

# Sacraments: A Call to Holy Living

## SEVEN AND MORE: AN OVERVIEW

UNIT

3

LESSON  
ONE

### From Our Hearts to God

*Lord, you are our Father and we are your children. You unite us and make us a family. You are there when we celebrate the special moments of our lives because you want to be with us and we grow with your blessing and grace. Amen.*

## MY WORLD

Families share special events, special times. Some of these times are very happy and some are very sad. Some are new beginnings and some are endings. Here are some special times to think about:

- the birth or adoption of a child
- initiation into a special group or club such as Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts
- admitting our mistakes to each other and giving our loving forgiveness
- the sharing of a special holiday meal
- a wedding
- a graduation
- a funeral

We want the people we love most to be with us at our special times and we want God to be with us also. There are seven very important times when we are sure to include God in those events. We call them the **SEVEN SACRAMENTS**. Not everybody has all these seven events happen in their life, but all members of the Armenian Church do experience at least four of them.





## Here is the list of the **SEVEN SACRAMENTS OF THE ARMENIAN CHURCH.**

1. The Sacrament of Baptism – being born again or adopted into God’s family
2. The Sacrament of Chrismation – being marked with holy oil as special to God
3. The Sacrament of Penance – recognizing our sins and asking God’s forgiveness
4. The Sacrament of Holy Communion – Jesus said, *“Eat this bread in remembrance of me. This is my Body. Drink this wine in remembrance of me. This is my Blood.”*

All of us have these first four sacraments. Some of us will have some of the next three.

5. The Sacrament of Holy Matrimony – when two people become one new family
6. The Sacrament of Holy Orders – when a person becomes officially ordained into church service – as an acolyte, deacon, priest, or bishop.
7. The Sacrament of Extreme Unction and Prayers for the Sick – the anointing of a priest who has died and prayers for the sick



## **GOD’S GUIDING WORDS**

Jesus came to the River Jordan where his cousin John (who was called the Baptizer) was baptizing people. Jesus asked John to baptize him. John objected knowing that Jesus did not need to be baptized. But Jesus said, *“For now this is how it should be, because we must do all that God wants us to do.”*

*Matthew 3:13-15*





# Getting Closer to God

Have your parents or a teacher ever asked you, “What happened?” and you told what you saw happen? This is what we call being a **WITNESS**. A witness can tell anyone the truth about what he or she has seen.

We witness in church all the time. We witness to tell the truth about events. At a baptism, we witness that the child became a member of God’s family. At a wedding we witness that two people married and became a new family. At confession time in church, we witness that people are sorry for their sins.

We are members of the Armenian Church. We witness the sacraments. We share in the event by being with

our fellow Christians. It is an important part of being a community of believers. God is present and our Christian family is present at these events. In earlier centuries, and even today in some places, baptisms and weddings take place for everyone to attend, as one big church family. But these are now mostly invitation-only events.

Have you ever witnessed a baptism or wedding? Have you ever seen a person become an acolyte, deacon or priest? Write about one of these experiences:

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## Our Armenian Way

It is the practice of the Armenian Church to baptize babies in their first few months (40 days is the traditional guideline). When a baby is baptized in the Armenian Church, that baby receives the Sacrament of Baptism, the Sacrament of Chrismation, and the Sacrament of Holy Communion! We call these three sacraments together the Sacraments of Initiation. They start the baby in his or her Christian life.

What gift would you give a baby who has just become a Christian? Write two good ideas:

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## Taking a Closer Look

Match the symbol to the sacrament it could represent:

Baptism



Chrismation



Penance



Holy Communion



Marriage



Holy Orders



Extreme Unction/Prayers for the Sick



### RESPONDING IN FAITH

Lord, walk with me through my life. Amen.

# Time to Celebrate

This Is Sacrament Jeopardy!

You will be given an answer to one of these questions.

- What is baptism?
- What is chrismation?
- What is penance?
- What is holy communion?
- What is marriage?
- What is holy orders?
- What is extreme unction or prayers for the sick?

Raise your hand if you know the questions to the answers. For every correct response you will get a sticker. The student with the most correct responses will win a prize.



## FAMILY CORNER

### Sharing Our Faith

Today's lesson introduced our unit on the Seven Sacraments. The children had an opportunity to recall all that they've learned about the sacraments so far and then surveyed basic information about all seven. They participated in two enjoyable games for a further review. Ask your child to share what he or she learned today!

### Living Our Faith

Try one of these activities at home this week:

1. Help your child make a poster of his or her baptism. Title it and add pictures. Write captions for the pictures. Note who the godparents are and other things about this special event. Be sure to put the date of the baptism. Have you still got your child's christening outfit? If so, get it out and let your child see it.
2. Look through your wedding album with your child. Talk about the wedding. Tell your child who your best man (godfather) and maid/matron of honor (godmother) were.