

Jesus Taught Us to Share our Faith

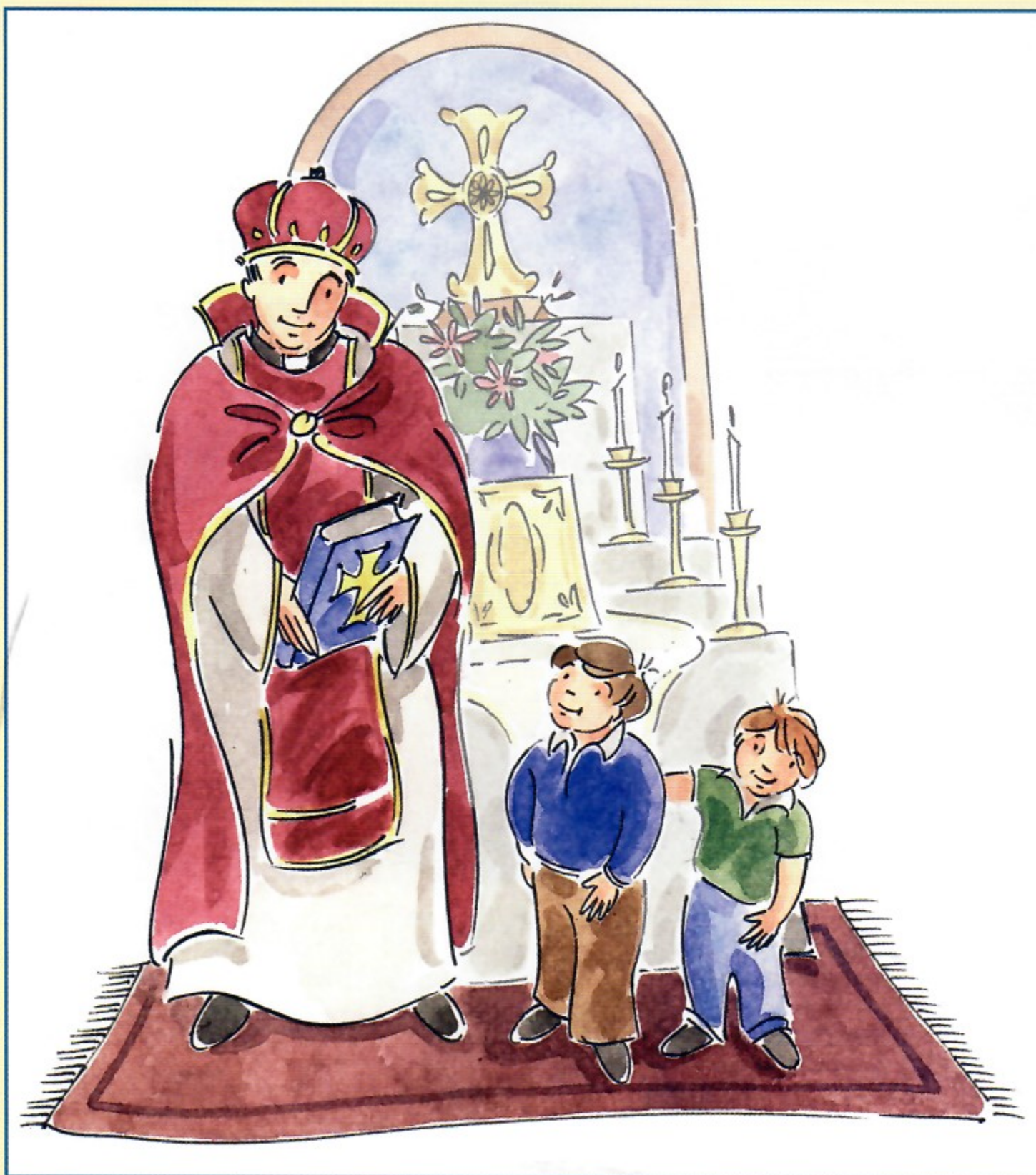


WE PRAY TOGETHER



Hanoon Hor, yev Vortvo, yev Hokvooyn Srpo.

Holy Father, we know you want us to care for others and do good works in your name at church, at school and at home. Amen.



OUR LIFE TOGETHER

Joseph and Haig were very close friends. They were in the same class at school. They played together after school and on the weekends. Their families had cookouts, and sometimes, the boys and their dads would go to a baseball game together.

A few months ago, Joseph had invited Haig to his church. Now Haig wanted to invite Joseph to attend Holy Badarak at his church. Both families agreed it was a wonderful idea. Haig and his family drove to Joseph's

house, and then they drove to church. When they entered, Joseph looked around at the stain-glass windows and the painting on the main altar. He saw the Der Hayr in his vestments. He listened to the choir. Haig's mother explained to him what was happening during the Badarak.

At the end of the service, Joseph watched his friend, Haig, approach Der Hayr to kiss the Holy Gospel.

GOD'S WORD TO US

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After Jesus went to heaven, his disciples were gathered together in a room. Suddenly there was a noise from heaven like the sound of a mighty wind, and fiery tongues appeared over the heads of each of the disciples. The Holy Spirit came to be with them. To their amazement, the disciples began to speak in different languages! Everyone was excited and confused.

Because they could speak different languages, the disciples were sent to many countries to tell the people about God. Two of the disciples, Thaddeus and Bartholomew, were sent to Armenia.

Acts 2:1

WE LEARN ABOUT GOD

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The disciples were sent to many places to share their faith and to welcome people into the family of God. We are all a part of God's family and God wants us to take care of each other.



OUR ARMENIAN WAY



The last part of the Badarak is called The Blessing and Dismissal. After the people recite the prayer, “I will bless the Lord at all times; at all times his praise shall be in my mouth,” the priest gives The Blessing of Dismissal. He says, “May the Holy Spirit bless you. Leave the church in peace, and the Lord be with you all.”

Then the congregation comes forward to kiss the Gospel Book. They leave the church, quietly, remembering the final prayers and the words of the priest.

The Gospel Book is decorated with gold and silver and precious stones.

The beautifully-decorated cover reminds us that inside the book there is also a treasure of a different kind. The treasure is the prayers and stories given to us by God.

WE CELEBRATE

The Gospel Book is called Avedaran in Armenian.

“I will bless the Lord at all times; at all times his praise shall be in my mouth!”

Psalm 34:1





FAMILY PAGE

SHARING OUR FAITH

Today, the children went to church to take an active part in the Last Blessing and Dismissal. We learned a brief but meaningful prayer that is recited at the end of the Badarak – “I will bless the Lord at all times; at all times his praise shall be in my mouth.”

The Bible passage for the day explained the Feast of Pentecost. On that day, the Holy Spirit enabled the disciples to speak in many tongues. This knowledge of languages allowed the disciples to travel to many countries to spread the word of God. Saints Thaddeus and Bartholomew traveled to Armenia to preach the word of God.

LIVING OUR FAITH

The theme of the day’s lesson was Jesus teaching us to share our faith. In keeping with that theme, the children heard a story about two boys, friends, who attended each other’s churches.

With your child, choose one of the following:

1. Learn the psalm verse sung as Badarak is ending: “I will bless the Lord at all times, at all times his praise shall be in mouth.” (Psalm 34:1)
2. As a church family, kiss the Gospel Book at the end of the Badarak.
3. Invite your child’s friend to attend church services with you and your family.

