

# Sacraments: Special Times with God



## Pray Together

Hanoon Hlor, yev Vortvo, yev Hlokvooyn Surpo, Amen. Lord, as we begin our study of the sacraments, help us to always remember how these special times with you reflect the union with you through Jesus Christ.

## Chapter Checkup

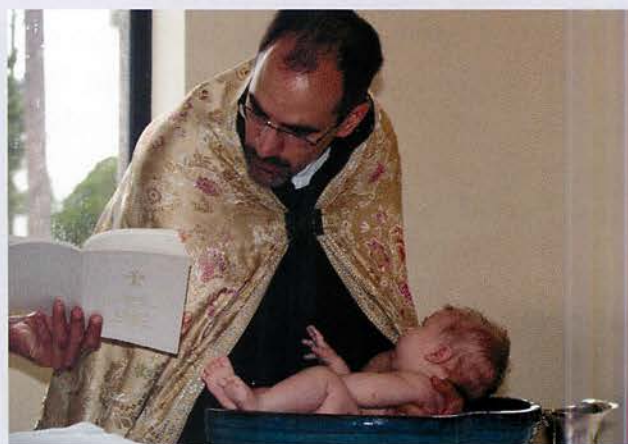
Write “true” or “false” in the space provided.

1. The Ten Commandments appear in the book of \_\_\_\_\_.
2. In the Old Testament, God set the \_\_\_\_\_ apart as his special people.
3. God established \_\_\_\_\_ to keep our bodies and souls safe from sin.
4. A law concerning the life and discipline of the Armenian Church is called a \_\_\_\_\_ law.
5. A commandment is \_\_\_\_\_.

## God’s Road

The word “sacrament” comes from the word for “holy” and is all about how God touches our lives. God is with us all the time. But over the centuries, the Armenian Church has adopted seven official sacraments, those seven special “milestone” sacraments that the church acknowledges through formal rites. On the lines below, list as many of the sacraments as you can from memory:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_





When we reach an important time in our lives, we like to celebrate that time with a special ceremony. Do you remember your graduation from kindergarten or preschool? What was that like? What did you do to mark that event? Have you moved up to a new group in the Boy or Girl Scouts or a sports team? In an activity at school or Armenian School?

Write about a time when you celebrated a special event in your life.

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In the Armenian Church we mark special events in our relationship with God. These events, which we call sacraments, are often called “visible signs of invisible grace,” signs of God’s kingdom. The celebration of the sacraments, with their beautiful prayers and songs, are our way of showing God that we want him to be the center of our lives and that we love being part of his family. They are signs along a spiritual road to God’s heavenly Kingdom.

Read the following Bible passages. Draw a line from the passage on the left to the sacrament it describes.

John 3:5

“Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit.”

Ordination/Holy Orders  
*answering a call to serve God*

John 20:23

“If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them; they are not forgiven.”

Healing of the Sick  
*praying for courage and wholeness*

Mark 6:13

“They drove out many demons and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them.”

Baptism  
*coming out of the water as a child of God and a member of his church*

John 1:32 (hint: in the Armenian Church, this sacrament always occurs at the same time as at least another sacrament)

“Then John gave this testimony: ‘I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him.’”

Marriage  
*a man and a woman become one out of love and the promise to live in Christ*

Matthew 19:6

“So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore, what God has joined together, let man not separate.”

Chrismation  
*sealed with the Holy Spirit*



Mark 14:22

“While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, saying, ‘Take, eat; this is my body.’”

Acts 6:3, 6

“Therefore, Friends, select from among yourselves seven men of good standing, full of the Spirit and of wisdom...they had these men stand before the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.”

Penance

*saying “I’m truly sorry” and vowing to sin no more*

Communion

*sharing in Christ’s very Body and Blood*



### Your Special Walk with God

Which are the sacraments you have already received?

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Which sacraments have you watched others receive?

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Which sacraments would you like to receive in the future? Why?

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## Faith Word

### *Sacrament*

An visible sign of an invisible grace



# Our Armenian Way

## Մաշտոց

The rituals of the seven sacraments and other rituals are collected in a very famous book called the *Mashdotz*. There are actually three such books! The “little” or in Armenian “pokr” *Mashdotz* contains the sacraments that may be performed by a priest. This is probably the most often used. The “mother” (mayr) *Mashdotz* contains those performed by a bishop (such as ordaining a priest or consecrating a church) and the “father” (hayr) *Mashdotz* for those sacraments and blessing services that only a Catholicos can perform (such as consecrating a bishop, or blessing Holy Muron).



## FAMILY FOCUS: For Parents



### Lesson Roundup

Today your child learned that the sacraments are special times with God that show we want him to be the center of our lives and that we are part of his family. The children recalled special events in their own lives, and completed a matching exercise that explored the Scriptural basis for the sacraments. They created a beautiful poster on the sacraments of the Armenian Church which is on display. Please make sure you look at it.

And ask them about the three books that contain all the blessing services of the Armenian Church!

### Family Faith Activity

Try one or all of these:

1. Have each family member recall a time when they felt especially close to God.
2. Discuss a time when you participated in or attended a sacrament together. Who was there? What was special about it? What do you remember about the ceremony itself?
3. Call your godparents and see how they are!

### A Parent's Promise

Yes, I read the Lesson Roundup \_\_\_ and tried at least one activity as a family\_\_\_.

Signed\_\_\_\_\_