

# A Call To Holy Living

## PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

UNIT  
3  
LESSON  
SEVEN

### From Our Hearts to God

*Lord, we call on your special healing in the seventh sacrament. We know it is always possible to ask for courage and strength for our loved ones who are sick. Please hear our prayer, as we ask for your grace for....*

What family members or friends who are sick or injured are in need of prayer?

### Sacraments Savvy

List the sacraments you have learned about so far. Then describe what happens to you in each one.



1. \_\_\_\_\_ . In this sacrament \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_ . In this sacrament \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_ . In this sacrament \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_ . In this sacrament \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_ . In this sacrament \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_ . In this sacrament \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## MY WORLD

Harry was in the hospital. He was very sick. Der Hayr came to visit him. After chatting a while, Der Hayr said a prayer for Harry. When the priest left, the boy in the next bed asked Harry if the priest was a relative of his.

Harry explained that he belonged to the Armenian Church and the priest visits members who are sick to say prayers for their healing.

“I learned in my Sunday School that Jesus cares for us. He healed many sick people. God wants our lives to be good with all of us caring for each other. One of the ways we care for each other is to pray for each other.”

“Do the prayers help?” Harry’s neighbor asked.

“Yes. They remind me that God loves and cares for me and so do the people in my church no matter how healthy or sick I am. The prayers help me deal with this sickness.”

“But what if you don’t get better?” the boy asked Harry.

“Then God will help me handle whatever happens to me and I will thank him for the good life he has given me. This is how I can live a holy life the way Jesus teaches us to do.”

“What if you do get better?” the boy asked next.

“Then I will thank God, my doctors and nurses, my parents and my priest and my church. I will try to care for others as others have cared for me.”

“Are you afraid to die?” the boy asked.

“Yes and no. We all die one day. Death is really not important. Life is important. How we live is important. Living is sometimes scary, but God is always with me to help me. When I am dead I will go to God’s kingdom and have a new life with him.”

“Can I pray for you to get better?” the boy wanted to know.

“Yes. You can pray for me and I can pray for you.”



## GOD’S GUIDING WORDS

“Jesus spoke to them about God’s kingdom and healed everyone who was sick.”

*Luke 9:11*

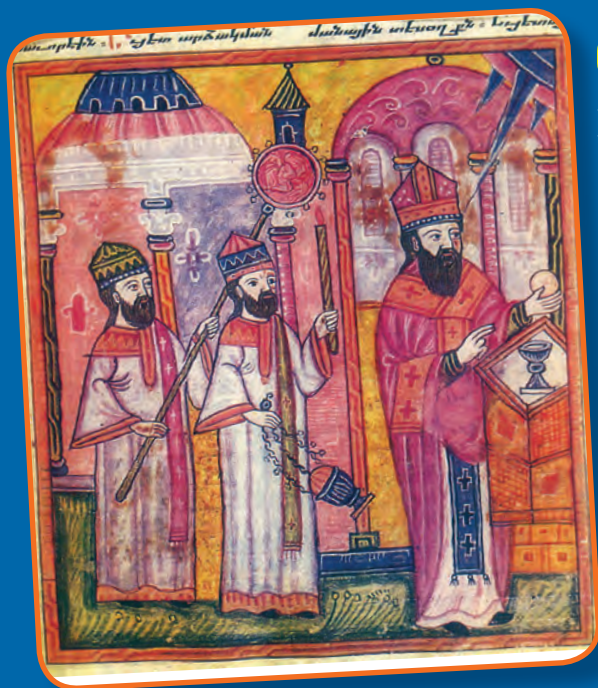


# Getting Closer to God

The priest in the Armenian Church has two roles. He represents God to the people and he represents the people to God. When the priest prays, he prays for his entire congregation. He prays as their representative.

When the priest visits people who are sick, he represents the entire parish and he represents God. He prays with and for the person who is sick. He places his hands prayerfully on the person and blesses him with oil. This oil is the same oil used in the Washing of the Feet.

The priest helps us get closer to God.



## Our Armenian Way

In the Armenian Church, this seventh sacrament is really two. One, is for all people: “prayers for the sick.” The other is reserved just for priests who have died and is called “extreme unction.”

When an Armenian priest dies he is buried in his priestly vestments. All his brother clergy attend the funeral.

A bishop officiates at his funeral service and anoints the priest’s body with holy oil. A priest is anointed when he was chrismated, just as we all were. But then he was anointed again as a priest, on his right hand, the one

that he would use to bless with the sign of the cross and to consecrate the bread and wine. When he dies, he receives the “final or “extreme” anointing or “unction.”



# Time to Celebrate

A time to share heart-felt wishes for God's healing!



## RESPONDING IN FAITH

Lord, help us to care for and love one another. When we pray for healing, we know you will grant everything needed for strength, peace, and courage. Amen.

## FAMILY CORNER

### Sharing Our Faith

Today we reviewed our “sacraments savvy” so far and learned about the seventh sacrament, the prayers for the sick and extreme unction. Students learned the important lesson that prayer is not a wish list but a true conversation with their God and that he will give all the courage, strength and peace needed for us to endure sickness and injury. They also read about a priest’s final anointing or extreme unction. Finally, we all made cards using prayers, Bible verses, and Armenian miniature art.

### Living Our Faith

1. At mealtime, remember those who are sick in your family or among friends. Mention them by name and ask for God’s grace and courage for everyone.
2. The next time you make a visit to a loved one in the hospital, take your child. (Use your judgment so that this not a traumatic visit – perhaps to someone who is there for a routine operation or a broken limb.) Ask if you can both say a prayer for them and use one of the prayers or Bible verses from your child’s card. You might want to leave them with the card itself.