

THEOPHANY AND BLESSING OF WATER

The Feast of the Theophany [Arm. Asdvadzahaydnootyoon], meaning the “revelation of God” or God revealing himself to mankind, is one of the five great tabernacle [Arm. daghavar] feasts of the Armenian Church and it is always celebrated on January 6. This feast combines the celebration of the birth, baptism and manifestation of Our Lord Jesus Christ. The Feast of Theophany is an eight-day [octave] celebration from January 6-13.

After the Divine Liturgy on January 6 (or sometimes the closest Sunday), The Blessing of the Water, takes place as a symbolic commemoration of the “Baptism of Christ”. In the Armenian Church, the service is called CHURORHNEK. The Blessing of the Water celebration was originally performed in the Holy Land, at the river Jordan on Theophany, January 6. As the word spread of the beautiful ceremony in the Holy Land, churches outside of Jerusalem began to perform this ceremony by the riverside or at the seashore. Later, because of subsequent Islamic prohibitions under the Ottoman Turkish Empire, this and other public out-door rituals were celebrated within the churches.

CHRISTMAS WORDSEARCH

V H Z L G N E R T T R E E W X
 K Y P D M M R Y H R L B E W T
 Q A N S H L K I H U S L B K O
 I I W T N P M X B A C N W B Y
 M C M O S D E F C R O W D U M
 R V M N L H E G Y U G V F J G
 O S O E S G S F I W V O O J Z
 O H D S B R T S D X D I O M S
 T A A O E J T P Z E Z H D M V
 I R P P E R L F Z Q Z O B T O
 C E I N I C I I E Y O O I D E
 R V O H W B T R B R K U T O I
 W N S Q S P I X B Z R A W K K
 W L D P A F N Y M F C T K D O
 I S R B C H I L D R E N B R M

FIRE	CROWD	TREE	FOOD	CHILDREN
ROOT	SHARE	STONES	SHIRTS	BAPTIZED
VIPERS	NONE	TWO	FRUIT	BROOD

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FEAST OF THE NATIVITY AND THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD, JESUS CHRIST

At Christmas, we celebrate the ultimate gift: Jesus Christ, given to all of humanity. St. John (3:16) reminds us that the birth of Jesus fulfills God’s promise to bring salvation and light to all people, when he writes, “For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.” This verse reveals the heart of Christmas: God’s immense love, expressed through the gift of His Son, Jesus Christ.

Jesus came to us in the humblest of ways—a child born in a manger—showing that His love is accessible to everyone, regardless of status or circumstance. He did not come for the powerful or the perfect; He came for all, from the shepherds in the fields to kings in their palaces. Through His life, He offered teachings of love, forgiveness, and compassion. Through His sacrifice on the cross, He provided an example to each of us and the promise of eternal life for those who believe and live like Him.

At Christmas, we are reminded that the greatest gifts are not material possessions but relationships, love, and faith. Jesus invites us to experience a relationship with Him—a source of unending joy, peace, and hope that is greater than and troubles we may have.

He is the gift that we must also share with others. He is the gift that must be given to those who needs an encouraging word, a supportive presence, or a meaningful hug.

As we gather with loved ones, exchange gifts, and reflect on the meaning of Christmas, let us remember that Jesus is the gift that brings purpose to our lives and light to our darkest moments. He is the reason we celebrate, the reason for joy, and the reason we can live with hope, not just at Christmas, but every day.

ARMENIAN WORDS TO KNOW FROM HOLY BADARAK

մկրտութիւն => muh-gur-doo-tyoon => baptism

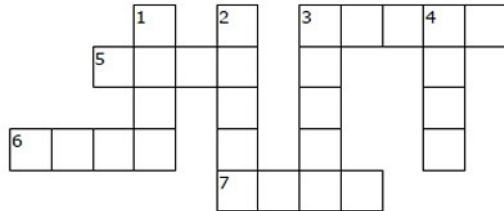
Հավատամք...ի մի մկրտութիւն, յապաշխարութիւն,
ի քսութիւն եւ ի թողութիւն մեղաց:

Havadamk...ee mee mgrdootyoon, habashkharhootyoon,
ee kavootyoon ye vee toghootyoon meghats.

We believe...in one **baptism**, in repentance for the remission
and forgiveness of sins.

(An example is on page 19 in the Liturgy Book)

CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

3. An item of clothing that is worn on the upper half of the body
5. To have very little money or possessions
6. The opposite of bad
7. A tall plant that has a trunk, branches, and leaves

DOWN

1. What we eat
2. The sweet food that grows on a tree
3. To give part of what you have to someone else
4. The part of a tree that grows under the ground

ROOT	TREE	POOR	SHARE
FOOD	GOOD	FRUIT	SHIRT

SPIRITUAL THOUGHT

God became a child, so that He will show how much He loves children and so that children will come to Him. He grew up poor, so that the poor will find safety at His side. He was born homeless, so that He will teach us to live like migrants in this world. He was born a Savior, so that those souls who need salvation will go to Him.



"Behold, a virgin will conceive and bear a child, and they will call him Emmanuel, which means, God is with us."

Matthew 1:23

«Ահա կոյսն յղացի եւ ծնցի որդի, եւ կոչեցցեն զանուն նորա
Էմմանուէլ, որ թարգմանի՝ ընդ մեզ Աստուած»:

Մատթէոս Ա.23