



YETTEM ԵՊԵՄ

Հրատարակութիւն Եղեմի Ս. Աստուածածին Հայաստանեայց Եկեղեցւոյ

A Publication of St. Mary Armenian Church Yettem, California

Rev. Fr. Mashdots Keshishian, Parish Priest

March 2025

Getting Ready for Great Lent: A Time to Grow Closer to God

We are about to begin the forty-day journey of Great Lent, a time that will help us grow closer to God through prayer, fasting, and kindness. This is a special season when we take a step back from our busy lives and focus on what truly matters, our faith, our hearts, and our relationship with God. It is not always an easy journey, but it is a beautiful one, filled with opportunities to become better, stronger, and more loving.

Fasting: Learning Self-Control

During Lent, we will fast by giving up certain foods, but fasting is about more than just food. It is about learning self-control and focusing on God rather than our own desires. It is a time to practice patience, to speak kindly, and to avoid anger and selfishness.

When we fast, we remember that our true hunger is for God's presence in our lives. We set aside things that distract us so that we can open our hearts to Him.

Prayer: Spending Time with God

Lent is also a time to pray more. Prayer is how we talk to God, share our worries, and thank Him for His blessings. It is also a time to listen, to sit in silence, and to feel His peace in our hearts.

We can pray in many ways, by reading the Bible, attending church services, or simply speaking to God throughout the day. What matters most is that we pray with an open and sincere heart.

Kindness: Helping Others

Lent is not just about what we give up, but also about what we give to others. It is a time to be kind, to help those in need, and to show love to everyone around us. Even small acts of kindness, a smile, a kind word, or helping someone, can make a big difference.

Jesus teaches us to love and care for others, especially those who are struggling. When we give to others, we share God's love with the world.

Repentance: Returning to God

Lent is a time to look at our lives and ask, "How can I be closer to God?" We all make mistakes, but God is always ready to forgive us when we turn to Him with a sincere heart. Repentance means saying sorry, changing our ways, and asking for God's help to do better. When we confess our sins and ask for His forgiveness, He fills our hearts with peace and gives us the strength to grow in faith. (Continued on the back page)

Parish Notes

CONDOLENCES

On behalf of our St. Mary Parish family, we wish to extend our deepest sympathy to Karon Penny and family, Sharon and John Kaprielian and family, Carrie Margosian and family, and Rose Marie Margosian and family on the passing of **Lucille Boudakian Margosian**. Lucille passed away on February 3rd. The funeral service was held at St. Mary Yettem on Wednesday, February 19th. Following the service, there was a burial at the Visalia Cemetery and a Hokejosh at the Visalia Convention Center.

Also, on behalf of our St. Mary Parish family, we wish to extend our deepest sympathy to Kelly and Ed Derderian and family on the passing of Kelly's mother, **Lucille Franzen** on February 11, 2025. Lucille was living with Kelly and Ed in Tullahoma, Tennessee. No services are being held locally.

Also, on behalf of our St. Mary Parish family, we wish to extend our deepest sympathy to Aresa Toukdarian Russell, Karen Toukdarian Waln, and Richard Toukdarian and Families on the passing of **Alice Akizian Toukdarian**. She passed on January 27th. Alice is the daughter of Anetza and Neshan Akizian. A graveside service was held on Monday, February 24th at the Forest Lawn Hollywood Cemetery.

Also, on behalf of our St. Mary Parish family, we wish to extend our deepest sympathy to **The Bobby Reyes Family**. Bobby passed on February 16th. He is the younger brother to Sandra Kizirian. Currently, there is no service scheduled. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Reyes and Kizirian families.

Our thoughts and prayers are with these families.

ALTAR FLOWERS

February 16th

Lilit and Sargon Benjamin

in memory of Albert Nahapetyan,
Benjamin, Karagashyan, Gyurjyan, Hakobyan,
Mirijanyan, Papikyan, and Nahapetyan,
old and new families

HOKEHANKIST DONATIONS

February 16th

For Repose of Reba Ananian's Soul:

Julie Bair and Shari Ananian

HOKEHANKIST REQUESTS

February 9th

Very Rev. Fr. Anania Koujanian

February 16th

Albert Nahapetyan,

one year after his passing,

**Benjamin, Karagashyan, Gyurjyan, Hakobyan,
Mirijanyan, Papikyan, and Nahapetyan,**
old and new families

February 16th

Reba Ananian

seven years after her passing,

requested by Julie Bair and Shari Ananian

SCHEDULED MARCH HOKEHANKISTS

March 2nd

Sark Davidian, Jr.

forty days after his passing,

requested by

The Davidian and Ogata Families

March 23rd

Lucille Margosian

forty days after her passing and her 93rd birthday,

requested by Karon Penny and family, Sharon

and John Kaprielian and family, and

Carrie Margosian and family

THANK YOU

Thank you to Charlie Ananian for taking care of the church yard, keeping it clean, trimming bushes, and making it easy to walk on the south and north sides.

Grateful to Judy Skaff and Tina Peters for their care and effort in keeping the church well-maintained.

Also, thank you to Lilit Benjamin for making and donating the cake for the Christmas luncheon.

LADIES SOCIETY

Thank you to the Ladies Society executive board and members for organizing the showing of the movie "Indiana Jones and the Last Crusades" on Sunday, February 23rd.

MISCELLANEOUS DONATIONS

Charles and Lori Sarabian

in honor of Renee Ananian's birthday

Ben and Ann Iskenderian

LADIES SOCIETY NEWS

In March, we kickoff our "I am thankful for..." fundraiser. For each person, place, or thing you are thankful for, a pinwheel will decorate our church yard, and your message of thanks will be published in the church's monthly newsletter for a small donation. A donation of \$100 yields one large pinwheel. A donation of \$20 yields one small pinwheel or \$100 for 6 small pinwheels. The fundraiser begins March 1 and runs through April 13. With each message of thankfulness, we acknowledge God's abundant blessings in our lives. Don't be shy about expressing your blessings. We want to see our church yard to blossom with pinwheels! See enclosed flier for details.

Ladies Society invites you to join us for the production of Steel Magnolias on March 15, 7:30 PM at the Ice House Theater. All are invited. For more information contact Debbie Sheklian at 559-733-4417 or 559-799- 8041.

Sadly, we lost one of our matriarchs, Lucille Boudakian Margosian. Lucille joined Ladies Society in 1963. For 62 years, she served willingly and without hesitation. Her dedication is an inspiration to us all. I personally will miss her. The advice she gave me, her enthusiasm, and her true love for our organization and our church helped guide me through my tenure as chairman. Our condolences to the Margosian and Boudakian families.

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

BIBLE STUDY

The next bible study is Tuesday, March 4th at 6:30 PM via Zoom. Please contact Fr. Mashdots at the church office if you have any questions.

SOUPER SUPPERS

Souper Suppers will be held on **Wednesday, March 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th & April 2nd & 9th**. Soup will be served at **5:30 PM** followed by a **6:00 PM Lenten Service** in the church. All are invited to attend. (See flyer)

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.

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

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

PARISH COUNCIL

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

RAFFLE

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.

SAVE THE DATES

Palm Sunday Bake Sale – April 13th

Mother's Day Fellowship – May 5th (one week before Mother's Day) in the Majarian Hall.

We look forward to your participation!



Donating is easy. Pick-up is free. It's a win for you and a win for our church! For more information, call Linda Farsakian-Wall at 559-786-1419 or email linda.hyewall@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 email St. Mary Parish Council Chair Judy Skaff at judy@thebelmontgroup.com or text/call (559) 799-1198.

ST. MARY ARMENIAN CHURCH

March 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 150 Fathers of the Holy Council of Constantinople (A.D. 381)
2 Great Barekendan	3 First Day of Lent	4 Bible Study via Zoom at 6:30 PM	5 Souper Supper at 5:30 PM Lenten Service at 6:00 PM	6	7	8 St. Theodore the Warrior The Ladies Society meeting at 11:30 AM in the Majarian Hall
9 Daylight Savings Time Begins 2 nd Sunday of the Lent (Expulsion) Sunday School Children's Sermon	10	11	12 Souper Supper at 5:30 PM Lenten Service at 6:00 PM	13	14	15 St. Cyril Patriarch of Jerusalem
16 3 rd Sunday of the Lent (Prodigal Son) The Parish Council meeting after church services in the Majarian Hall	17	18 The Ways & Means Committee meeting via Zoom at 6:30 PM	19 Souper Supper at 5:30 PM Lenten Service at 6:00 PM	20	21	22 St. John Patriarch of Jerusalem
23 4 th Sunday of the Lent (Steward) Sunday School Ladies Society Meechink Lunch after church services	24	25	26 Median day of Lent Souper Supper at 5:30 PM Lenten Service at 6:00 PM	27	28	29 Forty Martyrs of Sebastia
30 5 th Sunday of the Lent (Judge)	31					

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



INSTALLATION OF NEW PARISH COUNCIL OFFICERS 2025

Parish Council (left to right) – Tina Peters, Treasurer; Annie Davidian, Vice Chair; Mike Tamouzian, Advisor; Sandra Vartanian, Advisor; Rev. Fr. Mashdots Keshishian, Priest; Judy Skaff, Chair; Julie Poochigian, Advisor; Tracy Valencia, Secretary

Parish Assembly – Dn. Alan Farsakian, Chair; Adrienne Poochigian, Vice Chair; Laurie Menendian, Secretary

Diocesan Delegates – Margie L. Davidian; Debbie Sheklian; Janice McWilliams, Alternate; Shirley Ouzounian, Alternate

Ladies Society – Linda Farsakian-Wall, Chair; Donna Venturella, Vice Chair; Janel Zerounian, Rec. Secretary; Margie A. Davidian, Corr. Secretary; Julie Poochigian, Treasurer; Michelle Ananian, Advisor; Renee Ananian, Advisor

Ladies Society Delegates – Linda Farsakian-Wall; Mari Louise Menendian; Judy Skaff; Janice McWilliams

Sunday School – Adrienne Poochigian, Superintendent; Ani Valencia, Teacher, Margie A. Davidian, Advisor-Music; Annie Davidian, Advisor-Special Programs Coordinator; Tina Maleksarkessians, Advisor-Armenian Language

Ways and Means Committee – Margie L. Davidian, Co-Chair; Judy Skaff, Co-Chair; Debbie Sheklian, Rec. Secretary; Tina Peters, Treasurer

Yettem Social Hyes – Brook Lopez, Co-Chair; Alysse Hovannisian, Co-Chair; Lynn Skaff, Treasurer; Davy Vartanian, Advisor; Yn. Maral Khanjian, Advisor

Auditing Committee – Margie A. Davidian; Davy Vartanian; Debra Agnew



Join us in our **Lenten Journey** leading up to the Resurrection of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

✝ Souper Supper

5:30pm

A warm and nourishing Lenten soup, generously sponsored by a parishioner, as we come together in fellowship during this sacred season. ✝

✝ Evening Service

6:00pm

Special prayers and hymns to help us grow spiritually and prepare for Easter. ✝

Every
Wednesday



March 5
March 12
March 19
March 26
April 2
April 9



LENTEN LUNCH

“Meechink”

Sponsored by

St. Mary Yettem Ladies Society

Sunday, March 23, 2025

following church services

MENU FEATURES:

**vospov kufta (lentil kufta), hearty winter vegetable soup,
eech (Lenten kheyma), potato piaz, green salad, bread, dessert**

Donations are appreciated

For reservations call

**Sonya at the church office - 559-528-6892
or email - lunch@stmaryyettem.org**

***The food is delicious, the fellowship is even better!!
Join in on this Yettem tradition!!!***

St. Mary Yettem Ladies Society

I am thankful for . . .

Pinwheel Fundraiser

Gratitude is a prayer of the heart. As we give thanks, we acknowledge God's abundant blessings in our lives. Let your pinwheel be a symbol of your thankfulness, a reminder that "every good gift comes from above." (James 1:17)



Let the church yard bloom with pinwheels. Express your thankfulness with one or more pinwheel(s), and your message. Your message will be printed in the monthly church newsletter.

One large pinwheel is a donation of \$100. Smaller pinwheels are a donation of \$20 for one pinwheel or 6 pinwheels for \$100.

.....

Name _____

Address _____

Enclosed is my \$ _____ check for _____ large pinwheel(s); _____ smaller pinwheel(s)

I am thankful for _____

Please make your check payable to St. Mary Ladies Society.

Mail check & form to Ladies Society, St. Mary Armenian Church, P.O. Box 367, Yettem, CA 93670

Deadline for your donation is April 13, 2025



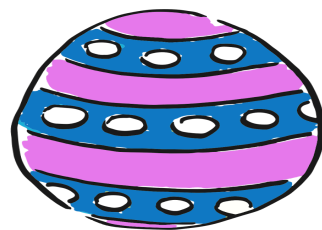
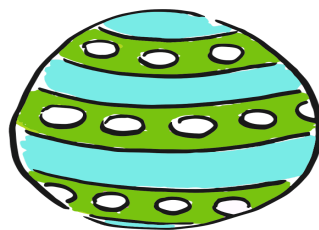
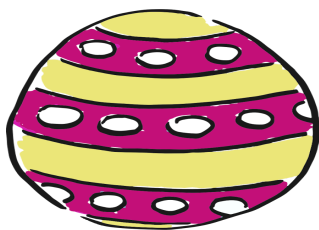
Join our Sunday School for a Joyful Easter Egg Hunt!

Date: Easter Sunday
Time: After Church Services

Children of all ages are invited to hunt eggs, enjoy treats, and celebrate the joy of Easter together.

We can't wait to see you there!

For more information, contact Adrienne Poochigian at 559-679-8452





St. Mary Armenian Church of Yettem

Easter Luncheon

Sunday, April 20, 2025

Beef Kebab

**Salad, Pilaf, Green Beans, Cheese Borag,
Armenian Bread, Dessert and Beverages**

Adults: \$25 per adult

Children 10 and under: \$15 per child

Reservations Requested by Wednesday, April 16

Call the Church Office—(559) 528-6892 -or-

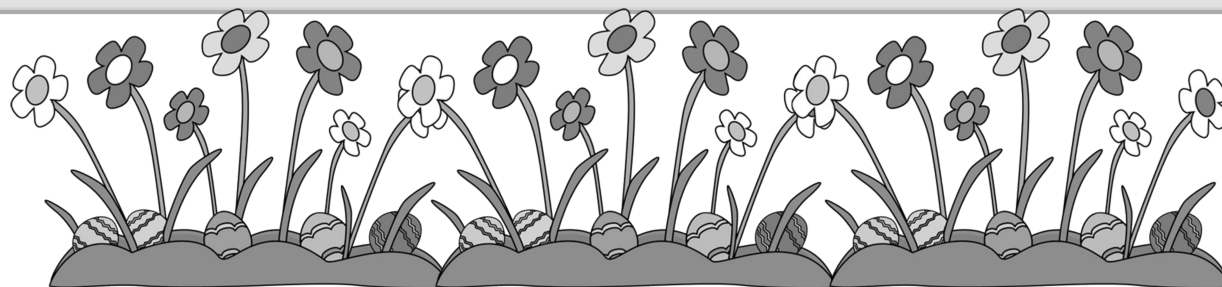
E-mail—lunches@stmaryyettem.org

Tricky Tray Raffle

“Fun and Useful” items

\$15 for 26 tickets

**If you would like to donate a basket(s) or any item(s)
please bring your donation on Easter Sunday**



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 YettemChurch

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 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 March 2025 Events & Meetings

Bible Study Class - Tuesday, March 4 – 6:30pm (via Zoom)

Ladies Society Meeting - Saturday, March 8 - 11:30am (Church Hall)

Sunday School – Sunday, March 9 & 23 - 11:00am (Classroom)

Souper Suppers & Lenten Services – Wednesday, March 5, 12, 19, 26 – 5:30 (Hall) & 6:00 (Church)

Parish Council Meeting - Sunday, March 16 – (Church Hall Conference Room)

Ways and Means Committee Meeting – Tuesday, March 18 – 6:30pm (via Zoom)

Ladies Society Lenten Lunch “Meechink” – Sunday, March 23 (Church Hall)

(Continued from the front page)

The Joy of Easter Awaits

Even though Lent is a season of fasting and reflection, it is also filled with hope. At the end of this journey, we will celebrate the greatest joy, the Resurrection of Christ! His victory over death reminds us that no matter what struggles we face, God's love and light are stronger.

As we prepare for Lent, let us open our hearts, commit to prayer, practice kindness, and seek God in all we do. May this season be a time of renewal and blessing, leading us closer to the joy of Easter.

"Return to Me with all your heart." (Joel 2:12)

The Strength of Community, Walking Together in Faith

As we enter this season of Lent, let us remember that we do not walk this journey alone. Lent is not just a personal journey, but a communal one. It is a time for us to come together as a Church, as a family of believers, to support and encourage one another in our spiritual growth. We are all striving toward the same goal, deeper faith and a closer relationship with God.

Throughout Lent, we can draw strength from one another's prayers and kindness. When we gather for worship, for Bible study, or for acts of service, we help to lift each other up. Sometimes, we may struggle to stay focused or may feel weak, but the support of our brothers and sisters in Christ can help us keep going.

Let this Lent be a time when we come together in love, care, and support, lifting up each other's burdens and sharing in the joy of our shared faith. When we walk together in faith, we find strength in the unity of our community, and together, we can experience the transformative power of God's love in our lives.

Let us join in the Sunrise, Peace and Rest services during Lent offering moments of reflection, peace and spiritual renewal, guiding us closer God preparing our hearts for the joy of Easter.

"For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I with them." (Matthew 18:20)

May God bless us all as we begin this sacred journey of Great Lent! Also, may the strength of our community carry us through this Lenten season and lead us all to the joy of Easter!

Der Mashdots Keshishian