

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.