



YETTEM ԵՊԵՄ

Հրատարակութիւն Եղեմի Ս. Աստուածածին Հայաստանեայց Եկեղեցւոյ

A Publication of St. Mary Armenian Church Yettem, California

Rev. Fr. Mashdots Keshishian, Parish Priest

February 2025

Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day, celebrated every year on February 14th, is often seen as a celebration of romantic love, filled with flowers, chocolates, and heartfelt messages. As you know, it is a day dedicated to expressing affection and appreciation for loved ones. Yet, at its core, this day offers a profound opportunity to reflect on the deeper, spiritual essence of love as a gift from God, a force that binds us to one another and to Him.

The Scriptures teach us that *"God is love"* (1 John 4:8). This simple yet profound truth reminds us that every act of genuine love flows from the Creator. Valentine's Day, then, is not just about earthly expressions of affection but also about acknowledging the divine source of all love. It is a day to appreciate the ways in which God's love manifests in our lives, through our relationships, acts of kindness, and moments of grace.

True love, as described in the Bible, goes far beyond fleeting emotions or material gifts. In 1 Corinthians 13, often referred to as the *"Love Chapter,"* the Apostle Paul defines love as patient, kind, humble, and enduring. He writes, *"Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things"* (1 Corinthians 13:7). These qualities invite us to live out love in a way that mirrors Christ's sacrificial love for us.

Today, more than ever, love should be a source of healing and unity in a world that is often divided by misunderstanding, conflict, and indifference. Love should inspire us to build bridges rather than walls, to extend grace rather than judgment, and to act with compassion toward those who are suffering or in need. Love in today's world must be more than just a feeling, it must be an active force that brings hope, peace, and reconciliation.

(Continued on the back page)

Parish Notes

CONDOLENCES

On behalf of our St. Mary Parish family, we wish to extend our deepest sympathy to Sharon Davidian, Annie & Derek Ogata and family, Sarkis Davidian, III, Charlie & Christine Davidian and family, Margie Davidian & Kathy Ashford, Eddie & Georgia Davidian and family, and Violet Derderian and family on the passing of ***Sark Davidian, Jr.*** He passed away on January 22nd. A requiem service was held on January 28th followed by a luncheon at the Visalia Elks Lodge.

Also, on behalf of our St. Mary Parish family, we wish to extend our deepest sympathy to ***The Priscilla (Horasanian) Schott Family***. Priscilla passed on January 14th. Services were held on January 31st.

Also, on behalf of our St. Mary Parish family, we wish to extend our deepest sympathy to ***The Sossi Tabibian Family***. Sossi passed away on December 12th. Her memorial service was held on Friday, January 3, 2025, at the Forest Lawn White Chapel in Los Angeles followed by dinner at Phoenicia in Glendale.

Our thoughts and prayers are with these families.

ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY MEETING

The **Annual Parish Assembly meeting** will be held on **Sunday, February 2nd** after church services. A **light lunch** will be offered. **Please make every effort to attend.**

THANK YOU

Thank you to ***Dn. Alan Farsakian, Sub-Deacon Dustin Vartanian, and Dr. Larry Farsakian*** for helping Fr. Mashdots clear out the storage building on Sunday, January 19th before the repairs start.

MISCELLANEOUS DONATIONS

▪ *Patricia Zerounian*

in memory of Artin and Lucy Zerounian, Charley Zeroun, Mary Zerounian Eskender, and Pete Zerounian

▪ *Betty Skaff Jacobo*

BIBLE STUDY

The next bible study is **Wednesday, February 5th at 7 PM** via Zoom. Please contact Fr. Mashdots at the church office if you have any questions.

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS



Congratulations to Arlen & Alina Pilavian on the birth of their daughter ***ELLIANA ROSE PILAVIAN***, born on December 4, 2024. We also congratulate proud Grandparents Pierre & Melissa Pilavian and John & Vicki Hokokian, Uncle Christopher Hokokian & Auntie Alik Pilavian, as well as Great Grandmother Rose Marie Margosian & the late George Margosian.



Also, congratulations to Jordan and Nina Yahnian on the birth of their son, ***SARKIS MOUSHEGH YAHNIAN*** on Saturday, December 21st. He weighed 6 pounds and 13 ounces. Sarkis' proud grandparents are Renee Yahnian and the late Bryan Yahnian and Zepur Geuvjehizian and the late Moushegh Geuvjehizian.

ALTAR FLOWERS

January 5th

The Parish Council

January 12th

Debbie & Myron Sheklian and Family

in memory of Debbie's family members,

Joan and Richard Nicholas

Hildur and John Crawford

Maydia Nicholas and Carol Neely

January 19th

Mari Louise Menendian

in memory of Harry Kizilian

Cousin of Menendians, Ekizians, and Nersesians,

Grandson of Reteos Der Nersesian,

great nephew of Yeretsgin Kaghtserig and

Der Garabed Avak Kahana Kalfayan

LADIES SOCIETY NEWS

Ladies Society hosts Movie Matinee Sunday, February 23, in the Majarian Hall following church. The featured movie is "Indiana Jones and the Last Crusades". This action-adventure movie features Indiana searching for his father while on the trail to find the Holy Grail. The movie frequently shows respect for God and the things God holds as important. Indiana learns that the journey is more important than the destination while all along making choices to do the right thing. There will be a light lunch and movie snacks. Bring your comfy chairs, pillows, and blankets while relaxing and watching the movie in fellowship with friends. See the enclosed flier for more details. **EVERYONE IS WELCOMED!**

Sadly, we lost one of our former members, Sossi Tabibian. While her health was good, she was a faithful member. Thank you Sossi for your dedication and service. Our condolences to her son James Hagop Tabibian and family and to Dr. Neshan Tabibian.

Our **next meeting** is **Saturday, February 1st, 11:30** in the **Majarian Hall**. Join us, break bread with us, and greet new and long-time friends. We welcome all.

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

HOKEHANKIST REQUESTS

January 12th

*Joan and Richard Nicholas
Hildur and John Crawford
Maydia Nicholas
and Carol Neely*

requested by Debbie & Myron Sheklian
and Family

January 19th

Harry Kizilian

two years after his passing,
requested by Mari Louise Menendian

*Sossi Tabibian
Dr. Neshan Tabibian
Dn. Dr. Hagop Tabibian & Family*

PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council's next meeting will be held on **Sunday, February 16th** after church services in the **Majarian Hall Conference Room**.

HOKEHANKIST DONATIONS

January 12th

For Repose of Joan and Richard Nicholas,
Hildur and John Crawford, Maydia Nicholas,
and Carol Neely Souls:

Debbie and Myron Sheklian

January 19th

For Repose of Sossi Tabibian's Soul:

Dr. Neshan Tabibian

RAFFLE

Our January, February and March raffles of 2025 were held on Sunday, January 5th.

Congratulations to the January winners...

(\$150) Richard Sheklian

(\$100) Amy Shuklian

(\$50) Renee Ananian

Congratulations to the February winners...

(\$150) Dr. John Farsakian

(\$100) Janet Ananian

(\$50) Jerry Shapazian

Congratulations to the March winners...

(\$150) Lisa Krause

(\$100) Lisa Krause

(\$50) Alan Farsakian

Our **April, May and June drawings of 2025** will be held on **Sunday, April 13th**. If you would like tickets, contact Tina Peters at (559) 967-2593 by phone or text.

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

The Ways and Means Committee next scheduled meeting is **Tuesday, March 18th** via Zoom at **6:30 PM**.

VARTANANTZ COMMEMORATION

Thursday, February 27, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

Evening Hour Service

SPONSORED BY:

Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Mother Church

The Knights and Daughters of Vartan Yeprad Tahlj and Alidz Otyag

WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF:

St. Paul Armenian Apostolic Church, Fresno

St. Gregory The Illuminator Armenian Apostolic Church

St. Mary's Armenian Apostolic Church

Pilgrim Armenian Congregational Church

First Armenian Presbyterian Church

Charlie Keyan Armenian Community School

AFTER THE PROGRAM, A COMPLIMENTARY LIGHT DINNER WILL BE PROVIDED BY THE KNIGHTS AND DAUGHTERS OF VARTAN IN THE CHURCH SOCIAL HALL

HOLY TRINITY ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC MOTHER CHURCH

2226 CESAR CHAVEZ BOULEVARD, FRESNO

(559) 486-1141

ST. MARY ARMENIAN CHURCH

February 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 St. Gregory the Theologian The Ladies Society meeting at 11:30 AM in the Majarian Hall
2 The Annual Parish Assembly meeting at 12:00 Noon A light lunch will be serviced	3	4	5 Bible Study	6	7	8 Sons & Grandsons of St. Gregory the Illuminator
9 Sunday School Children's Sermon	10 Eve of the Fast of Catechumens	11	12 Lincoln's Birthday	13	14 Presentation of the Lord to the Temple	15 St. Sarkis the Warrior
16 The Parish Council meeting after church services in the Majarian Hall Conference Room	17 President's Day	18	19	20	21	22 St. Sahag Bartev Catholicos
23 Sunday School The Ladies Society Movie Matinee "Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade" After church services in the Majarian Hall	24	25 Remembrance of the Prophet Jonah	26	27 St. Vartan the Warrior & his Companions	28	

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
559-528-6897 – FAX
818-293-9098 - Cell

St. Mary Armenian Church
Christmas Yughakin 2025
•Thank you for your donations•

Agajanian, Regina	Margosian, Lucille
Ananian, Charlie	Margosian, Rose Marie
Ananian, Gary and Janet	McWilliams, Richard and Janice
Ananian, Serge and Judith	Menendian, Laurie and Fredric Marrs
Bedrosian, Grant and Kelly	Menendian, Mari Louise
Borba, Alan and Phyllis	Mikaelian, Michael and Sandra
Choboian, Sandra	Mortanian, Ronald & Barbara
Davidian Family, The Greg	Nunes, Richard and Joyce
Davidian, Charlie and Christina A.	Ouzounian, Shirley
Davidian, Margie L.	Peloian, James & Mary
Dawson, Shirley	Peloian, Joyce and Gary McCrea
Ekizian, Jeanette	Peters, Darrell and Tina
Ekizian, Lesta	Pilavian, Pierre and Melissa
Emerzian, Leslie and Janice	Safrazian, Richard and Lillian
Gomes, John and Janet	Sarabian, Charles and Lori
Groefsema, Bruce and Gail	Sheklian, JoAnn
Hagopian, Richard and Geraldine	Sheklian, Myron and Debbie
Hampar, Arthur	Shuklian, Amy
Hovannisian, Vars	Skaff, Judy and Mike
Kalfayan, Garo and Nancy	Skaff, Kevin and Lynn
Kaloostian, Linda	Tamouzian, Mike
Kaprielian, John Ara and Sharon	Torosian, Patty
Kizirian, Abe and Sandra	Valencia, Dr. Albert and Tracy
Krikorian, Gary and Nancy	Vartanian, Sandra
Lopez, Jr., Juan E. and Brooke B.	Wall, Mark and Linda
Margosian, Carrie	Zerounian, Janel E.

Total Christmas Yughakin - \$7,840



You're Invited
To A
Sunday Matinee

“Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade”

Sunday, February 23rd.
After Church, in the Hall

Bring Your Family & Friends for a Fun-Filled
Afternoon of Adventure, Fellowship and Movie Snacks!

Hosted by The Ladies Society
Kindly RSVP by 2/20
Lunch@stmaryyettem.org

Donations are Welcome





(Continued from the front page)

In addition to our relationship with God, Valentine's Day calls us to nurture our love for one another. This includes not only romantic relationships but also friendships, family connections, and community bonds. Jesus commanded us to "*love your neighbor as yourself*" (Mark 12:31), reminding us that love is an active choice, a commitment to serve, uplift, and care for others.

On this day, let us also remember those who may feel lonely or forgotten. Reaching out to someone in need, a phone call, a kind word, or a simple gesture of care, can be a powerful way to share God's love. After all, as Jesus said in John 15:12, "*This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.*"

Finally, Valentine's Day invites us to love ourselves in a healthy, godly way. This doesn't mean selfishness but rather recognizing our worth as children of God. When we embrace the truth that we are fearfully and wonderfully made (Psalm 139:14), we can better love and serve others from a place of fullness.

As we celebrate Valentine's Day, let us embrace its deeper, spiritual meaning. May it remind us that love is not just an emotion but a commitment and a reflection of God's boundless love. Let us be beacons of love in our homes, communities, and the world, remembering that love, when lived out authentically, has the power to transform lives and bring light to even the darkest places.

May our love today reflect the divine love that unites us all.

Der Mashdots Keshishian