

THE CONCEPTION OF THE MOTHER OF GOD

On the ninth of December the Armenian Orthodox Church celebrates the feast of the conception of the Virgin Mary by her parents Joachim and Anna. On this major festival which finds its place in the Church's preparation for Christmas, the faithful rejoice in the event by which Mary is conceived in fulfillment of her parents' prayers and nurtured in holiness to become by God's grace the mother of His Son the Messiah.

GREAT BANQUET WORDSEARCH

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

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|----------|---------|---------|---------|
| PARABLES | STREET | INVITED | BANQUET |
| GUESTS | HEAVEN | KINGDOM | CORNERS |
| SERVANTS | CATTLE | COME | OXEN |
| FILLED | REFUSED | WEDDING | DINNER |

Source: Sermons 4 Kids, Inc.



Excuses

Third Sunday of Advent I Gospel Reading: Luke 14:12-24

Have you ever asked someone to do something for you and they made up an excuse? How did that make you feel? Maybe sad, disappointed, angry? This is how the man who was throwing a party felt in the Gospel reading today. He invited his friends to come, but each one made an excuse why not to come to his party.

One said he needed to see some land he had bought. Another said he had bought some oxen and need to examine them. Then the third friend said he was just married and had to spend time with his wife. Each one came up with an excuse why not to go and eat at the party the man was throwing.

What would you do if you prepared a great party and none of your friends show up and you had all this leftover food? Well, the man decided to invite others to come. He sent his servants out to bring in all the lonely, poor, lame, and blind (basically the people who don't have any friends). Then when all of them had come, there was still more room and the man said to go get more people to come and feast with him.

This is what God does for each of us during the Holy Badarak. He has invited each of us to eat at His feast and receive Holy Communion. But so many people make excuses why they cannot come and join in the holy feast, Holy Badarak. They make excuses, thinking that those excuses are more important than spending time with God.

If you had a party and all of your friends rejected your invitation to your party, would you invite them again? Probably not. The same thing happened in the Gospel reading and God says the same thing. If people keep refusing His invitation to Holy Badarak, then He will stop inviting them one day.

How can we help convince people to come to Church and Holy Badarak when they make excuses not to?

ARMENIAN WORDS TO KNOW FROM HOLY BADARAK

հրաւիրիլ => hraveereel => to be invited

յօրինացն հեղգացայ, ի կարգս քրիստոնէութեան **հրաւիրեցայ**:
horeenatsun heghkatsa, ee garkus kreesdonehootyan **hraveeretsa**.
I was slothful in the laws; I was **invited** to the profession of Christianity.
(An example is on page 48 in the Liturgy Book)

WEDDING BANQUET WORDSHAPE

The Wedding Banquet

So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, both good and bad, and the wedding hall was filled with guests. Matthew 22:10
Enter the correct words in the boxes based on the shape of the letters.



- | | |
|----|-----|
| 1. | 6. |
| 2. | 7. |
| 3. | 8. |
| 4. | 9. |
| 5. | 10. |

| | | | | |
|---------|----------|---------|------|---------|
| people | servants | invite | king | guests |
| parable | dinner | wedding | come | streets |

Source: Sermons 4 Kids, Inc.

SPIRITUAL THOUGHT

When Christ cleansed the physical temple, he demonstrated that only He could cleanse us and make us temples of God. Yes, if the Lord does not cleanse us, wipe us, or wash us, we cannot be cleansed. Jesus said to Peter, "If I do not wash your feet, you have no part with Me" (John 13:8). Have you allowed the Lord to cleanse you and make you a temple full of heavenly sweet fragrance?



"Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city and bring in here the poor and the maimed and the lame and the blind."

Luke 14:21

«Եւ վաղվաղակի ի հրապարակս եւ ի փողոցս քաղաքի,
եւ զաղքատս եւ զխեղս եւ զկաղս եւ զկոյրս մոյծ այսր:»

Ղուկաս ԺԴ.21