

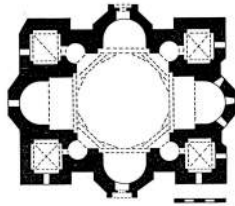


COMMUNION SUNDAYS

“What we SEE Inside the Armenian Church”

Communion Sunday #1 - STRUCTURE OF CHURCH

Cross-shaped Foundation - The foundation of a typical Armenian Church is in the shape of a cross, which symbolizes the salvation of our souls. The Church carries on the salvific mission of her Head, Christ, expressed in His sacrificial life.



16 Foundational Cornerstones - Every Armenian Church has 16 consecrated stones placed in Her foundation. (12 Apostles, 2 Evangelists, since the other two were also Apostles, Apostle Paul and St. Gregory the Illuminator)

4 Pillars - A traditional Armenian Church is built upon 4 pillars that represent four Evangelist: St. Matthew, St. Mark, St. Luke and St. John

Altar Facing East – The Altar of the traditional Armenian Church faces east, as our Church Fathers believe that the Second Coming of Christ our Lord will start from the East.

Altar Curtain - Armenian Church has a large curtain that separates the altar from the nave (central part of the Church). Curtain remains closed during Great Lent.

Baptismal font - is one of the most important objects in the Church as it is the place from which a Christian is born and adopted as a child of God. In the Armenian Church, the font is placed on the northern side of the Church.

Pictures/Icons – Pictures inside the church are anointed and blessed. They are objects of devotion, in front of which the faithful express their reverence with candle, incense, prayer and supplication.

Hanging Vigil Lamps - The Armenian church usually has 12 hanging lamps that represent the 12 disciples of Christ. They are hung in front of altars and pictures in reverence and are used for illumination as well.



Pews – Pews (bench seats) were once unknown in our churches, and were first introduced about a century ago, for the comfort of the worshiper. Only ancient churches are void of pews today.

Chandelier – Chandeliers are used for lighting and are suspended from the ceiling or the arches of churches.

Windows – There are no rules governing windows. Stained glass windows are adopted from western Christianity. In ancient times, churches had fewer and smaller windows or openings which were aptly named *loosamood* (entrance of light); there must be one *loosamood* on the east wall above the sanctuary, and one on the western wall high above the entrance.

