

THEOPHANY, WATER, AND THE DEAD

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.

The day after each tabernacle [major] feast in the Armenian Church is called “merelots” or Remembrance of the dead. Following the Divine Liturgy the Canon for the Repose of Souls [Hokehankisd/Requiem] is accomplished. It is also proper on “Merelots” days that clergy be invited to bless graves. Traditionally, the family brought charcoal and incense with them to be burned at the grave-site as a prayerful offering.

BAPTISM WORDSEARCH

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

Spirit opened people	John Jesus praying	voice dove heaven	Christ powerful Holy	fire water baptize
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Source: Sermons 4 Kids, Inc.



Baptism

Second Day of Theophany (Merelots) | Gospel Reading: John 12:24-26

Do you remember your baptism? How old were you? Usually we baptize little babies, but sometimes we baptize children when they are older. There are other times when adults get baptized because they never had the chance. Anyone can be baptized at any age, but what is important to know is that you can only be baptized once. You can never be baptized two or more times.

When someone is baptized, that person becomes part of the Church (the Body of Christ) and they become a Christian. This is what baptism is all about, becoming a Christian. But what does that mean exactly?

Being a Christian means worshipping God, helping others, praying, fasting, being nice and trying to live a holy, pure life. However, when we become Christians, we also join an angelic army. We become soldiers in a war against bad and evil things in this world.

During our baptisms, we are given the weapons and armor to fight evil forces and demons. We are anointed with Holy Myron (Chrism), which represents the Holy Spirit and then we receive Holy Communion, the Body and Blood of Christ. We are sent out into the world to bring Christ and His teachings to those in need.

But how can we know to do this when we are baptized as such a young age? During our baptisms, we are given godparents, who are supposed to teach us our faith. Our parents are also supposed to help us learn about Christ and how to fight the evil in this world. Yet, sometimes they don't know everything, and this is why it is so important to go to church and worship during Badarak.

Sunday School is nice, but being in the Church, with faithful, and receiving Christ's Body and Blood are the most important tools we have to combat evil in this world.

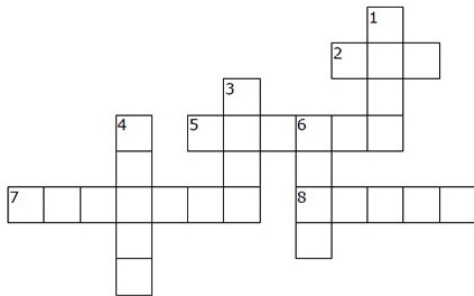
ARMENIAN WORDS TO KNOW FROM HOLY BADARAK

էար => eh-ar => He took

Որով **էար** զմարմին, զհոգի եւ զմիտ,
 եւ զամենայն որ ինչ է ի մարդ:
 Vorov **ehar** uzmarmeen, uzhokee yev uzmeed,
 yev zamenayn vor inch eh ee mart.
 By whom **he took** body, soul,

BAPTISM CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Source: Sermons 4 Kids, Inc.



ACROSS

2. A male offspring
5. The river where Jesus was baptized
7. To cover briefly completely in water or pour water over a person's head
8. The sound produced by vibration of the human vocal cords

DOWN

1. The name of the man who baptized Jesus
3. A deep feeling of affection for a person
4. Clear, colorless, odorless, tasteless liquid; H₂O
6. A bird often used as a symbol of peace

VOICE	LOVE	WATER	JORDAN
SON	DOVE	BAPTIZE	JOHN

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.

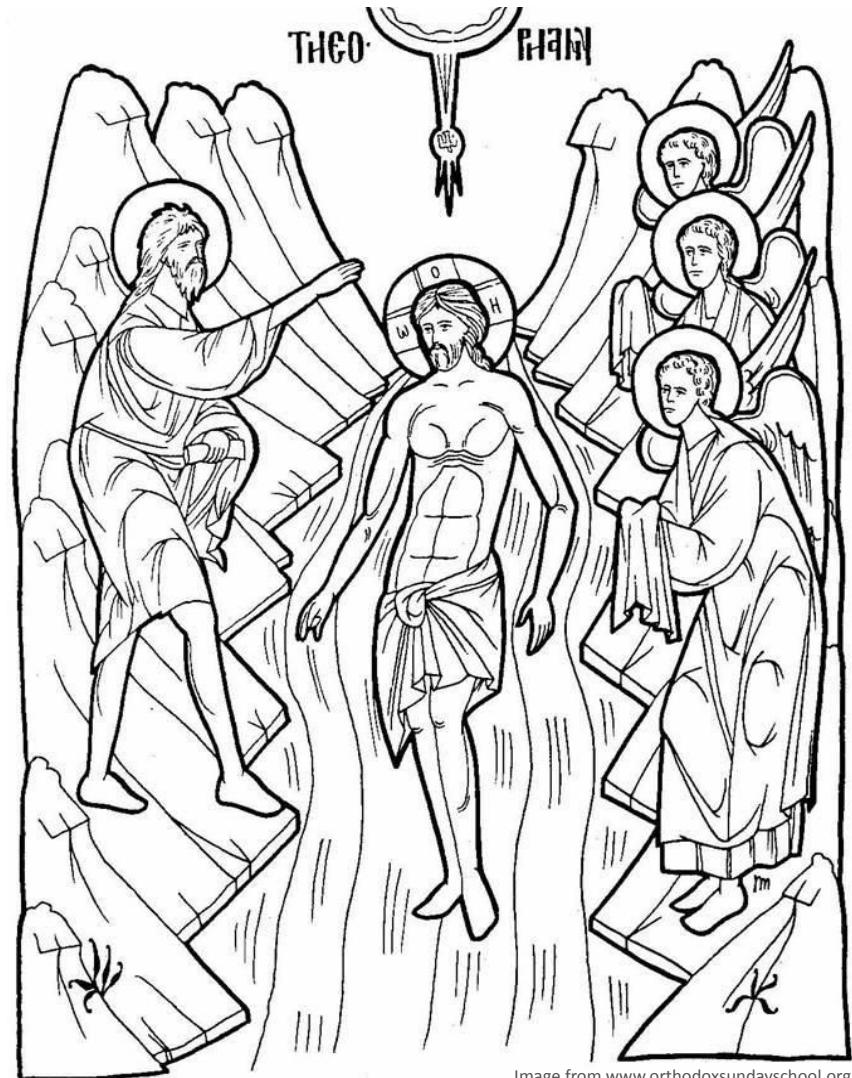


Image from www.orthodoxsundayschool.org

*“Ans lo a voice from heaven, saying,
 ‘This is my beloved Son, with whom I am pleased.’”*

Matthew 3:17

«Եւ ահա ձայն յերկնից որ ասէր.
 Դա է որդի իմ սիրելի ընդ որ հաճեցայ:»

Մատթէոս Գ.17