

The Feast of the Assumption (*Asdvadzadzin*)

- This is the oldest of feasts associated with St. Mary.
- The Armenian Church celebrates this feast on the Sunday nearest August 15.
- It commemorates the taking up into heaven ("assumption") of the Holy Mother at her death.
- Tradition relates that St. Mary lived another 15 years after our Lord's crucifixion.

St. Bartholomew, the only apostle absent from Jerusalem when St. Mary died, asked to visit her tomb upon his return a short while after she was buried. When the tomb was unsealed, her body was gone and angels were heard singing for three days and three nights.



- The blessing of grapes is associated with this feast day.
- Grapes are the "first fruit" of the harvest, just as St. Mary was the first true apostle and witness of the new covenant as the "mother of God" (Jesus) or *Asdvadzadzin*. Grapes are also made into the wine of holy communion.