

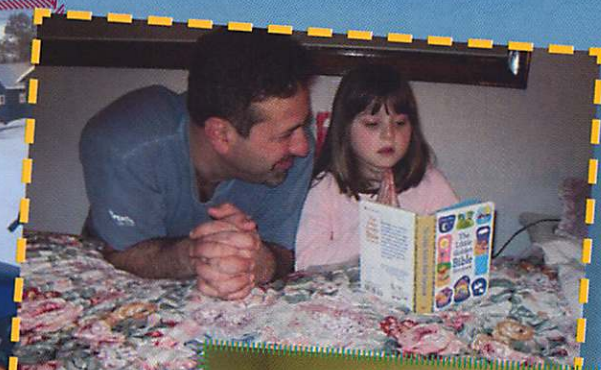
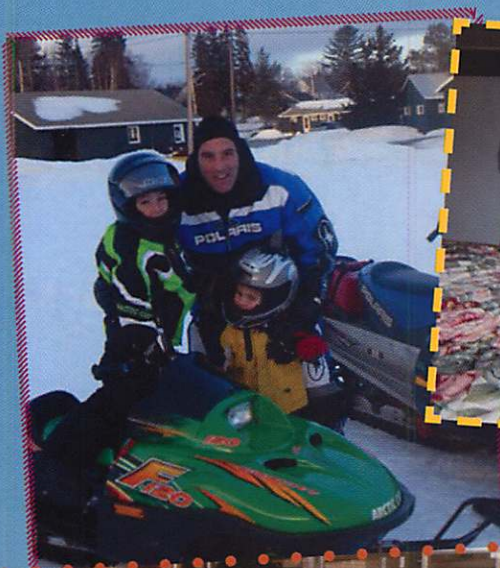
Unit Four* The Church Family* Being Together *Jesus is With Us at Church*



We Speak to God

Dear Father in heaven, help us be loving members of our families. Bless them and our church family, too. Help us see you in our homes and here at church where you are present in all the loving things we do. +Hanoon Hor yev Vortvo yev Hokvooyn Srpo. Amen.

Let's Talk



What are some things I do with my family?



What are some things I do with my church family?



Listen to This

When we are in church...

We remember the birth and the life of Jesus Christ.

We celebrate special holidays, called feast days.

We pray and sing.

We listen to stories.



God Speaks to Us

Jesus said, “Whenever two or three of you come together in my name, I am there with you.”

Matthew 18:20

We Learn About God

Kohar’s grandmother, Margaret, lived with Kohar and her family. Kohar loved her grandmother very much. She watched her each evening as she went quietly to her room to pray. When she finished her prayers, she would come into the living room.

One evening, Kohar asked, “Medz Mama, you pray at home. Isn’t that like saying your prayers in church? Why do you want to go to church every Sunday?”

“My sweet child, when we go to church we enter God’s house with many other people. We become the church family. God is there with us. We sing together, and we pray. When the Kiss of Peace is passed from person to person, we become one family. We are God’s family. We are God’s family. Do you understand now, hokees, why I want to be in church every Sunday?”

“I understand, Medz Mama,” she answered. Kohar smiled at her grandmother and kissed her.



Our Armenian Way

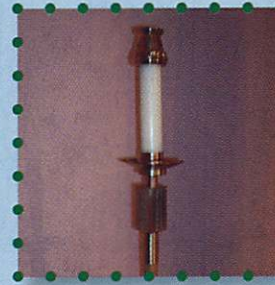
These are on or near the Holy Altar:



The chalice (sugih) from which the priest gives Holy Communion to the people. At certain times, it is covered with a special cloth.



An object that looks like the sun. It is called Jajanch. In English, we call it the "Radiance." It is an ornament on the altar, representing the blessings that come from holy things.



A candlestick (ashdanak). The light from these candles remind us of how Jesus brings light to the whole world.



The wafer (nushkhar) is prepared by the priest and is used during Holy Communion. On it is pictured the crucifix, wheat, and a cluster of grapes.



A fan (kushotz), a disc of silver with a six-winged cherub on both sides and little bells around it. It is fixed on a wooden rod. Fans were originally used to drive flies and other insects away. The cherubs symbolically drive away evil spirits.



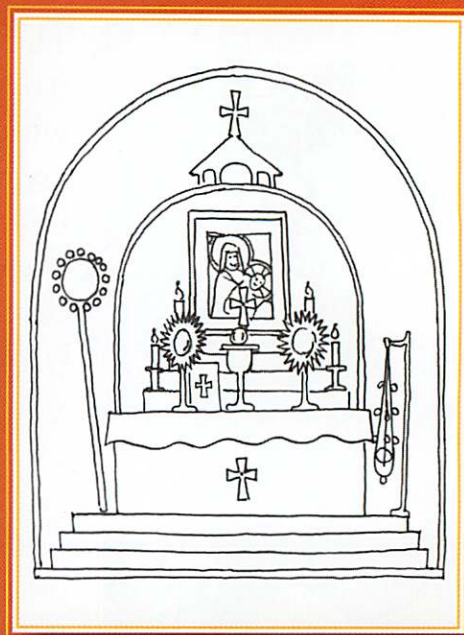
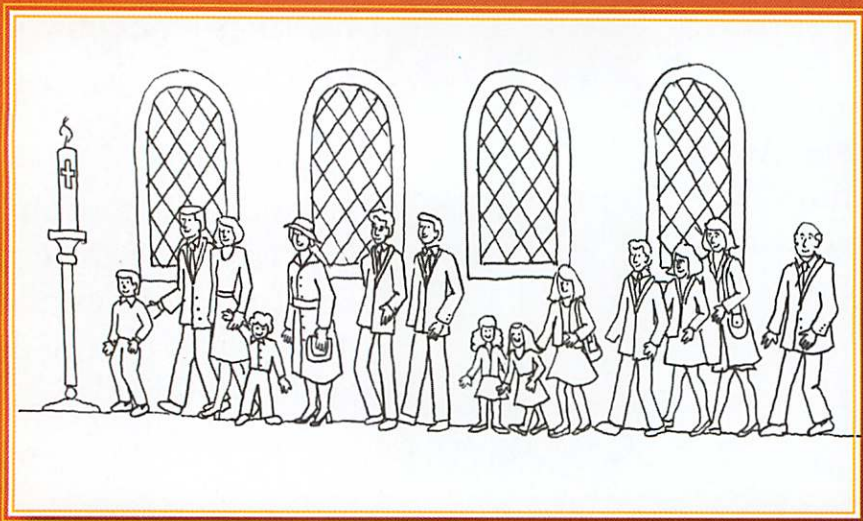
A decorated book with a cross on it. It is the Gospel book (Avedaran). You will see the deacon hold it high in a procession around the altar and then read from it during the Badarak.



A censer (pourvar) is a silver incense burner. It is in the shape of a bowl. Three chains hold the bowl and the fourth one is connected to the top of the lid. The burning incense represents our prayers rising to heaven.

Hearts and Hands

What do we see on the altar?



For My Family



Learning Our Faith

Today's lesson introduced the children to their place in the church as members of the church family. A child asks her grandmother, "Why do you have to attend church services when you can pray at home?" In a loving response, the grandmother talks about the many ways the Liturgy bonds the church family together. "God wants us to be there with him," she explains.

The children also learned about important church vessels.

Living Our Faith

1. As a family attend Badarak together.
2. Light candles and pray together.
3. At home, practice the Kiss of Peace.
4. Make a collage of photos of family events.