

We Grow in Faith Together



WE PRAY TOGETHER



Hanoon Hor, yev Vortvo, yev Hokvooy'n Srpo.

Dear God, thank you for our families. They bring us to church just like Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the temple. Amen.

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

Helen was a very curious little girl. At home, she would always ask her parents questions. "How does a caterpillar turn into a butterfly? What makes thunder? How does a bird fly?"

Helen liked to go to Sunday School. She would always ask questions. "Why did Jesus wash the feet of his disciples? Did



Jesus like children? Why did Jesus tell so many stories?" The teacher would answer her questions, and Helen would think of more.

One day, Helen's mother visited her Sunday School class. She said to the teacher, "Helen always has questions. I hope she is polite when she asks them."

The teacher answered, "I like it when Helen asks questions. It shows me that she has been listening to me and is thinking about what I have said."

GOD'S WORD TO US



In the time of Jesus, people would go to the Temple to thank God. Eight days after Mary and Joseph's baby was born, he was given the name Jesus. Then on the 40th day, Mary and Joseph presented him to the Temple.

When Jesus was twelve years old, his parents took him to Jerusalem to the Temple for the Passover feast. When the feast was over, they left Jerusalem. They thought Jesus was with the other children. When they could not find him, they returned to Jerusalem and found him in the Temple.

Luke 2:21-52

WE LEARN ABOUT GOD



“Didn’t you know that I would be in my Father’s house?” What did Jesus mean when he said that to his mother? He meant that he was in the house of God, his father’s house, saying his prayers.

There are three stories about Jesus’ early life -- one when he was a baby eight days old, another when he was forty days old and another one when he was twelve years old. These stories tell us that Jesus was raised in a loving family who taught him the ways of worship and prayer in the Temple. Together with other families, Jesus and Mary and Joseph became a community of the faithful.

How is Jesus’ life like your life?

Do you belong to a community of the faithful?

Do you go to church with your family?

OUR ARMENIAN WAY

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When he was just a baby, Jesus was presented to the Temple by his parents. This is remembered by the Armenian Church on the Feast of Dyarnuntarach.

Dyarnuntarach is celebrated every year on February 14.

In the Armenian Church, it is the tradition that newborn babies are brought to the church when they are eight days old up to forty days old. The eighth day and fortieth day are as important to us as they were to families at the time of Jesus.



WE CELEBRATE

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Armenians sometimes celebrate the feast of Dyarnuntarach in an old, traditional way. A pile of wood is made ready in the churchyard. The people leave church with candles to light the woodpile. They gather on the grounds of the church to have fun, and some even try to jump over the burning wood.

At the end of the evening, everyone goes home with a light from the fire, and they try to keep it burning until the next morning.



FAMILY PAGE

SHARING OUR FAITH

Today's lesson was about Jesus' early years. Tradition was very important at that time, and Mary and Joseph raised Jesus in the traditions of their faith. He was named eight days after his birth. When he was forty days old, he was brought to the Temple to be "given" to the Lord. At age twelve, Jesus accompanied Mary and Joseph to the Temple for the Passover feast.

LIVING OUR FAITH

Mary, Joseph and Jesus went to the Temple and worshipped with other families, thus laying the foundation for a community of the faithful. What do Armenian Church families do to be a community of faith?

With your child choose one of the activities below:

1. Attend church together as a family on a regular basis.
2. Participate in church activities.
3. Take Holy Communion as a family.
4. As a family, go up and kiss the Gospel at the end of Badarak.

