



YETTEM ԵՊԵՄ

Հրատարակութիւն Եղեմի Ս. Աստուածածին Հայաստանեայց Եկեղեցւոյ

A Publication of St. Mary Armenian Church Yetttem, California

Rev. Fr. Mashdots Keshishian, Parish Priest

September 2025

Grandparents Day

A Blessing Across Generations

Each September, we pause to reflect on the gift of our grandparents, their love, their wisdom, and their unwavering faith in God. Grandparents hold a unique role in our lives: They are not only the roots of our family tree but also the spiritual anchors who pass down traditions, values, and blessings from one generation to another.

The Bible beautifully reminds us of this sacred connection between generations:

“Children’s children are a crown to the aged, and parents are the pride of their children.” (Proverbs 17:6)

Grandparents are indeed a crown, not because of earthly riches or honors, but because their lives radiate the quiet dignity of faithfulness. Many of us can remember a grandmother who prayed each night, a grandfather who opened the Scriptures, or the loving presence of grandparents who carried the whole family in prayer.

St. Paul, in writing to Timothy, highlights the blessing of faith that flows through generations:

“I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice, and now, I am sure, lives in you also.” (2 Timothy 1:5)

This verse is a reminder that faith is not only taught in classrooms or preached from pulpits, it is lived in homes. It is seen in the grandmother who teaches a child how to cross themselves before bed, or the grandfather who tells stories of God’s goodness during difficult times. Their lived faith becomes a living sermon that shapes the hearts of their grandchildren.

Grandparents also embody the commandment to love. Their lives are often filled with sacrifice and service, giving of themselves to provide, nurture, and protect. Even when frailty or age comes, their prayers and words of encouragement remain a steady source of strength.

The psalmist declares: *“One generation shall commend Your works to another and shall declare Your mighty acts.”* (Psalm 145:4)

How true this is for grandparents! Through stories, traditions, and even simple conversations, they declare God’s mighty acts. They remind us where we come from, and they guide us toward where God calls us to go.

(Continued on the back page)

Parish Notes

BULLETIN SPONSORSHIP

THIS SEPTEMBER 2025 BULLETIN
IS SPONSORED BY
JOHN AND JANET GOMES
IN MEMORY OF JANET'S PARENTS,
GARABED AND ROSE SIMONIAN

CONDOLENCE

On behalf of our St. Mary Parish family, we wish to extend our deepest sympathy to ***The Marion Shuklian Family*** on the passing of Marion on Monday, July 21. Services were held on August 11. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family.

Also, on behalf of our St. Mary Parish family, we wish to extend our deepest sympathy to Mike and Judy Skaff and Family on the passing of Mike's aunt, ***Betty Skaff Jacobo***. She passed on Monday, August 4. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family.

ALTAR CANDLE OIL DONATION

August 17
Linda and Mark Wall
in honor of Linda's grandmother,
Mayreni Farsakian

HOKEHANKIST

August 31
Blanche Parton
five years after her passing,
requested by The Parton, Kazarian, Nunes,
Zakarian and Fernandes Families

HOKEHANKIST DONATIONS

For Repose of Walter Benjamin's Soul
Sargon and Lilit Benjamin

For Repose of Gary Zarounian,
George and Jessie Zarounian,
Katche and Alice Halbourian,
Gladys Zarounian, Bruce Groefsema, Jr.,
John, Siranoush, and Gary Zarounian,
and Zeroun Zerounian's Souls
***Vernon and Carol Hovannisian, and
Bruce and Gail Groefsema***

For Repose of Souren Sam &
Betty Farsakian's Souls
Linda and Mark Wall

ALTAR FLOWERS

August 3
***Sally Zarounian and Family
Carol and Vernon Hovannisian and Family
Gail and Bruce Groefsema and Family***
in memory of
Gary Zarounian, two years after his passing,
George and Jessie Zarounian
Katche and Alice Halbourian
Gladys Zarounian
Bruce Groefsema, Jr.
John, Siranoush, and Gary Zarounian
and Zeroun Zerounian

August 10
***Linda, Mark and Ben Wall, and
Alan, Marceen, Nickolas, and
Shant Farsakian***
in memory of Souren Sam and Betty Farsakian,
Hrant and Mayreni Farsakian, Zabel Farsakian,
Levon Roupinian, and Ohan Kuchukian

August 17
Mari Louise Menendian
in honor of Asdvadzadzin
and all the ladies named Mary

August 31
***The Parton, Kazarian, Nunes, Zakarian
and Fernandes Families***
in memory of Blanche Parton

MISCELLANEOUS DONATIONS

Estate of Betty Skaff Jacobo

DONATIONS IN HONOR OF THE HYE SPIRIT AWARD RECIPIENTS

**MARGIE ANN DAVIDIAN AND
MARI LOUISE MENENDIAN**

Shirley Dawson

CAR DONATION

Thank you to ***Abe and Sandra Kizirian*** for
donating a 2009 Chevrolet Express to St. Mary
Armenian Church.

GRANDPARENTS' DAY

The Ladies Society invites you to brunch in
**celebration of Grandparents' Day on Sunday,
September 7.** Enjoy a delicious brunch featuring
Beeshee, Sujuk and Eggs, and much more. To
reserve a table or seat(s), email:
lunches@stmaryyettem.org or call the church
office at (559) 528-6892. (See flier)

ASDVADZADZIN THANK YOUS

Asdvadzadzin is always a very special day in Yettem as we not only remember the Assumption of Mary into Heaven but also celebrate the name day of our parish and conduct the blessing of the grapes.

Thank you to our donors for the table grapes that were blessed and offered to parishioners to enjoy: Todd Kinonian and Mike Tamouzian from Sundale Vineyards for donating six boxes, Darrell Peters for donating six boxes and Michael Missakian from the Fowler Parish for donating six boxes.

Thank you to the Parish Council members for donating the food items, tablecloths and napkins. Also, thank you to Darrell Peters, Mike Tamouzian, and Albert Valencia for barbequing.

SCHEDULED SEPTEMBER

HOKEHANKISTS

Sunday, September 7

Anahid Bea Soxman

Two years after her passing,

Khacher Mikaelian

Takoui Mikaelian

Michael Mikaelian

Florence Mikaelian

Mike Mikaelian

Carolyn Mikaelian

Ralph Hovannisian

Mirian Hovannisian

requested by

Jim Soxman and the families of

Del and Donna Venturella,

Albert and Tracy Valencia,

Michael and Sandra Mikaelian,

Rob and Debbie Agnew and

Kevin and Kristy Mikaelian

Stella Ananian

three years after her passing,

requested by

Lisa and David Krause, Bryan and Terry Ananian, and Renee and Michelle Ananian

Harry and Laura Davidian

Giragos and Aghavnie Davidian

Chad Tellian and

Haig and Rebecca Balakian

requested by

Janice and Rich McWilliams and Family,

Phyllis and Alan Borba and Family, and

Becky and Jeff Akin and Family

LADIES SOCIETY

Our annual August bake sale was a big success! We raised \$1,553 for the church. So many delicious baked goodies from which to choose. And every item made it hard to choose what to buy! Thank you, bakers! Thank you, community, for your purchases. Thank you, Michelle Ananian and her committee, Renee Ananian and Margie A. Davidian.

Once again, our chapter baked choreg for Armenian Church Summer Camp. Thank you to Laurie Menendian and Margie L. Davidian and their committee for baking the choreg.

Congratulations to our members Margie A. Davidian and Mari Louise Menendian upon receiving the High Spirit award. Their dedication to Ladies Society and to our church is unwavering. We are proud of both of you!

Grandparents' Day annual brunch is Sunday, September 7. The committee has an outstanding brunch planned. Make your reservations now via email to lunches@stmaryyettem.org or call the office at 559-528-6892.

The September 13 monthly meeting is cancelled because will be rolling yalanchi and baking crescent cookies for the Shish Kebab luncheon fundraiser on that day. All are invited to join and help.

The annual Sister Churches Luncheon is Saturday, September 20 hosted this year by St. Paul Fresno Ladies Society. The afternoon includes a musical performance by vocalists from the Sister Churches and lunch. Cost is \$35/person. Make your reservation by Wednesday, September 10 to me via text at 559-786-1419 or via email at linda.hyewall@gmail.com. You won't want to miss this opportunity to enjoy fellowship with our sisters in Christ.

God's blessings to you,

Linda Farsakian-Wall

THANK YOU

Thank you once again to Charlie Ananian for pruning and keeping the west fence cleared.

CHOIR

Choir's next practice is **TO BE DETERMINED.**

PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council's next meeting will be held on **Sunday, September 14 after church services.**

LADIES SOCIETY

The Ladies Society **September 13 meeting** has been **CANCELED**. 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.**

Ways and Means will be **making yalanchi and crescent cookies** on **Saturday, September 13** starting at **9:00 AM.** **All are invited to help!**

RAFFLE

Our July and August raffles of 2025 were held on Sunday, August 17.

Congratulations to the July winners...

(\$150) Marlene Majarian

(\$100) Alan Farsakian

(\$50) Melina Peters

Congratulations to the August winners...

(\$150) Buck Sarabian

(\$100) Katherine Kasparian

(\$50) Sarkis Enfiedjian

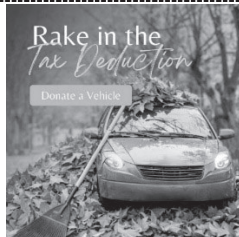
Our **September, October, and November drawings of 2025** will be held on **Grandparents' Day, Sunday, September 7.** If you would like tickets, contact Tina Peters at (559) 967-2593 by phone or text.

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.

FUTURE PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS



Kassidy and Brielle Yoshida, daughters of Philip and Kristin (Poochigian) Yoshida. The granddaughters of Julie Poochigian and the late Jerry Poochigian.



Skylar and Gregory Davidian, the children of Annie Davidian. Grandchildren of Margie A. Davidian and the late Gregory Davidian. Great-grandchildren of Shirley Dawson.

ST. MARY ARMENIAN CHURCH

September 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Labor Day	2	3	4	5	6 318 Fathers of the Holy Council of Nicaea (A.D. 325)
7 Sunday School & Children's Sermon resume today at 10:30 AM Grandparents' Day Brunch Sept., Oct., & Nov. Raffles	8 Barekendan of the Fast of Holy Cross	9	10	11	12	13 The Ways and Means is making yalanchi and crescent cookies in the Majarian Hall at 9:00 AM. All are invited to help!
14 Exaltation of the Holy Cross The Parish Council meeting after church services	15 Remembrance of the dead	16	17	18	19	20 Sisters Churches Luncheon hosted by St. Paul in Fresno at 11:30 AM
21 Barekendan of the Fast of Holy Cross Varak Independence Day of the Republic of Armenia Sunday School	22	23	24	25	26	27 St. George the Warrior
28 Holy Cross Varak	29	30				

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

SPONSORED BY THE LADIES SOCIETY



Grandparents' Day Brunch

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2025

AFTER CHURCH SERVICES IN THE MAJARIAN HALL

FEATURING THE FAMOUS YETTEM BEESHEE,

SUJUK & EGGS AND MUCH MORE....



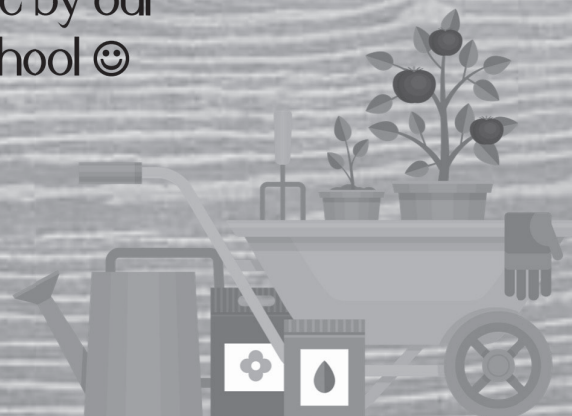
ADULTS \$20 • CHILDREN \$15

RESERVATIONS REQUESTED BY WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27

E-MAIL: LUNCHES@STMARYYETTEM.ORG -OR-

CALL 559•528•6892

Performance by our
Sunday School ☺





Become a 2026 'Official Member' of the
St. Mary Armenian Church
of Yettem

Sunday, September 7, 2025
(Grandparent's Day Brunch)

Fill out the Membership Application
and Submit your 2026
Membership Dues of \$150

“The way to keep this church great is to do it together”

St. Mary Armenian Church of Yettam

SHISH KEBAB LUNCH



FEATURING THE FAMOUS
HAGOPIAN'S DELI SHISH KEBAB

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2025

11:00 AM - 3:00 PM

VISALIA ELKS LODGE
3100 WEST MAIN STREET, VISALIA
DINE-IN OR DRIVE-THRU

LUNCH INCLUDES:

SALAD, PILAF, PEDA BREAD AND BOURMA

DONATION \$30 PER PERSON

TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED AT THE DOOR OR DRIVE-THRU

Armenian Bake Sale Items

GRAPE LEAVES ✨ NAZOOK

CRESCENT COOKIES

ARMENIAN APPETIZER COMBO

Basturma, Soujouk, Armenian String Cheese,
Olives, Hummus and Pita Bread



MONTE MELKONIAN MONUMENT

Under the auspices of the Honorary consul of ROA in Fresno,
Mr Berj Apkarian, HyeID Fresno Chapter is Launching a fundraiser for the
monument honoring the national hero of Armenia and Artsakh
Commander Monte Melkonian.



LOCATION

MASSIS ARARAT CEMETERY, 250 N HUGHES AVE, FRESNO, CA 93728

Tax deductible donations payable to:
Advance Armenia Foundation
Checks earmarked:
Monte Melkonian Monument Project

Address:
Garo Khatchikian, MD
1189 E Via Verde Dr Fresno, CA 93730

Questions:
Call Garo Khatchikian, MD
at 559-978-6080.

MONTE MELKONIAN TRIBUTE

Monte Melkonian was an
Armenian-American
military commander and a
National Hero of both
Armenia and Artsakh.

Monte was born in Visalia,
in the heart of the
Central Valley.

If you would like to DONATE
Online visit

www.montemelkonian.org

Or Send check payable to
Advance Armenia Foundation

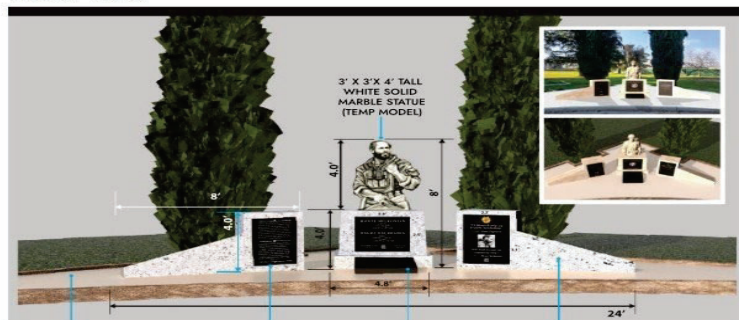
1189 E Via Verde Dr.

Fresno, CA 93730

St Mary Parish Council

MONTE MELKONIAN MONUMENT FOR MASIS ARARAT ARMENIAN CEMETERY

FRONT VIEW



FLOOR WILL MOST LIKELY
BE CONCRETE WITH 1" SLOPE
FROM THE BACK

ALL THREE PLAQUES 3/4" THICK
BLACK GRANITE WITH ENGRAVED
TEXT AND METAL SIGNAGE

2.8' X 2.8' SOLID BLACK
GRANITE SLOPED BASE
FOR BURNING INCENSE

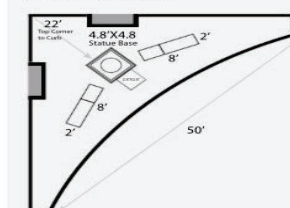
ALL THREE PARTS OF THE MONUMENT
WILL BE MADE WITH CONCRETE AND
COVERED WITH A LIGHT(WHITE TONED)
GRANITE TO MATCH THE SCULPTURE.

SCULPTURE DETAIL DRAWING



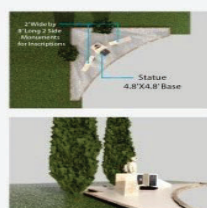
ALTERNATE VIEWS

TOP MEASUREMENTS



TOP VIEW

SIDE VIEW



DESCRIPTION PLAQUE DETAILS

LEFT



CENTER



RIGHT



3(3/4") THICK BLACK GRANITE PLAQUE WITH ENGRAVED TEXT IN ARMENIAN & ENGLISH.
THE ARMENIAN SEAL, IMAGES & QR CODES WILL BE MADE
OF METAL AND ATTACHED TO THE GRANITE.

DESIGNED BY MALACHUK SIMONIAN

Asdvadzadzin-August 17



Luncheon



St. Mary Armenian Apostolic Church of Yettem

Physical Address: 14395 Avenue 384, Yettem, CA 93670

Mailing Address: PO Box 367, Yettem, CA 93670

Church Office: (559) 528-6892

Website: www.stmaryyettem.org

Facebook: SaintMary Yettem Church & Instagram: St Mary Yettem Church

Parish Priest	Ways and Means
Rev Fr. Mashdots Keshishian Cell: (818) 293-9098 fathermashdots@stmaryyettem.org	Margie L. Davidian, Co-Chair zaroochie@gmail.com Judy Skaff, Co-Chair judy@thebelmontgroup.com Debbie Sheklian, <i>Rec. Secretary</i> Tina Peters, <i>Treasurer</i>
Church Secretary	Sunday School
Sonya Barton Office: (559) 528-6892 sonya@stmaryyettem.org	Adrienne Poochigian, Superintendent alskaff@gmail.com Ani Valencia, <i>Teacher</i> Margie A. Davidian, <i>Advisor-Music</i> Annie Davidian, <i>Spec. Programs Coord.</i> Tina Maleksarkessians, <i>Armenian Language</i>
Parish Council	CHOIR DIRECTOR/ORGANIST
Judy Skaff, Chair judy@thebelmontgroup.com Annie Davidian, <i>Vice Chair</i> Tracy Valencia, <i>Secretary</i> Tina Peters, <i>Treasurer</i> Julie Poochigian, <i>Advisor</i> Mike Tamouzian, <i>Advisor</i> Sandra Vartanian, <i>Advisor</i>	Mari Louise Menendian mlmenen@aol.com
Ladies Society	YETTEM SOCIAL HYES
Linda Farsakian-Wall, Chair linda.hyewall@gmail.com Donna Venturella, <i>Vice Chair</i> Janel Zerounian, <i>Rec. Secretary</i> Margie A. Davidian, <i>Corr. Secretary</i> Julie Poochigian, <i>Treasurer</i> Michelle Ananian, <i>Advisor</i> Renee Ananian, <i>Advisor</i>	Alysse Hovannisian, Co-Chair alysse.hov@yahoo.com Brooke Lopez, Co-Chair brookebedrosian1@gmail.com Lynn Skaff, <i>Treasurer</i> Davy Vartanian, <i>Advisor</i> Yn Maral Khanjian, <i>Advisor</i>

Upcoming September 2025 Events & Meetings

Choir – Practices **TO BE DETERMINED**

Sunday School – Sunday, September 7 & 21 – 10:30 AM (Classroom)

Grandparents' Day Brunch – Sunday, September 7 – after church services

September, October & November Raffles – Sunday, September 7 – after church services

Ladies Society Meeting – September 13 meeting has been **CANCELED**

Making yalanchi & crescent cookies – September 13 – 9:00 AM (Majarian Hall)

Parish Council Meeting – Sunday, September 14 – after church services

(Continued from the front page)

On this Grandparents Day, let us give thanks to God for the gift of our grandparents, both those still with us and those who rest in the peace of Christ. Their love continues to surround us, their prayers continue to cover us, and their example continues to inspire us.

And let us not forget those grandparents who have gone before us in faith. We honor them by lifting prayers for their souls, by visiting their resting places with reverence, and by cherishing the legacy they entrusted to us. Grandparents Day should not only be a time to enjoy the blessings they left behind, but also a sacred moment to keep their memory alive with gratitude, love, and faithful living.

Let us also remember that Grandparents Day is not only a day of appreciation but also a call to action. It invites us to carry forward their legacy by teaching our children the same love of Christ, the same devotion to prayer, and the same faithfulness to the Church. In doing so, we ensure that the story of God's love continues to live in every generation, unbroken and strong.

We are called not only to honor them with words, but with actions, by listening to their wisdom, by caring for them with tenderness, and by living our lives in ways that make them proud. As the prophet Joel reminds us:

"Tell your children of it, and let your children tell their children, and their children to another generation." (Joel 1:3)

The faith of our grandparents is not just a memory, it is a torch that we are called to carry and pass on to the next generation.

On this September celebration of Grandparents Day, we lift a prayer of gratitude:

For their wisdom that teaches us. For their patience that calms us.

For their love that surrounds us. For their faith that strengthens us.

May God bless all our grandparents with peace, joy, and strength. May those who rest in His Kingdom be remembered with love and thanksgiving. And may we, the children, and grandchildren, never forget to honor them by living faithful lives that reflect the love of Christ.

"Gray hair is a crown of glory; it is gained in a righteous life." (Proverbs 16:31)

To our grandparents: We thank you for your love, your faith, and your prayers. You are our crown, our blessing, and our joy. May the Lord reward you abundantly and may your legacy of faith shine brightly in every generation to come.

Der Mashdots