

## FIRST ENLIGHTENERS OF ARMENIA

**Saint Thaddeus** also known as St. Jude, was a brother of St. James the Less, and a relative of Our Savior. Ancient writers tell us that he preached the Gospel in Judea, Samaria, Idumaea, Syria, Mesopotamia, and Lybia. According to Eusebius, he returned to Jerusalem in the year 62, and assisted at the election of his brother, St. James, as Bishop of Jerusalem. He is an author of an epistle (letter) to the Churches of the East, particularly the Jewish converts, directed against the heresies of the Simonians, Nicolaites, and Gnostics. St. Thaddeus suffered martyrdom in Armenia. The final conversion of the Armenian nation to Christianity did not take place until the third century of our era.

**Saint Bartholomew's** name is patronymic, meaning "son of Tolmai". Sometimes he is identified with Nathanael whom Phillip led to Christ. According to the historian Eusebius, when Pantainus of Alexandria visited India between 150 and 200 A. D., he found there the Gospel according to Matthew left behind by Bartholomew one of the Apostles. According to tradition, Bartholomew was flayed and crucified upside down at Albanapolis in Armenia by the hand of the Armenians.

## BARREN FIG TREE DECODER

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
18				25				11						5						14					

I	E	I	A	O	E	I	E	A
15	6	11	18	6	11	8	3	25
11	25	8	5	26	25	8	17	11
13	8	11	15	15	13	15	15	13
A	O	U	I	I	I	A	O	U
18	6	15	5	14	26	11	8	6
6	11	1	11	19	18	13	5	14
1	26	1	11	8	18	26	1	11
8	18	26	1	11	20	11	8	11
E	A	U	I	O	O	U	I	O
7	25	18	13	15	20	13	14	11
8	20	13	14	11	8	19	5	5
1	18	20	8	25	13	8	3	5
14	8	17	18	8	24	18	26	24
14	8	11	20	26	5	8	11	8
A	E	A	O	U	A	U	I	I
18	20	8	25	13	8	17	18	8
3	5	14	24	18	26	24	14	8
11	8	1	5	23	26	1	5	23
26	1	5	23	26	1	5	23	26



## Second Chances

Second Sunday of Advent | Gospel Reading: Luke 13:1-9

Second chances are given to people to help them improve and be better. When a friend makes a mistake or does something wrong, we give them a second chance to help them be a better friend. Our friendships and relationships do not end over a small or an innocent mistake. However, how often do we give someone a second chance?

In the Gospel reading, Jesus tells a parable about a fig tree that does not bear fruit. The owner wants to cut it down, but his assistant suggests that he give it another year and if it bears fruit the next year, then great, but if it doesn't, then they will cut it down.

Jesus explains that each of us are given second chances by God. When we do sinful things or go against God's Word, we are given a second chance to come back to Him and be in a relationship with Him. We are given the opportunity to come back to God every Sunday, through confession and Holy Communion.

When we receive Holy Communion, we are brought back into the family of God and the Body of Christ. This also means that we must bear fruit, which shows that we are in a relationship with Him. Bearing fruit entails doing good works, helping others and having love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23).

Jesus also explains that there will be a time when there will be no more second chances and we will have to answer for everything we have done. This is why we are to change and be better now and not wait to do it.

What can you do to be better and bear fruits for God?

## ARMENIAN WORDS TO KNOW FROM HOLY BADARAK

տուր door give/grant

Եւ **տուր** մեզ համարձակածայն բարբառով բանալ զբերանս մեր:  
Yev **door** mez hamartsagatsayn parparov panal uzperanus mer.  
And **grant** us to open our mouths with a cry of bold voice.

(An example is on page 20 in the Liturgy Book)

## THE BARREN FIG TREE WORDSEARCH

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

THREE  
DIG  
FIG  
TREE  
BARREN  
TIME  
REPENT  
BEAR  
FERTILIZE  
NONE  
FRUIT  
VINEYARD  
YEARS  
PARABLE  
CUT DOWN



"Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and fertilize it. And if it bears fruit, good. But if not, after that you can cut it down"

Luke 13:8-9

«Տէր, թող զդա այս ամ եւս, մինչեւ շուրջ զդովաւ բրեցից եւ արկից աղբ. թերեւս արասցէ պտուղ. ապա թէ ոչ՝ յամէ եւս հատցես զդա:»

Ղուկաս ԺԳ.8-9

### SPIRITUAL THOUGHT

"You will know the truth and the truth will set you free" (Jn. 8:32). To know the truth does not mean to just know the truth. To know the truth means to love and live the truth. Thus, it is not the truth that saves us, rather loving and living the truth. And who is the truth if not Christ (John 14:6).