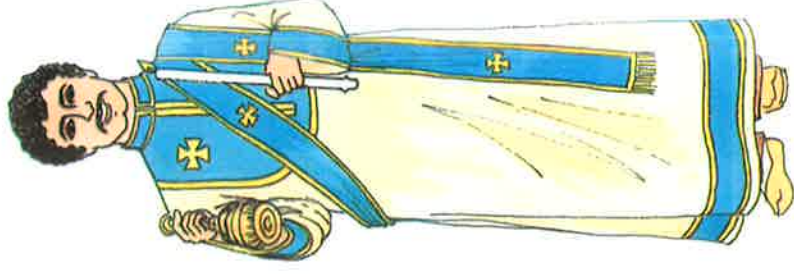


Saint Stephen's Stole ("Ourar")

In Christianity, the stole ("Ourar" in Armenian) denotes the duty to spread the Word of God. The word "Ourar" derives from Orarion (Greek), the distinguishing vestment of the deacon and sub-deacon in the Eastern Orthodox, Oriental Orthodox and Eastern Catholic churches. In order to be allowed to wear a stole, a boy/young man has to go to seminary and learn about the rituals, history, and teachings of the Armenian Church. The "ourar" worn in the Armenian Church is a straight piece of cloth that hangs over the left shoulder. The "ourar" is worn crisscrossed across the back for episcopal liturgies only and is always with a partnering 2nd deacon.



SUPPLIES NEEDED

- Crepe paper/Party streamers (Red and/or Blue, would work best)
- Markers
- Scissors
- Safety pins
- Gold or yellow construction paper
- Picture of St. Stephen – use your own or print out the one that follows (pg. 2)

PREPARATION BEFORE ACTIVITY

- Cut crepe paper into 2-4 foot strips
- Cut Armenian crosses from gold or yellow construction paper, not bigger than the width of the crepe paper (*2 for each child*)

WHAT TO DO

1. Share with students a picture of St. Stephen, (to follow).
2. Give each student a strip of crepe paper. Have them lay it completely flat. (You may want to allow them to work on the floor.)
3. Using scissors, instruct students to cut "fringe" at each bottom edge.
4. Give each child 2 construction paper crosses and have them glue them slightly above the "fringe."
5. Using markers, instruct students to write down the middle of crepe paper: