

Bless This Table



WE PRAY TOGETHER



Hanoon Hor yev Vortvo yev Hokvooyn Srpo.

Dear God, we are thankful to you for giving us families who love us and for the food to help our bodies grow. Amen.

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

In our prayers, we thank God for the many wonderful things he has given us.

What special gifts has God given to you?

Mothers, fathers, grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins are all members of your family. They love each other and you, especially! Two very special times to be together is when someone in the family has a birthday or at the baptism of a new-born baby.

When is your birthday? How do you celebrate it?

When your family is together, say a prayer of thanks to God for giving you a loving family and food to eat.



GOD'S WORD TO US

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One day, the disciples came to Jesus and said, "It is getting late. The people who came to hear you should go to find a place to sleep and get some food to eat."

Jesus answered, "Please find something for them to eat."

The disciples replied, "But we only have five loaves of

bread and two fish." There were at least five thousand people in the crowd!

Jesus took the five loaves of bread and the two fish. He looked up toward heaven and blessed the food. Then he took the bread and the fish and gave them to his disciples to give to the people.

Everyone ate all they wanted, and there was food left over.

Luke 9:10-17

WE LEARN ABOUT GOD

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In our lives every day, we are reminded of the kindness of Jesus. There are many 'gifts' that he gives us, and we can say thank you to him. What 'gifts' does Jesus give to *you*? How can you thank him?

Can you say thank you in your evening prayer as you go to bed?

Can you light a candle in church to say thank you?

Can you ask someone at home to help you write a prayer of thanks?

Can you stop wherever you are and say quietly, "Thank you, God, for all you do for me?"



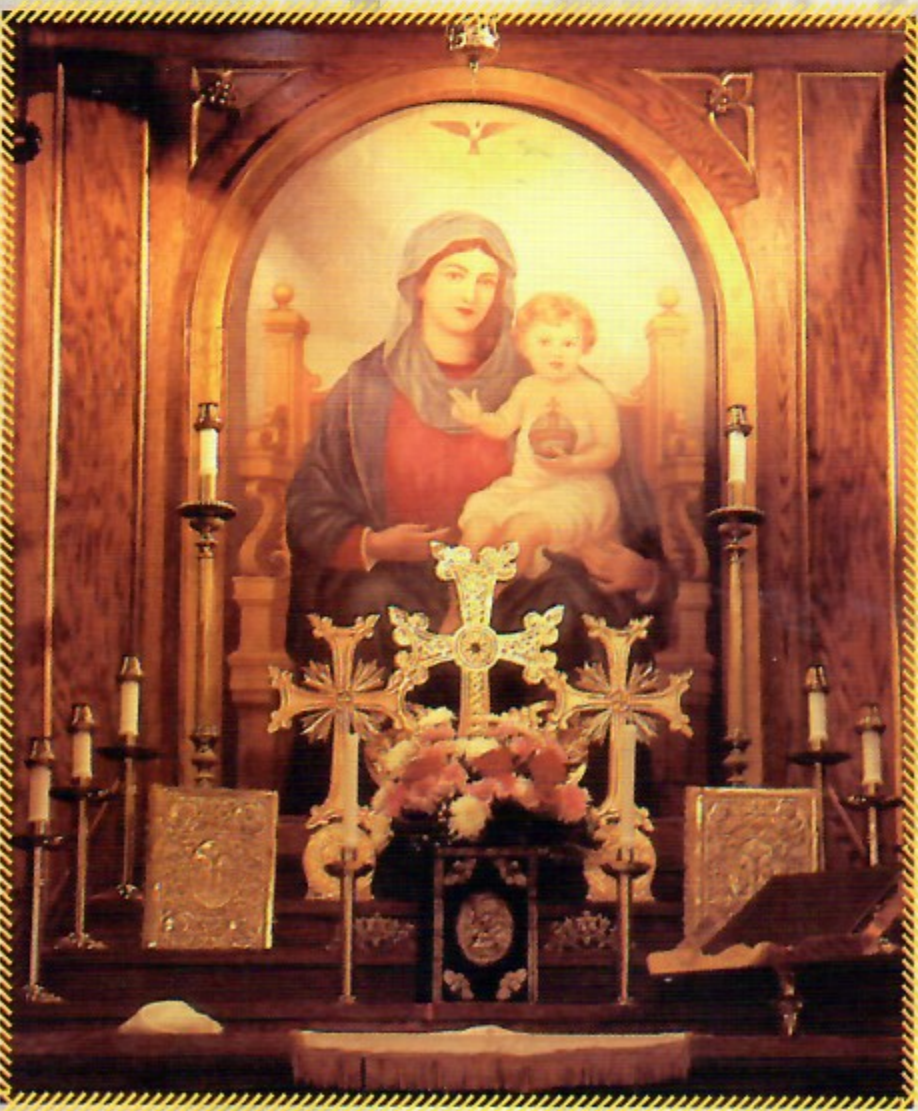
OUR ARMENIAN WAY

In August, when we celebrate the Feast of the Assumption, the priest blesses grapes. At the end of the Badarak, these blessed grapes are given to the people.

The Feast of the Assumption is a special feast day to honor St. Mary, the mother of Jesus.



WE CELEBRATE



Today, you are going to make a place mat to remind you of the miracle of the loaves and the fish.

What can you draw on your place mat to remind you of this miracle?

The place mat will also remind you of the feast day to honor St. Mary, the mother of Jesus.

What can you draw on the place mat to remind you of this feast day?



FAMILY PAGE

SHARING OUR FAITH

Today our theme was giving thanks. We talked about families coming together at various times of the year to share the bonds of family love, to share food, and to give thanks to God for all his gifts.

The children heard two stories about giving thanks. One was the miracle of the loaves and the fish. Jesus blessed the food before giving it to the people. The other was the blessing of the grapes which takes place in August on the Feast of the Assumption (one of the five major feast days of the church). At that time, the priest blesses the grapes before giving them to the congregation.



LIVING OUR FAITH

Give thanks to God for his many gifts, the gifts of family, friends and food.

Choose an activity to do with your child:

1. Ask your child to share with you the story of the miracle of the loaves and fish, using the place mat he/she has made.
2. Recite the *Jashagestzook* prayer together before eating a meal to remember God and his gifts.
3. Help your child make a place mat for each member of your family.
4. For your next family event, help your child make a place card with a cross and the name of each guest on it.
5. Help your child write a prayer of thanks. Display it and say it as a family.
6. Help your child light a candle in church to thank God for his many gifts.