

We Join the Church with Baptism



WE PRAY TOGETHER



Hanoon Hor, yev Vortvo, yev Hokvooyn Srpo.

Dear Jesus, through baptism, we became a part of your family. We pray that we will always make choices that please you. Amen.

OUR LIFE TOGETHER



Harout's Sunday School class met Der Hayr in the baptistry after church. Over the baptismal font, there was a painting. Der Hayr explained that this painting showed Jesus being baptized by someone. Who? The children raised their hands to answer. "John the Baptist," they shouted.

Der Hayr also showed them a silver dove in which holy oil is kept. It is called Holy Muron. When he tipped the dove forward, some of the oil came out of its beak. "Holy Oil is made every seven years in Armenia at Holy Etchmiadzin. It is made from the oil of many flowers, and always a little bit of the old muron is put in with the new. We use the Holy Oil to bless the baby after it is baptized—the forehead, eyes, ears, nostrils, mouth, hands, heart, back and feet."

Harout remembered his sister's baptism, and he remembered what Der Hayr had said, "When you are baptized, you become a part of God's family."

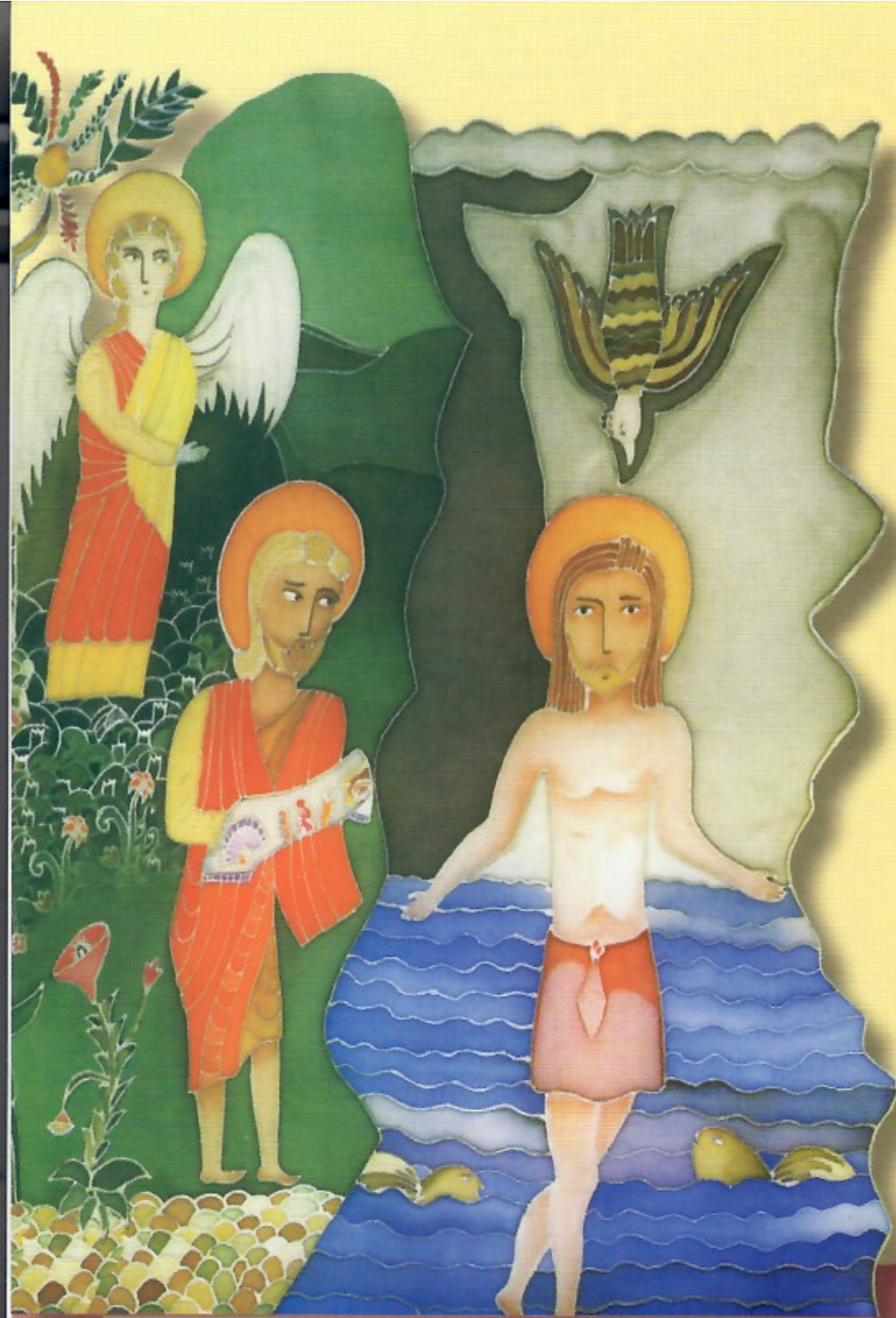
GOD'S WORD TO US

John the Baptist saw Jesus walking toward him. He thought, "Here is the Lamb of God. He has come to take away the sins of the world."

John said to Jesus, "I come to baptize you with water." After the baptism, the Holy Spirit, in the form of a dove, came down from heaven and appeared over Jesus' head. God's voice could be heard saying, "This is my Son. I am pleased with him."

John said, "Now I know that this is the Son of God."

John 1:29-34



WE LEARN ABOUT GOD

Jesus' baptism was sealed by the Holy Spirit. Your baptism was also sealed by the Holy Spirit when you were blessed with Holy Oil. This blessing makes you strong, strong in making choices. Everyone who was present at your baptism prayed to God to help you make good choices in your life.

We can make good choices in God's name:



We can attend Sunday School.

We can be patient with one another.

We can be kind to one another.

We can take care of each other.

We can... what else can we do?

OUR ARMENIAN WAY

Chrismation (Troshm)

To bless and seal the nine parts of the baby, the priest pours some of the Holy Oil in the palm of his hand, and he begins by blessing the forehead, saying that this blessing is a gift from God. Each part is blessed with a special prayer:

The eyes – see the goodness of all things.

The ears – always hear the words of God.

The nostrils – have a sweet life.

The mouth – never speak unpleasant words.

The hands – use your hands to do good works.

The heart – always remain pure.

The back – be a shield to protect the baby.

The feet – always walk on the path chosen by God.

Then the baby is dressed in new white clothes and receives Holy Communion.

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WE CELEBRATE

The dove-shaped container is used during Baptism and at other services. It contains Holy Oil called Holy Muron. Holy Muron is made in Holy Etchmiadzin in Armenia every seven years.





FAMILY PAGE

SHARING OUR FAITH

Today the children learned about the Chrismation portion of the Sacrament of Baptism. After the baptism, nine parts of the baby's body are blessed – forehead, eyes, ears, nostrils, mouth, hands, heart, back and feet - with special prayers for each part. A dove-shaped container holds the Holy Oil (Holy Muron) which is used during this blessing. The dove, representing the Holy Spirit, can be found in many places in an Armenian Church.



LIVING OUR FAITH

The blessing or Chrismation makes the baby spiritually strong. For example, it is hoped that the blessing of the hands will encourage the use of the hands to do good works.

Encourage your child to:

1. Tell you the story of Jesus' baptism using the dove that he/she made.
2. Think of ways to help an elderly or ill neighbor. Make a list together.

