

SACRAMENTAL LIFE

Memorizing a list of the seven sacraments is quite an accomplishment, doubly so if you know the Armenian names as well! Understanding what a sacrament is adds so much to your understanding of church life. Sacraments developed out of the life of the Church and are an integral part of it. Today our sacraments might seem formal and ritualistic, but the basic message they tell us is the same. The sacraments say that we want God to be a part of everything we do. That we include God in all our life plans. That God has a place in our life that we want to recognize and show.

The dictionary might define a sacrament as an outward, physical sign or symbol of an inward, invisible grace from God. But the sacraments are more than what our limited words can say. The Armenian word for sacrament means mystery, mystery in the sense that it is beyond our capability to fully understand even though we can catch a glimmer of what it truly means. A sacrament is a mystery of faith and love.

Knowing about the sacraments is important. Facts and figures are essential. But living the sacraments is the true aim of teaching them. Learning their names is the first step.

- Baptism - Mgrdootiun
- Chrismation - Troshm/Gnoonk
- Penance - Abashkharootiun
- Communion - Haghortootiun
- Marriage - Busag
- Orders - Yegeghetsagan Asdijan
- Unction (Rites of the Sick) - Gark Hivantatz

Did You Know That...

The Badarak, not counting the priest's private prayers, is about 4,700 words long, but has only 1400 different roots, of which 200 constitute approximately 80% of the text. **Yev** (and) is the most common word; it occurs 438 times and constitutes nearly 10% of the text. This means that if you knew the word **yev**, you'd already understand 1 out of every 10 words of the Divine Liturgy. Moreover, if you knew only 200

words and their variants you would understand 8 out of every 10 words in the Divine Liturgy. Here's a list of the 20 most common words:

Armenian	Phonetic	English	Occurences	%
1. եւ	yev	and	438	9.48%
2. սուրբ	soorb	holy	180	3.89%
3. ի	ee	in, from, to	175	3.79%
4. Տէր	der	lord	140	3.03%
5. Աստուած	astvadz	God	130	2.81%
6. քո	ko	your	97	2.10%
7. մեր	mer	our	87	1.93%
8. եմ	yem	I am	79	1.71%
9. որ	vor	who	75	1.62%
10. ողորմելի	voghormel	to have mercy	67	1.45%
11. հոգի	hoki	spirit	55	1.19%
12. փառք	park	glory	53	1.15%
13. հայր	hayr	father	50	1.08%
14. ամէն	amen	amen	50	1.08%
15. օրհնելի	orhnel	to bless	49	1.06%
16. ընդ	unt	with	48	1.04%
17. Քրիստոս	Krisdos	Christ	48	1.04%
18. աղաչելի	aghachel	to pray	40	.87%
19. եղանիմ	yeghanim	to be	39	.84%
20. ամենայն	amenayn	all	36	.78%
			1,938	41.93%
				of the Divine Liturgy

These 20 words account for 41.93% of the Divine Liturgy, nearly half of the liturgy. Add to these the 20 most common phrases, such as choral responses, deacon's litanies or the sequences before and after the readings and you have quite a few of understanding in the midst of the Classical Armenian Divine Litrgy.

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