirs of the Armenian Apostolic Church of Lebanon; and conducting Bible Study in the St. Mary Church of New Adana. In December 2017 Der Mashdots moved to the United States with his wife, Maral and their young son Hagop-Pegor. In March 2018, He moved to Portland, Oregon with his family to serve as a Parish Priest of St. Kevork Church of Oregon.

Father Mashdots and his family will be moving to Visalia during the second week of September. He will celebrate Holy Badarak with us on September 13, 2020.

Welcome Der Hayr!

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

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