

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 feet 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:
 - **"St. Stephen"** *or*
 - **"St. Stephen"** *down the front and "1st Deacon"* *down the back*
6. *Optional:* Using markers, students may draw additional Armenian *"CROSSES"* along the crepe paper.
7. Attach crepe paper stole to the child's shoulder with a safety pin.



ST STEPHEN

PROTOMARTYR