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MERELOTZ

The day after each of the five major feasts of the Armenian Church—Easter, Transfiguration, Assumption, Exaltation, and Christmas—is called *merelotz* which literally means “for the departed.” Traditionally, Armenians would attend liturgy and the *hokehankisd* or requiem service and then, with their pastor, go to the cemetery where graves of loved ones would be blessed. It was a beautiful way of experiencing the *entire* church, the Church Militant (the living) and the Church Triumphant (the dead). Today, *merelotz* is still conducted, but not as regularly (Memorial Day is a popular occasion for doing so in America).

*Information culled from Saints and Feasts
by Patriarch Torkom Koushagian*



YUGHAKIN



Did you ever wonder what Christmas and Easter “*Yughakin*” donations were? You may have seen a list of these made by fellow parishioners in your church newsletter. In a tradition stretching back to Old Testament times, the faithful would bring olive oil (it had to be pure) to the sanctuary to use in the lamps of the church. In Armenian, these lamps are called *ganteghs*. Today, instead of bringing the oil itself, monetary gifts are made at the two great feasts of Christmas and Easter. These gifts are called *yughakin* from the words for “oil”—*yugh*, and “price”—*kin*.

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