

Holy Days and Holidays: The Church Year



Pray Together

Hanoon flor, yev Vortvo, yev Hlokvooyn Surpo, Amen. Dear Lord, please help us to understand the beautiful cycle of holy feasts and fasts that make up the church year. Help us to learn about the life and work of Jesus, and the lives of our spiritual ancestors so we may gain wisdom and strength and through them, grow closer to you. Amen.

Chapter Checkup

Answer the following questions by writing "true" or "false" in the space provided.

1. The Book of Psalms is located in the New Testament. _____
2. The Psalms are the foundation of prayer and worship only for the Christian faith. _____
3. Originally, the Psalms were usually set to music. _____
4. The Psalms were all written by the same person. _____
5. The Psalms are included in the Divine Liturgy of the Armenian Church. _____

Faith Word
Donatzouytz

Church calendar
of feasts

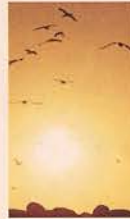
Seasons of Worship

What is your favorite season?

What special things do you do in each of the seasons? Describe them in the space provided.



Winter _____



Summer _____



Spring _____



Fall _____

Our Armenian Way

Like you, the Armenian Church has special things that are done at certain times of the year. Until fairly recently, everyday life was closely linked to the feast of the church. Long ago, people frequently spent their entire lives in the same town. They seldom traveled more than a few miles from the home in which they were born. Their activities centered on the church, and together with their neighbors, they fasted and celebrated together according to the church calendar.

Today, we do not live our whole lives in the same town where we are born. We travel and move much more often than in earlier times, and modern transportation allows us to travel far distances to school, work, and even church. This mobile lifestyle makes it much harder to stay in touch with the ancient rhythms of our church year.

- Most of us have some non-church calendar hanging up in our homes. What kinds of days does the calendar note?

What meaning does the Armenian Church calendar have for you? If you know the special days of the church calendar and when they occur, you will



better understand what's going on in church. Special days of the church also help us remember events in the life of Jesus and the saintly people who followed him. Our Armenian Church feasts and commemorations remind us of the saving actions of our Lord. We think about the miracles Jesus performed, and His death and resurrection. We are reminded of the sacrifices made by so many of our people for their Christian faith. We also strengthen each other's faith and our Christian fellowship when we pray about, celebrate and meditate upon shared events.

- Using the Armenian Church calendar, locate your birthday.
- What are the Bible readings listed for that day?
- Read the verses posted. What is each about?

FAMILY FOCUS: For Parents

Lesson Roundup

In today's session your son or daughter learned about the Armenian Church calendar. The students read that in earlier

times the rhythms of people's everyday lives were closely linked to the seasons of the church. Everyone had a chance to look through and use an Armenian Church calendar, finding their birthdays, looking up the Bible readings, and locating and discussing other church feasts.

Family Faith Activity

1. Put up a copy of the church calendar in your home. 2. Compare the holidays marked on a secular calendar with those of the Armenian Church calendar. As a family, discover which ones overlap. 3. Look up family birthdays and anniversaries on the church calendar. Read the Bible readings. 4. Select one feast day a month to learn more about.

A Parent's Promise

Yes, I read the Lesson Roundup ____ and tried at least one activity as a family ____.

Signed _____