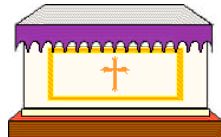


COMMUNION SUNDAY
Holy Badarak (Divine Liturgy)
PART I. PREPARATION

1. Procession Into the Church and Up to the Altar

Led by the candle-bearers and altar servers, the celebrant (priest) enters the sanctuary while the people sing, “Khorhoort Khoreen,” (Profound Mystery). The “mystery” is Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who became a human being in order to fill us personally with his divine blessings, and with eternal life. The Divine Liturgy begins not in the elevated altar space known as the “bema” (khoran), but among the people.



2. Behind the Closed Curtain

While the celebrant and deacon attend to the preparation of the bread and wine for Holy Communion, the other altar servers are busy lighting the altar candles and forming the procession to go around the church. The main reason why the curtain is closed at this point in the Liturgy is so that the people will not be distracted from their prayer and reflection by the liturgical housekeeping, which is taking place at the altar.

