

founder, claimed to find plates written by the angel Moroni which he translated as the Book of Mormon. (The Christian Church only accepts the Bible as Scripture.)

- God the Father and God the Son are both physical beings. The Holy Spirit is not a physical being but a spiritual one (The Christian Church believes in the Holy Trinity, three persons in one Godhead, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, co-equal and co-eternal.)

- The birth of Jesus was the product of the physical union of the Father God and the Virgin Mary. (We believe that Jesus, the second Person of the Holy Trinity, became human, being conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit.)

- When Christ comes again, His headquarters will be in Independence, Mo. (We believe that when He comes again in His glory, He will sit on His glorious throne in judgment, in Heaven.)

- Heaven has 3 levels, one for unbelievers, one for ignorant but good people, and the highest for good Mormons. (We cannot be so specific about Heaven. We trust in God's mercy to accept those He chooses.)

Although there are certain aspects of the Mormons we can emulate, including their zeal for spreading their faith and their willingness to give 2 years of their lives to full-time service to their church, we need to be aware of how drastically they differ from true Christianity. We share few, if any beliefs with them. Their desire to make converts and their willingness to sit and talk with people for hours at a time seem to make them relatively harmless. When they ring your doorbell, be aware of who they are and what they believe.

HISTORY HIGHLIGHTS

October 13 The Holy Translators/Doctors, Mesrob, Yeghishe, Moses the Poet, David the Invincible Philosopher, Gregory of Narek and Nersess of Gla.

The Church recalls with joy the lives of those who, through a period of seven centuries, sought to make the Faith understandable (thus, they translated) to their people. Pray for 20th century Holy Translators of the Armenian Church.

October 20 The Four Evangelists, Matthew, Mark, Luke, John.

Here were four unknown writers, none of whom ever wrote anything worth a Pulitzer Prize, but whose recounting of the Good News changed the world. Thank God today for the Gospel, and the number of versions we have accessible to us. Pray for all who work to distribute God's word to the world.

October 28 Discovery of the Holy Cross. This is the last of the four Sundays of the Holy Cross. It celebrates the discovery of the True Cross of Our Lord by the Empress Helen (mother of Constantine) in a garbage heap.

November 3 Feast of All Saints, known and unknown. The Church doesn't celebrate Halloween, but she remembers all those whose lives have imitated Our Lord's. Recall the saintly people you have known in your own lifetime, and thank God for them.

November 10 The Holy Archangels Gabriel and Michael, and all the heavenly host. The Angels are God's special messengers. How often do we speak of our guardian angels? St. Nersess' prayer, "Good Lord, assign me a good angel that I may always have a peaceful spirit" is a good one to recall today.

November 19 First day of Advent. This is the beginning of the Church's Christmas season, not the department stores'.

November 21 Presentation of the Holy Mother of God to the Temple at age 3. St. Mary's parents dedicated her to God at the tender age of 3, but we can do it at any age. Make a promise to Him today to love Him more and serve Him better.

December 1 Sts. Thaddeus and Bartholomew, our first enlighteners. The good news came to Armenia via these two individuals. Think of someone for whom you can be an enlightener; invite that person to church with you tomorrow.

December 8 St. Nicholas of Myra. Here's the real Santa Claus, who was bishop of Myra in the third century, and was known for his generosity and charitable works. Let's make these qualities part of our own Christmas preparations.

December 15 St. James of Nisibis (Medzpin). St. James was a student of St. Gregory, attended the Council of Nicea in 325, and was known for his sermons and inspirational prayers. He is a favorite among Armenians, even though he was Syrian.

December 29 Paregentan of the Fast of Theophany.



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