

HOLY CROSS OF VARAK



On the second Sunday after the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross Armenian Apostolic Church celebrated the discovery of the piece of our Lord's Cross on Mount Varak near Lake Van. The piece of the real Cross of the Lord Jesus Christ was hid several centuries ago by St. Hripsime the nun who at the time was hiding from her persecutors.

Tradition has it that a hermit by the name of Thodik saw a vision of a church with 12 pillars on the top of Mount Varak. He saw in the center of the pillars a cross radiating light all around it. This luminous vision descended and stood over the altar of the monastery of Varak accordingly the name the Cross of Varak. It was discovered about 660 A.D.

Catholicos Nerses "The Builder" came to Varak and verified the authenticity and historical details of the relic and proclaimed a special feast day which we celebrate until today.