

# Unit Two\* God & Me Together

## Our Special Day\* Name Days



### We Speak to God

Dear Heavenly Father, you created all the creatures of the world and helped Adam give them names. You knew us even before we were born. Thank you, God, for the gift of names! +Hanoon Hor, yev Vortvo, yev Hokvooyn Srpo. Amen.

### Let's Talk

Your parents carefully chose a name for you. It might be the name of a saint. It might be the name of your great-grandfather or grandmother or a favorite aunt or uncle. Perhaps your parents liked a particular name, and they wanted you to have it.

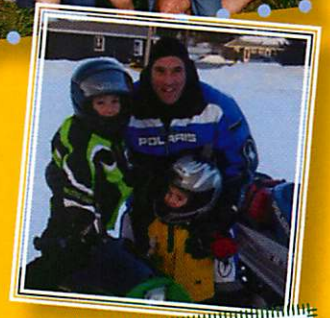
It is **your** name. “*May you grow old with it,*” say the words of an Armenian blessing (anoonovut dzeranas).

My name is \_\_\_\_\_

*I am a child of God.*

Ask your parents about your name. How did they choose it?

What does it mean?



# Listen to This



Many years ago, there were no calendars like the ones we use today. People used the Armenian Church calendar to remember special events in their lives. If a baby was born near the feast day of St. Vartan, the parents would choose a name from the list of names in the Armenian Church calendar for the feast day of Vartanantz. Possible names for the baby might be Khoren, Ardag, Vartan, Dajad, Vahan, Arsen or Karekin. These were all names of people who are connected with that day.



Trick question: What name might be special to the feast day of St. Stephen? (December 24)  
Yes! Stephen!

# God Speaks to Us

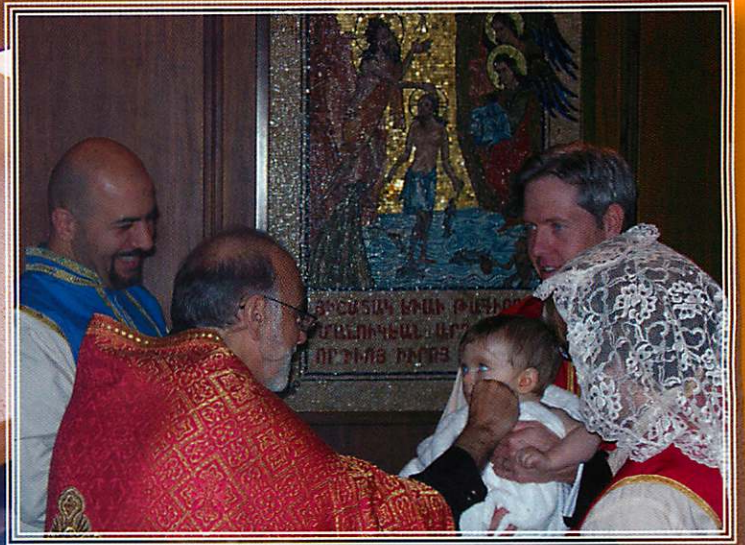
So the Lord took some soil and made animals and birds. He brought them to the man to see what names he would give each of them. Then the man named the tame animals and the birds and the wild animals. That's how they got their names.

*Genesis 2:19-20*



# We Learn About God

Through Baptism and Chrismation, we become children of God and members of our church family. We are blessed, and our names are blessed. Our name day celebrations are a way we thank God for his blessings which we enjoy every day of our lives.



## Hearts and Hands

Anoonovut Dzeranas

Անունովդ ծերանաս





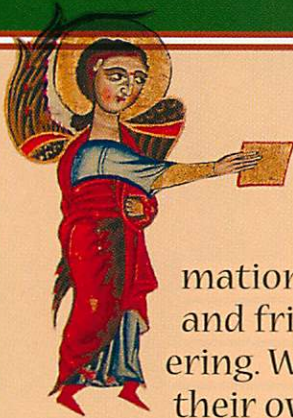
## Our Armenian Way

In Armenia and other places, the family and relatives of the child celebrating his or her name day will attend church services and then gather for a family party. The party is a celebration of thanksgiving. Fruits and nuts are served as well as other treats. Oranges with candles burning in them are brought to the person whose name day it is, and sharagans and church songs are also sung.

How do you celebrate *your* birthday?

All names are special. If your name is not connected with a particular feast, then it is celebrated on the feast of All Saints Day in November or on Vartanantz.

## For My Family



### Sharing Our Faith

The children learned today how special their names are and how they were blessed, by name, at their baptism and christening. In the Armenian tradition, Name Days are celebrated by family and friends -- first, by a visit to church and then home for a family gathering. We talked about the meaning of names and the children made their own name plate that went up on a display board.

Your child may be full of questions about his or her name.

### Living Our Faith

1. Tell your child how a name was chosen for him or her. This might be an opportunity to hear stories about the special person in his life for whom he might have been named.
2. With your child, make a list of a few questions about names that could be used to "interview" grandparents or other relatives. These could be simple: "Who named you? Why did you get this name? What does it mean? Do you like your name?" Bring the interview answers to your child's teacher.
3. As part of the evening prayer, suggest that your child pray for the children of the world, asking God to bless and keep them. Remind your child that we are all a part of God's family.