

## ADVENT: PREPARING FOR CHRIST'S ARRIVAL

As Armenian Orthodox Christians, we begin the celebration of the Theophany [Christmas Arm. *Asdvadzahaydnootyoon*] with a time of preparation called Advent [Arm. *Hisnag*] fifty days before January 6. Advent is a time to begin to purify both soul and body to enter properly into and partake of the great spiritual reality of Christ's Coming.

Although Advent was like Lent at one time, a period of fasting; yet, in modern times, it has taken the form of three separate week-long fasts during the fifty days in addition to the regular fast days of Wednesdays and Fridays.

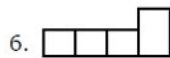
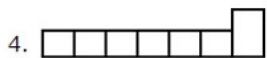
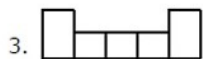
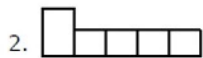
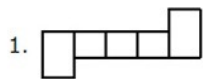
*The three week-long fasts during Advent are:*

1. **The Fast of Advent** (November 20-24)
2. **The Fast of St. James** (December 11-15)
3. **The Fast of the Nativity** (December 30-January 4)

The joyful note of the season, in anticipation of the Nativity of Christ, grants us an opportunity for the faithful to exercise their Christian commitment in a mood of happy spiritual toil to "make ready the way of the Lord". (Matthew 3:3).

As we "make ready the way of the Lord", let us heed the words of Christ from the Gospel reading of the day according to St. Luke (9:44-50) who reminds us that in order to prepare for and receive the Coming of the Lord, we must become like a child—in innocence, sincerity, simplicity and humility.

### WHO IS THE GREATEST WORDSHAPE



first	road	child	great
last	little	house	servant



## RAISING SAINTS

SUNDAY BULLETIN FOR YOUTH | NOVEMBER 19, 2023

### Who is the Greatest?

Gospel Reading: Luke 9:44-50

Nobody wants to be the last at anything. That is why we study for tests, practice for sports and prepare for reports and presentations in order to be the best. But what really makes us the best or greatest? Jesus tell the disciples this in today's Gospel reading.

The disciples were arguing with each other which one was the greatest among them. They may have be saying, "I am the greatest because I am the oldest or strongest or smartest or been with Jesus the longest". But Jesus says something that we are not used to in today's world, nor were the disciples prepared to hear.

Jesus says the greatest is the one who is like a little child, the one who is the least among you is the greatest (Luke 9:48). How could this be? How can being like a little child make you the greatest? Don't we have to be big and strong and smart and rich? Not for God. For God, the one who humbles himself, who is willing to help and serve others is the greatest.

You have seen someone who acts like they are the best. They boss people around and make other do things that they don't want to do. They make sure everyone knows what they have done or make others feel less than themselves. This does not make them the greatest, but helping others does.

Little children also depend on their parents for help. When Jesus says we have to be like little children, He wants us to depend on God, our Heavenly Father for help. We can't do everything by ourselves, but need God to be involved in our lives and help us.

So how can you be great? How can you help others and depend on Him? How can you serve others and also become great in God's eyes?

## ARMENIAN WORDS TO KNOW FROM HOLY BADARAK

ողորմութիւն => vo-ghor-moo-tyoon => mercy

**Ողորմութիւն** եւ խաղաղութիւն եւ պատարագ օրհնութեան:  
**Voghormootyoon** yev khaghaghootyoon yev badarak orhnootyan.  
**Mercy** and peace and a sacrifice of praise.

(An example is on page 28 in the Liturgy Book)

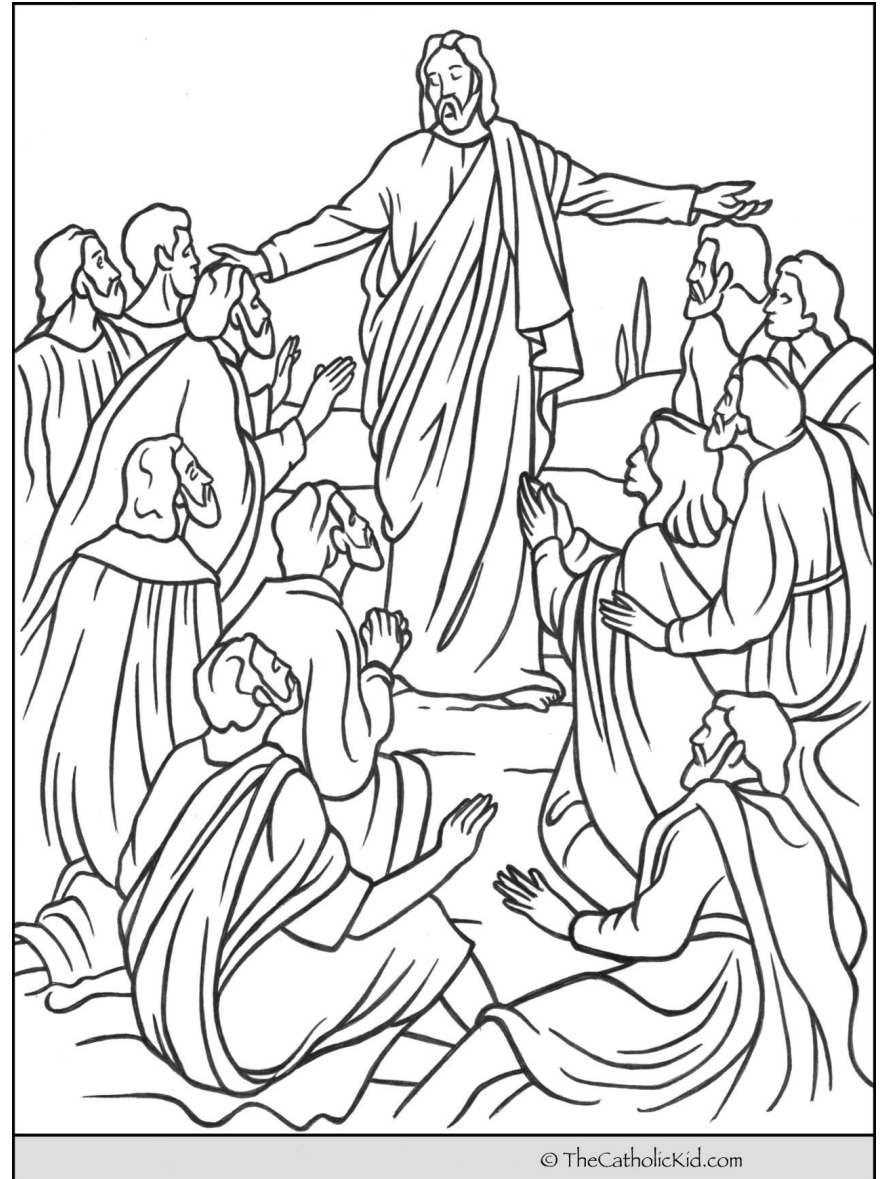
## WHO IS THE GREATEST WORD SEARCH

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

### SPIRITUAL THOUGHT

Not one person, not one difficulty, and nothing in life can bring you to your knees if every day you kneel before the Lord Jesus and spend time with Him. However long you spend with Jesus, that's how long your patience will be, that's how assured your triumph will be, and that's how solid your character will be.



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**“Whoever receives this little child in My name receives Me; and whoever receives Me receives Him who sent Me. For he who is least among you all will be great.”**

**- Luke 9:48**