

## ST. EPHREM THE SYRIAN

Born around AD 306 in Nisibis (Syria), Mesopotamia, Ephrem passed his entire life in his native Mesopotamia (Syria). He was long thought to be the son of a pagan priest, but it is now believed his parents were Christians. He was baptized at eighteen, served under Saint James of Nisibis, became head of his school, and probably accompanied him to the Council of Nicaea in 325.

Syrian sources attribute the deliverance of Nisibis from the Persians in 350 to his prayers. Edessa (Urfa in Iraq), the site of a famous theological school, was where he did most of his writing. Tradition says he visited Saint Basil at Caesarea in 370 and on his return helped alleviate the rigors of the famine of winter 372-73 by distributing food and money to the stricken and helping the poor (one of the jobs of deacons).

Ephrem's fame rests on his writings. He is largely responsible for introducing hymns into public worship. He wrote commentaries on a considerable number of books of the Bible, and a personal 'Testament' which seems to have been added to by a later hand. He countered the heretics—especially the Arians and the Gnostics—and wrote on the Last Judgment.

All of Saint Ephrem's works are elevated in style, flowery in expression, and full of imagery: even as a theologian he wrote as a poet. He has always been regarded as a great teacher in the Eastern churches and many of his works were early translated into Greek, Armenian, and Latin. He died at Edessa (Iraq) on June 9, 373.

## WHO IS THE GREATEST WORDSEARCH

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

WELCOMES	SERVANT	FIRST	GREATEST	JESUS
LITTLE	ARMS	CHILD	ARGUING	LAST
WHOEVER	ROAD	TWELVE	QUIET	HOUSE

Source: Sermons 4 Kids, Inc.



## Starting Over

Sixth Sunday of Advent | Gospel Reading: Luke 22:24-30

Every New Years, people make New Year's resolutions. This is when people decide to start over and do something new to improve their lives. Usually people make a New Year's resolution to exercise more, eat healthier, learn a new skill or spend less money.

It is natural for us to decide to do this during the New Years because when we see the calendar starting over, our minds think we should start over too. However, we do not need to wait days, weeks, or months to start over on January 1st. As Christians we have the opportunity to start over through the sacraments of Confession and Holy Communion (Holy Badarak).

Participating in Confession is a sacrament that rarely practiced in the Armenian Church today, but still exists. This is when you go to a priest and tell him what you have done wrong, asking him to grant you forgiveness – a privilege which Christ gave to the apostles, who in turn passed on that authority to their disciples and so on until today (Matthew 18:18).

When you confess your sins, gives you advice as how to overcome your sins and grants you forgiveness on behalf of God. This gives you the opportunity to partake and receive Holy Communion again in Holy Badarak. This is when you are truly able to start over with your life. You can leave behind the mistakes and sins you have done in the past and begin new.

It is good to make a New Year's resolution for 2024, but you should remember that every Sunday an opportunity to start over.

What mistakes have you done in the past (or continue to do) that you want to change or fix?

What can you do to make yourself a better Christian?

## ARMENIAN WORDS TO KNOW FROM HOLY BADARAK

մեղայ => me-gha => I sinned

**Մեղայ** յամենաստօր Երրորդութեանն:

**Megha** hamenasoorp Yerrortootyanun.

I **sinned** against the all-holy Trinity.

(An example is on page 48 in the Liturgy Book)

## WHO IS THE GREATEST ALPHABET SOUP

Each line of the puzzle has one word hidden in a list of random letters. The blank space is a missing letter that belongs to that word. Fill in the missing letter.

Source: Sermons 4 Kids, Inc.

1.	J	M	W	H	E	F		R	S	T	N	A	O
2.	L	E	K	B	A	R		S	I	N	E	U	A
3.	V	X	C	H	I	L		A	E	J	X	I	Y
4.	R	D	E	N	Z	G		O	U	S	E	I	S
5.	V	Y	T	R	S	E		V	A	N	T	C	Y
6.	H	R	N	O	N	A		E	G	K	C	H	S
7.	Q	M	T	F	L	A		T	Y	E	N	C	R
8.	O	G	R	M	D	J		R	E	A	T	W	C
9.	L	X	K	R	O	A		I	A	Y	C	Q	P
10.	G	N	L	I	T	T		E	V	K	Z	J	R

first	road	child	great	arms
last	little	house	servant	name

## SPIRITUAL THOUGHT

The true believer continues to trust God, even when all roads appear closed; hopes, even when the situation seems hopeless; sees, even when everything is dark; is steadfast, even when everyone calls for retreat; gives hope, even when others hopelessly retreat; and continues to ferociously fight against Satan, even when other men run away wounded.



“Then God appeared to him (Abraham) at the oak of Mamre...  
So he (Abraham) lifted his eyes and looked, and behold,  
three men stood before him.”

Genesis 18:1-2

«Եւ երեւեցաւ նմա Աստուած առ կաղնեան Մամբրէի,...ամբարձեալ  
զաչս իւր եւ ետես, եւ տեսաւ արք երեք կային ի վերոյ քան զնա:»

Ծննդոց ԺԸ.1-2