



# Welcome to the Holy Church! Baptism and Chrismation

## Pray Together

*Hanoon Hor, yev Vortvo, yev Hokvooy'n Surpo, Amen. We renounce Satan and all his devices, his wiles, all his counsels, all his ways, all his intentions, all his evil angels, all his wicked ministers, all his wicked influences, all these do we heartily renounce.*

*Hrajharoom (Baptismal Renunciation of Satan)*

## Chapter Checkup

*Choose two sacraments and explain their meaning below.*

1. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Where Do We Sign Up?

John's older bother was applying to the Police Department and brought home the application and brochure. John read the requirements to join:

1. You must be at least 20 years of age and no more than 35.
2. You must have a two-year Associate's Degree.
3. You must pass a physical fitness test.
4. You must complete the 6-month certification program at the Police Academy.

"Wow! said John. "This is a lot of musts!"



*Can you think of other organizations that have requirements to "join"?*

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\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Happily, God’s club doesn’t have any restrictions. When our Lord made his sacrifice on the cross, he opened membership into his family to all people. We mark his invitation with sacraments of initiation. An initiation is a ceremony through which someone is made a member of a group. There are three sacraments of initiation: baptism, chrismation (called confirmation in the Catholic Church), and communion.



When Adam and Eve disobeyed God in the Garden of Eden, all people were separated from God by sin. All people are born with this sin, which is called “original sin.” The sacrament of baptism symbolically washes away this original sin. It prepares the child to be accepted into the Christian faith.

Chrismation is the next step in the initiation of the baby into the family of Christ. At this point, the priest anoints the child to give him or her the gifts and spiritual strength of the Holy Spirit. This touching of the baby with the chrism, or holy muron, recalls events in the Bible where divine grace was given through the hands of Jesus’ disciples or other holy individuals. One example of this occurs in Acts 8:17: “Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.”

The baby is then dressed in white clothing to symbolize purity and is taken to the altar to receive his or her very first Communion.

### **Of Water and the Spirit** *Baptism Mgrdootyoon* Մկրտութիւն

In the Bible, we learn that John the Baptist traveled around telling people that the Savior was about to appear. John went from place to place baptizing people in the Jordan River. According to Luke 3:21-22, we read “When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: ‘You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.’” This is similar to our chrismation, when the priest anoints the baby so the power of the Holy Spirit will accompany the child through life.



When the Holy Spirit is present in your life, you enjoy many gifts. These gifts, or fruit of the spirit, are described in Galatians 5:22-23. Go to this passage in your Bible, find these nine gifts of the Spirit.

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

Choose any three fruits of the spirit that you think are especially important and explain why.

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## **A Baptism**

### **(Edited for a Reenactment)**

Needed: a doll (choose a name and adjust pronouns accordingly; it has been assumed below that it is a boy), a towel, a narod braid (red and white yarn twisted together), a basin, a dove-shaped container, or a container with a dove drawn on it

Priest

Parents

Godparents

Family and friends

(Everyone is standing at the back of the classroom. Parents give baby wrapped in towel to the godfather.)

*All:* (The Lord's Prayer) Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

*Priest:* For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

## **Blessing the Narod**

*Priest:* Bless, O Christ, our God this braid and keep its bearer under the shadow of your holy and precious cross in peace. Deliver him from enemies visible and invisible. Make him worthy and give thanks to you and to glorify you with the Father and with the Holy Spirit, now and always and to the ages of ages, amen.

## **Renouncing Evil**

*All turn and face the rear of the classroom – this would be the western direction in church – and repeat three times:* We renounce Satan and his every deceit, his wiles, his counsels, his goings, his evil will, his evil angels and his every evil power, renouncing we renounce.

*All face front – this would be facing east in church.*

## **Confession of Faith**

*Godparents:* We believe in the all-holy Trinity, in the Father, the Son, in the Holy Spirit, in the Annunciation of Gabriel, in the nativity of Christ, in his baptism, in his passion, in his crucifixion, in his three-day burial, his resurrection, his ascension as God, his sitting at the right hand of the Father, and his glorious Second Coming, we confess and believe.

*All follow priest into the church.*

*Priest: Psalm 118:19–24* Alleluia, alleluia. Open to me the gates of righteousness; I will enter and give thanks to the Lord. This is the gate of the Lord through which the righteous may enter. I will give you thanks for you answered me; you have become my salvation. The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day which the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it!

*Priest: Takes the dove-shaped container and pours oil into the water in the basin. Psalm 29:3* The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders, the Lord thunders over the mighty waters. Offer to the Lord the glory of his name, worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness. The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders, the Lord thunders over the mighty waters. The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is majestic.

## **Blessing of the Water**

*Priest:* Blessed and sanctified be this water by the sign of the Holy Cross and by the Holy Gospel and by the holy oil and by the grace of this day, in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and always and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

## **Prayer of Baptism**

*Priest:* You who have called this your servant, O Lord, to the holiness and enlightenment of baptism, we pray you, make him worthy of your most precious grace. Put off him the old garment

of sins and renew him into a new life. Fill him with the power of the Holy Spirit that he may have the renewal of the glory of Christ. And to you, the Mighty One and to your only-begotten Son and to the liberating Holy Spirit is fitting dominion and honor, now and always and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

*Priest:* What does this child request?

*Godparents:* Faith, hope, love, and baptism, to be baptized and justified, to be cleansed of sins, to be freed from demons and to serve God.

*(This dialogue is repeated twice more.)*

## The Baptism

*Priest:* Be it unto your faith. *He immerses the baby three times as follows.* (Name), this servant of God, coming from the state of catechumen to baptism, is now baptized in the name of the Father (*immerse*), and of the Son (*immerse*) and of the Holy Spirit (*immerse*). Redeemed by the blood of Christ from servitude to sin, he receives adoption as a child of the heavenly Father, to be a joint-heir with Christ and a temple of the Holy Spirit. *(He takes the child out of the water)* You have been baptized in Christ and have put on Christ. Alleluia.

*Deacon:* (Romans 6:3-4) “Do you know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father we too might walk into newness of life.”

*Priest gives child to godfather to wrap in a towel. He holds him while priest anoints the baby with muron.*

## The Chrismation

*The priest pours some oil in his palm and then signs the cross on the doll's forehead:*

Sweet ointment in the name of Jesus Christ is poured upon you as a seal of incorruptible heavenly gifts.

*He signs over the eyes, ears, nostrils, mouth, hands, heart, back, and feet and at the end: Peace unto you, anointed of God.*

*Now the doll is dressed in white; the priest ties the narod around its neck.*

*Priest:* And now, 5th graders, the baby will be taken to the altar and receive his first communion and so has received all three sacraments of initiation. We can say now with great joy, welcome to God's family in the Armenian Church!



## Faith Word

### Chrism

Consecrated oil used for special purposes.

# Our Armenian Way

In the Armenian Church, the chrism, or holy muron, is prepared using the fragrances of forty-three different flowers. We do this so that, as the sweetness of the flowers perfumes the air, the person being anointed with the muron will sweeten their world with the Word of our Lord Jesus Christ. The preparation of muron is such a special event that it is done every seven years and only the Catholicos may perform this duty.



## FAMILY FOCUS: *For Parents*



### Lesson Roundup

Today your child learned about the sacraments of baptism and chrismation. The class read about how baptism is the initiation into God's family, and how it cleanses original sin. Your son or daughter also studied chrismation, and learned about how this ritual confers the Holy Spirit on the baby.

The children completed an exercise exploring the fruit of the Holy Spirit and they performed a short reenactment of a baptism. They also learned more about how holy muron is made.

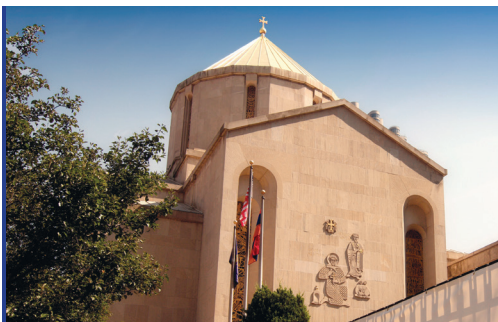
### Family Faith Activity

Our initiation into the Armenian Church is a joyful invitation to live our faith. Try to perform one of the following activities with your family.

1. Read the account of Jesus' baptism in Matthew 3:1-17.
2. Put up a chart with the nine Fruits of the Spirit. During the week, have each family member jot down occurrences when they have been influenced by one of these spiritual gifts.
3. Observe an actual baptism at your church, or watch a videotape of a family christening, if available.

## Procedure

1. Welcome students and say the opening prayer together.
2. Invite students to share any of their experiences from the family page.
3. Have the class complete the *Chapter Checkup*. The answers are 1. Exodus, 2. Jews, 3. rules or laws, 4. canon, 5. an instruction given by one in authority (accept all reasonable responses). 5 min.
4. Begin reading *God's Road*. Have the students list the sacraments. Review the answers with them (Baptism, chrismation, penance, holy communion, marriage, ordination, prayers for the sick.) Continue reading the selection. Then have students write about a special celebration in their own lives. Invite them to share their responses with the class. Break the students up into groups of two or three, then continue reading *God's Road*, and complete the matching exercise. Call on the groups to share their responses. The answers are baptism, penance, healing of the sick/anointing, chrismation, marriage, communion, ordination/holy orders. 15 min.
5. Have the children complete the questions in *Your Special Walk with God*. Invite the students to share their responses with the class. 5 min.
6. Sacraments Poster: Distribute magazines to students. Have them locate pictures they feel can illustrate a poster on sacraments. These might be couples, water, rain, trees (new life), babies, old people, bowed heads, etc. You can also cut out shapes, i.e., a chalice, a wafer, a baby, baptismal font, praying hands. Have someone print the title *Sacraments of the Armenian Church: Signs of Life* on the oak tag poster. Help students arrange pictures and add names of seven sacraments. Once it is designed, glue down pictures. Mount in the Sunday School hallway, giving your class credit for the masterpiece! 30 min.
7. Read *Our Armenian Way*.
8. Invite students to share the Family Focus section at home.  
Dismiss the class. 5 min.



## Unit Two, Session 8

# Welcome to the Holy Church!

## Baptism and Chrismation

### Key Concepts

1. Baptism marks the initiation of a child into the church family.
2. Chrismation confers the gift of the Holy Spirit upon the recipient.

## Objectives

During the session the students will

1. Explore the sacraments of baptism and chrismation as initiating the new person into God's family.
2. Read about John the Baptist and Jesus' baptism.
3. Read Galatians 5:22-23 and list the fruits of the Holy Spirit.
4. Demonstrate their understanding of the fruits of the Spirit by choosing three of them and explaining why they would like to have those particular gifts.
5. Participate in a reenactment of a baptism.
6. Read about the preparation of Holy Muron.

## Materials Needed

1. Pens
2. An undressed baby doll
3. A towel
4. A small bathtub or pan
5. A small container for pouring the oil
6. A small amount of olive oil
7. A white shirt to put on the doll.
8. A narod (thick red and white yarn twisted together)

*Note: It would be ideal to have your pastor help with this reenactment. Talk with him well in advance so he can arrange being with your class. If he is able to visit, you might want to eliminate some of the lesson to allow for more time on the baptism.*

## Procedure

1. Welcome students and say the opening prayer together.
2. Invite students to share their experiences from the family page.
3. Have the class complete the *Chapter Checkup*. Review their answers; accept all reasonable responses. 10 min.
4. Have the students read and discuss the first exercise in *Where Do We Sign Up?* If students are unable to offer any ideas, you might volunteer some of your own: Chess club (need to play chess); French Department of a school (need a college degree, master's, take a test in knowledge of French); Diplomatic Corps (need to be fluent in two languages, able to travel, college degree, etc.) Fire Department, etc. Read the rest of the selection. 10 min.
5. Read *Of Water and the Spirit*. Have the students look up the fruits of the Holy Spirit in their Bibles, in Galatians 5:22-23, write them in the spaces provided, and then choose the three they especially value and explain why. Once they have made their notes, discuss as a class. 10 min
6. Cast the students into roles for the baptismal play (if your pastor is not participating, you might want to divide the priest's part among a few students) and perform the reenactment. 20 min.

7. Read *Our Armenian Way*.

8. Invite students to share the Family Focus section at home.

Dismiss the class.

10 min.



## Unit Two, Session 9

# Getting Back on Track The Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist

### Key Concepts

1. Through communion, Jesus forgives our sins and returns us to a place of good standing with God.
2. God wants us to be conscious of our wrongdoing and turn away from it.

### Objectives

During the session the students will

1. Read how, as an artisan can take a discarded item and make it like new, Jesus does the same for our souls.
2. Recall a time when they did something wrong and write about how it made them feel.
3. Read tips on recalling sins they want to bring to God's attention.
4. Read Ephesians 4:32 which commands us to forgive others as Christ has forgiven us.
5. Write a short dialogue about forgiveness and perform it for the class.
6. Read from the confession of the Armenian Church.

### Materials Needed

1. Pens
2. Lined paper for writing their dialogues.

### Procedure

1. Welcome students and say the opening prayer together.
2. Invite students to share their experiences from the family page. 5 min.
3. Have the class complete the *Chapter Checkup*. Review the answers with them. The missing words are initiation, confirmation, original, Holy Spirit, and Jordan. 5 min.
4. Read *Restorer of Souls*.