



YETTEM ԵՊԵՄ

Հրատարակութիւն Եղեմի Ս. Աստուածածին Հայաստանեայց Եկեղեցւոյ

A Publication of St. Mary Armenian Church Yettem, California

Rev. Fr. Mashdots Keshishian, Parish Priest

June 2025

A Silent Strength — The Unsung Hero of the Family

“The righteous man walks in his integrity; his children are blessed after him.” (Proverbs 20:7)

Father’s Day is a moment set aside each year to recognize and honor one of God’s greatest gifts to the family: fathers. While much of the world moves swiftly past the quiet acts of love and strength that define fatherhood, today we pause to look deeper. We pause to reflect, to appreciate, and to give thanks for the men whose sacrifices are often silent, whose strength is often assumed, and whose hearts beat with a love that is often unspoken, but always present.

Father’s Day is more than a celebration, it is a heartfelt reminder of the quiet strength, steady presence, and deep love that fathers give so freely. While mothers are often the nurturers we run to for comfort, fathers are the foundations we lean on when life becomes uncertain. Their guidance, though sometimes unspoken, shapes our character and carves the paths we walk.

A father may not always say “*I love you*” with words, but he says it every time he sacrifices his comfort to provide for his family, every time he offers his hand without hesitation, and every time he stays up late worrying about our future. His love is steady, not flashy, not loud, but always there, like the strong roots of a tree holding the family upright.

A father may not always show his emotions outwardly, but his love is steadfast. He is the rock in the storm, the protector of his home, the provider who labors not for his own comfort but for the well-being of his children and the peace of his wife. He teaches not only through words, but more powerfully through example. In his honesty, we learn integrity. In his diligence, we learn responsibility. In his gentleness, we learn humility. And in his presence, we learn what it means to be loved.

“As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear Him.” (Psalm 103:13)

A father is often the first hero in a child’s life. He is the one who lifts us high on his shoulders so we can see farther. He is the one who tells us we can do it when we feel like giving up. He is the one who stays behind the scenes, cheering us on, catching us when we fall, and building us back up when we are broken. He doesn’t seek the spotlight. He seeks the success of his family.

Fathers are teachers, counselors, spiritual guides, and companions on the journey of life. They give us not only roots, but wings, encouraging us to grow, to explore, and to live boldly with faith and courage. And even in times when they don’t have all the answers, their love and presence speak louder than any words.

(Continued on the back page)

Parish Notes

WEEKLY BULLETIN SPONSORSHIP

May 25

Julie Poochigian

in memory of Hasmik Enfiedjian,
forty days after her passing

KEREZMAN LILIES

May 4

Archp. Rev. Fr. Vartan & Yn. Danna Kasparian

ALTAR CANDLE OIL

May 25

Yvonne and Eugene Kandarian and Family
in memory of Yvonne's mother, Rosa Ananian

June 1

Alan, Marceen Nick and Shant Farsakian
in honor of Ben Walls's Master's Degree
Graduation from Rosalind Franklin
University of Medicine and Science

ALTAR FLOWERS

May 4

The Ladies Society

May 11

Judy and Mike Skaff and Family
in honor of Judy's parents, Richard and Alice
Dudukian's wedding anniversary on May 1

May 25

Julie Poochigian
in memory of Hasmik Enfiedjian

Charlie Ananian and Family
in memory of Elizabeth Ananian

MISCELLANEOUS DONATIONS

Artin H. Gorjian

DeAnn Farris
in memory of
Sark Sr., Sylvia, Sark Jr. and Garitt Davidian

SCHEDULED JUNE HOKEHANKISTS

June 15

Jack Ananian
seven years after his passing, and
Harry and Haiganoush Ananian
twenty-eight years after their passing
requested by Shari Ananian and Julie Bair

HOKEHANKIST REQUESTS

May 4

Pete, Idalene and Jack Barsamian
requested by
Richard, Lillian, Pete and David Safrastian

May 11

All the deceased mothers

Richard and Alice Dudukian
requested by Judy and Mike Skaff and Family

Zevart Arslanian

forty days after her passing
and

Aram Arslanian

fifteen years after his passing,
requested by Sebouh Arslanian and Family

May 25

Hasmik Enfiedjian
forty days after her passing,
requested by Julie Poochigian

Elizabeth Ananian

one year after her passing,
requested by
Charlie Ananian and Family

Rosa Ananian

twenty years after her passing,
requested by
Yvonne and Eugene Kandarian and Family

THANK YOU'S

Thank you, Annie Davidian, for your generous donation toward clearing the weeds and trees behind the offices, as well as trimming and cleaning the entire church grounds. Your efforts help keep our church fresh, welcoming, and beautiful.

Thank you to Charlie Ananian and Simon for repairing the sprinklers and keeping everything running smoothly. Your efforts have made a big difference!

SAVE THE DATE

Pastoral visitation of His Eminence Archbishop Hovnan Derderian to St. Mary Armenian Church in Yetteem will be on **Sunday, July 27.** (See flier)

HOKEHANKIST DONATIONS

April 27

For Repose of Hasmik Enfiedjian's Soul
Sarkis Enfiedjian

May 4

For Repose of Pete, Idalene and
Jack Barsamian's Souls
Richard and Lillian Safrazian

May 11

For Repose of Richard and Alice Dudukian's
Souls
Judy and Mike Skaff

For Repose of Zevart Arslanian and Aram
Arslanian Souls
Sebouh Arslanian and Family

May 25

For Repose of Hasmik Enfiedjian's Soul
Julie Poochigian

For Repose of Elizabeth Ananian's Soul
Serge and Judith Ananian
Eugene and Yvonne Kandarian

For Repose of Rosa Ananian's Soul
Serge and Judith Ananian
Eugene and Yvonne Kandarian

THE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

The Ways and Means Committee next scheduled meeting will be held on **Thursday, June 12** via Zoom at **6:30 PM**.

CHOIR

Choir practice is scheduled for **Tuesday, June 17** and **Friday, June 27** at 10:30 AM in the church.

PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council's next meeting will be held on **Sunday, June 29 after church services**.

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

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.** The **weekly bulletin** for a **minimum donation of \$25** or the **monthly bulletin** for a **minimum donation of \$250**.

LADIES SOCIETY NEWS

May was a month of gratitude to all of you who work and contribute to keeping our faith and church alive.

We celebrated Mother's Day with a fellowship paying tribute to our mothers and grandmothers. Walking into the church hall, our senses were sparked by the smiles and laughter as mothers arrived, the beautifully set tables adorned with springtime flowers, and the plentiful food. The slideshow of our mothers and grandmothers brought more smiles and even a few tears of remembrance.

We successfully concluded our "I am thankful..." pinwheel fundraiser. We are grateful to everyone who expressed their gratitude and who donated to Ladies Society. Presently the churchyard is brightened up with pinwheels twirling in the wind. Now it is my turn to express my gratitude. Thank you to Peggy Fernandes for chairing the Mother's Day fellowship and her committee, Julie Poochigian, Sandy Kalfayan, Julie Bair, Janel Zerounian, and Tina Peters. The food and table settings were kindly donated by the committee members. Thank you to Karen Hovannisian for making and graciously donating the beautiful flower arrangements and to John Kalfayan for preparing the delicious chicken.

Sunday School classes concluded for the year. We are grateful to our teachers Adrienne Poochigian, Ani Valencia and Tina MalekSarkessians, to piano accompanist Margie A. Davidian, and to Sunday School aide, Nick Farsakian. Thank you staff for your dedication. Thank you to our parents for setting the example to their children that church and Christian education is a priority.

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

RAFFLE

Our **July and August drawings of 2025** will be held on **Sunday, August 17**. If you would like tickets, contact Tina Peters at (559) 967-2593 by phone or text.

INSTAGRAM

Exciting news! Our church is now on **Instagram**. Follow along for updates and blessings. Searching for **St Mary Yettem Church**.

FOOD FESTIVAL

On behalf of the Ways and Means Committee we would like to thank everyone for all their hard work in making our May Food Festival a big success. We sold 1,176 tickets and have a net income of \$23,500.00. This would not be possible without the help of so many devoted parishioners and friends of our church.

A special thank you to David Vartanian for donating the pilaf ingredients.

*Your Co-Chairs,
Margie L. Davidian and Judy Skaff*

NEW VOTING MEMBERS

We warmly welcome sixteen new voting members to our community. Your dedication and voice are vital to our growth and success. Thank you for stepping up and committing to this important role.

<i>Darren Ananian</i>	<i>Shirley Dawson</i>
<i>Gary Ananian</i>	<i>Kevin Kalfayan</i>
<i>Janet Ananian</i>	<i>Allie Kalfayan</i>
<i>Michelle Ananian</i>	<i>JoAnn Sheklian</i>
<i>Renee Ananian</i>	<i>Donna Venturella</i>
<i>David Anderson</i>	<i>Alex Torosian</i>
<i>Lindsey Anderson</i>	<i>Mark Wall</i>
<i>Phyllis Borba</i>	<i>Anahid Valencia</i>

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School had their last day on Sunday, May 18. Sunday School will resume on **Grandparents' Day, Sunday, September 7**. If you have any questions, please contact **Adrienne Poochigian** at (559) 679-8452 or email: alskaff@gmail.com

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

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 fathermashdots@stmaryyettem.org or text/call (818) 293-9098 or text/call St. Mary Parish Council Chair Judy Skaff at (559) 799-1198 or email at judy@thebelmontgroup.com

BLESSING & DEDICATION

IN MEMORY OF LUCILLE MARGOSIAN

The blessing of the Crozier (Staff) and Hand Cross will be held by Sr. Srpazan on Sunday, July 27 in memory of **Lucille Margosian**, donated by Karon Penny and Family & Sharon and John Kaprielian and Family.

THE 2025 DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY IN RANCHO MIRAGE



Diocesan Assembly Delegates - Judy Skaff (ex-officio), Margie L. Davidian and Debbie Sheklian

Ladies Society Delegates - Linda Farsakian-Wall (ex-officio), Mari Louise Menendian and Janice McWilliams

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ST. MARY ARMENIAN CHURCH

June 2025

1 Second Palm Sunday	2	3	4	5	6	7 The Ladies Society meeting in the Majarian Hall at 11:30 AM
8 Pentecost	9	10	11	12 The Ways and Means Committee meeting via Zoom at 6:30 PM	13	14
15 Remembrance of the Prophet Elijah Father's Day	16 St. Hripsime & her Companions, Virgins	17 St. Gayane & her Companions, Virgins Choir Practice at 10:30 AM in the church	18	19	20	21 St. Gregory the Illuminator Deliverance from the Pit
22 Feast of the Catholicon of Holy Etchmiadzin	23	24	25	26	27 Choir Practice at 10:30 AM in the church	28 St. Nerses the Great
29 The Parish Council meeting after church services in the Majarian Hall Conference Room	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



**His
Eminence
Archbishop
Hovnan
Derderian**

**PASTORAL
VISIT**

**To
St. Mary
Armenian
Apostolic Church
of Yettem**

Sunday, July 27, 2025

***St. Mary Parish invites all
parishioners & friends to this great event!***

**Bestowing of the Hye Spirit Award to
Margie A. Davidian and Mari Louise Menendian**

A luncheon will be offered by the St. Mary Parish Council.
For reservations, please call the church office at 528-6892 or
email lunches@stmaryyettem.org with your name(s) and the
number of lunches requested by Friday, July 18, 2025.

Congratulations to the 2025 Graduates

Melina Rose Peters



Melina graduated from California State University, Fresno with a Master of Science in Counseling, option in School Counseling and Pupil Personnel Services Credential (PPS). She is pursuing a career as a School Counselor.

She is the daughter of Darrell and Tina Peters Her Grandparents are Rose Marie Margosian and the late George Margosian and Florence Peters and the late Darrell Peters, Sr.

Benjamin Nishan Wall

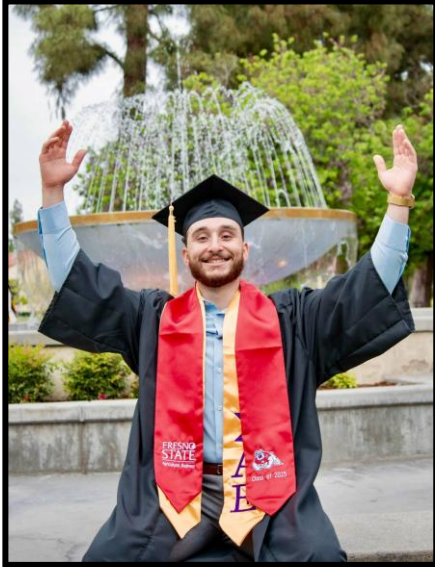


Benjamin Nishan Wall graduated from Rosalind Franklin University in Chicago, IL, with a Master of Science in Clinical Counseling. He is pursuing a career in mental health counseling. Ben is a founding member of the school's Armenian Club and is a member of Psi Chi, the International Honor Society in Psychology.

He is the son of Linda and Mark Wall and the grandson of the late Sam and Betty Farsakian, Ruth Wall, and Robert Wall. As his parents, we are proud of his *accomplishments, and the man he has become*. We love you, Ben!

Congratulations to the 2025 Graduates

Aram James Babagian



Aram graduated from California State University, Fresno with a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture Business. Aram is interning at Clarks Bros, Inc. Heavy Civil Contractors in Fresno as a Field Engineer.

His parents are Peter and Mary Babagian. His grandparents are Louise Babagian and the late Steve Babagian and the late Pasquale and Julia Magnone.

Lauren Taylor Kneeland



Lauren graduated from Baylor University in Waco, Texas with a degree in Nutrition.

Lauren will be attending UT Southwestern in Dallas, Texas for her master's degree in clinical nutrition.

She is the daughter of David and Shawna Kneeland. Her Grandparents are Rich and Janice McWilliams.

Congratulations to the 2025 Graduates

Grace Payden Tellian



Grace graduated from Paso Robles High School.

Grace will be attending San Diego State University in the Fall.

She is the daughter of Jared and Kelsie Tellian. Her Grandparents are Rich and Janice McWilliams and Mike and Julie Tellian.

Jace James McWilliams



Jace was promoted from 8th Grade at Central Valley Christian. He will be attending Central Valley Christian High School in the Fall.

He is the son of Marc and Juliana McWilliams. His Grandparents are Rich and Janice McWilliams.

THANK YOU TO ALL THE VOLUNTEERS FOR
A FUN AND SUCCESSFUL
ARMENIAN FOOD FESTIVAL—MAY 15, 2025





WE
LOVE
YETTEM



Yettem Sunday School Year End Celebration



Left To Right- Der Mashdots, Teacher Adrienne, Hagop-Pegor, Laura, Marley, Myla, Gregory, Skylar, Jackson, Teacher Anahid, Teacher Tina. Missing: Jameson

Thank you to our Amazing Sunday School Teachers



Linda, Tina, Margie, Anahid, Adrienne and Der Mashdots

We are blessed to have had a wonderful Sunday School year with 8 faithful and enthusiastic students. Our program began on September 8th with a special celebration for Grandparents' Day and concluded on May 18th. Throughout the year, we explored important figures and events of our faith, including the Evangelists, Moses, Samuel, St. Paul, St. Gregory, St. Sarkis, the Sunday of Expulsion, the Pentecost, and the Transfiguration.

Each class began with Armenian Language lessons, helping our students grow in both faith and heritage. We were also grateful for the monthly interactive children's sermons given by Der Mashdots, which enriched the students' understanding and engagement with the church.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our dedicated teachers, supportive parents, and the entire church community for their continued encouragement and prayers. Most of all, we thank our students for their commitment and joy throughout the year.

Adrienne Poochigian, Sunday School Superintendent



Der Mashdots, Yn Maral,
Hagop-Pegor & Vart Ann



Adrienne, Jackson &
Grandma Judy



Darren, Gina, Laura, Marley
Grandma Phyllis & Grandpa Charlie



Annie, Gregory, Skylar
Grandma Margie &
Great Grandma Shirley

U P C O M I N G
E V E N T S

Sunday, August 17, 2025

Bake Sale

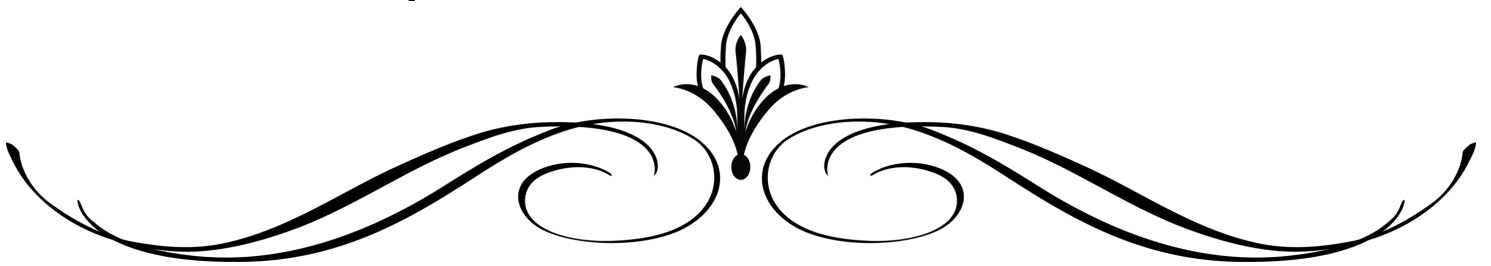


-Homemade Armenian Baked Goods-



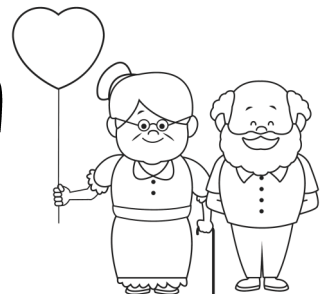
Asdvadzadzin

Blessing of the Grapes & Luncheon



Sunday, September 7, 2025

Grandparents Day Brunch



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 zaroohie@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 Valancia, <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 June & July 2025 Events & Meetings

Ladies Society Meeting – Saturday, June 7 – (Majarian Hall)

The Ways & Means Committee Meeting – Thursday, June 12 (via Zoom)

Choir Practice – Tuesday, June 17 & Friday, June 27 – 10:30 AM (Church)

Parish Council Meeting – Sunday, June 29 – (after services Majarian Hall)

His Eminence Hovnan Derderian Pastoral Visitation – Sunday, July 27th

(Continued from the front page)

Fathers are teachers, counselors, spiritual guides, and companions on the journey of life. They give us not only roots, but wings, encouraging us to grow, to explore, and to live boldly with faith and courage. And even in times when they don't have all the answers, their love and presence speak louder than any words.

"Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord."
(Ephesians 6:4)

Let us also remember the spiritual fathers in our lives, who care for our souls, guide us with God's Word, and offer the wisdom of a shepherd's heart. Their role, too, is a reflection of the Heavenly Father, who loves us without end.

"I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth." (3 John 1:4)

Today, we thank God for all fathers, those with us now and those who have gone to their eternal rest. For those fathers, and grandfathers, who have passed away, we carry their memory in our hearts. Though their hands no longer hold ours, their legacy continues in every value they taught us, every story they shared, every moment of love they gave.

We remember their smiles, their laughter, their quiet wisdom, and their strong embrace. We miss their voices, but we still hear them in our hearts. We miss their presence, but we still feel them in our lives. Their lives were a blessing, their memory a treasure.

And while their absence leaves an ache that time cannot erase, we rejoice in the hope of Christ, knowing that this separation is not forever. We believe in the promise of eternal life, and we trust that we will one day be reunited in the joy of God's kingdom.

"Blessed are those who die in the Lord. They will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them."
Revelation 14:13

As we celebrate this Father's Day, may every father be reminded that their role is sacred. In their hands, hearts, and voices, they carry the echoes of God's own fatherly love, a love that is patient, kind, strong, and enduring.

To every father, grandfather, godfather, and stepfather:

Thank you. You are a blessing. You are needed. And you are deeply loved.

And to those fathers who now rest in God's eternal light:

We remember you. We love you. We carry you with us, always.

Happy Father's Day.

While we honor the fathers in our lives, we also lift our hearts in gratitude to the One is Father to us all.
Amen.

Der Mashdots