

# The Church Celebrates

## FIVE MAJOR FEASTS

UNIT  
**4**  
LESSON  
ONE

### From Our Hearts to God

*Jesus, I love my special days. Thank you for them. Amen.*

## MY WORLD

“We all have our special days. So does the Church. What days do you celebrate in your family? Mark them in the correct month on the calendar.

Find the Bible reading on your birthday. Write it here: \_\_\_\_\_.

What is it about?

Just as we have special days and special celebrations we look forward to each year, the Church has special days and special celebrations we look forward to as a Church family each year. Your family may keep a book or calendar of these celebration days. The church keeps a book which is a calendar of its celebration days also. It is called a Donatsooytz. In Armenian, this literally means a book that will “show you the feasts.”

What five important feast days, called “Major Feasts” does the Church celebrate? Mark them on the calendar.

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL
MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST
SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER

# GOD'S GUIDING WORDS

Leviticus 23:1-2



The Lord said to Moses: "Speak to the Israelites and tell them: 'these are my appointed feasts, the appointed feasts of the Lord, which you are to proclaim as sacred assemblies.'"

1. *To me, this means that* \_\_\_\_\_

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

There is a time for everything,  
and a season for every activity under heaven:  
a time to be born and a time to die,  
a time to plant and a time to uproot,  
a time to kill and a time to heal,  
a time to tear down and a time to build up,  
a time to weep and a time to laugh,  
a time to mourn and a time to dance,  
a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,  
a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,  
a time to search and a time to give up,  
a time to keep and a time to throw away,  
a time to tear and a time to mend,  
a time to be silent and a time to speak,  
a time to love and a time to hate,  
a time for war and a time for peace.



2. *To me, this means that* \_\_\_\_\_

# Getting Closer to God

What would you do to get ready for....

1. A birthday party?
2. A family vacation?
3. The first day of school?

We need to prepare for important events in our family life. We prepare for important events in our church life as well. We prepare for events that come again each year and enjoy those days.

Our church celebrates **Five Major Feast Days:** Christmas, Easter, Transfiguration, Assumption of St. Mary and Exaltation of the Holy Cross. Before each of these Major Feast Days there is a week of preparation. As a Church our most important Feast Day is Jesus' resurrection (Easter). It is our greatest day of celebration because through his death and resurrection we are saved from death and can look forward to a new life with God in heaven after this life is finished.

One of the ways we prepare for these Feasts is to think about our relationship with God.

- We pray.
- We attend special services.
- We try to focus on God more and everyday things less.
- We eat simple foods.
- Sometimes we say special prayers like the 24 Prayers of St. Nersess.
- Sometimes we give money and food to the needy because God wants us to think about those who are less fortunate than we are and help them.



## RESPONDING IN FAITH

O God, thank you for this life and the new life to come. Amen.

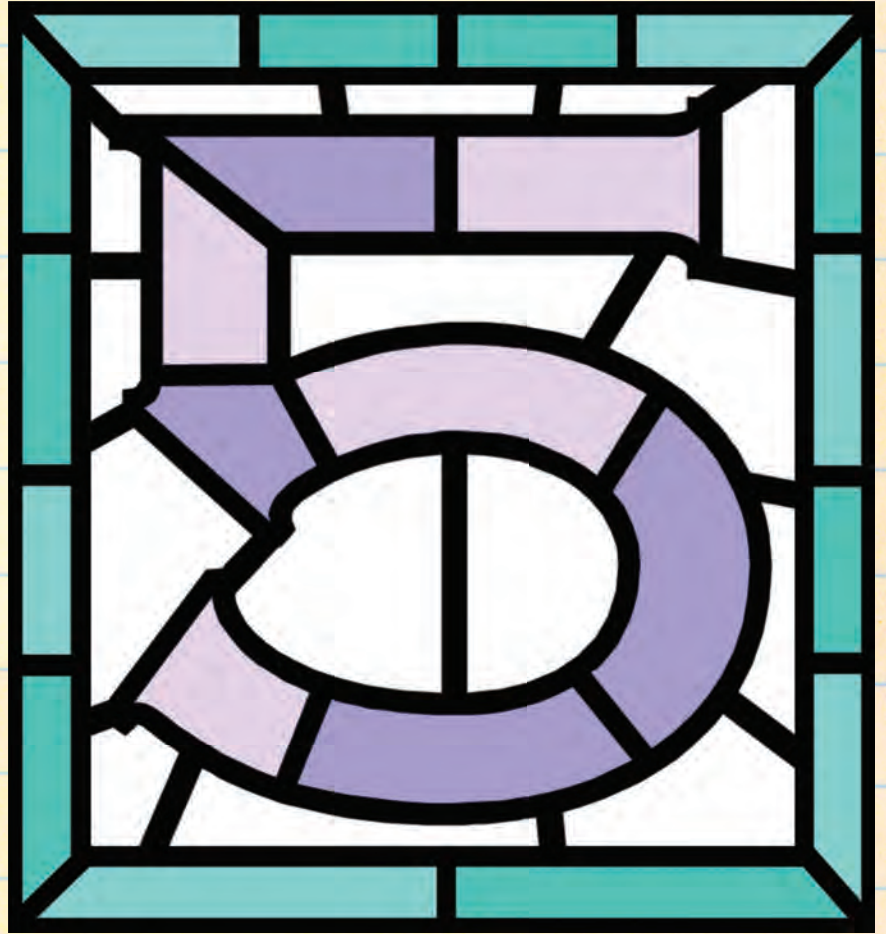


# Taking a Closer Look

## Remembering the Five Major Feast Days

There are eight sections inside the number five.

Starting in the first section at the bottom write  
EASTER / CHRISTMAS /  
TRANSFIGURATION /  
ASSUMPTION / HOLY CROSS/  
FIVE / MAJOR / FEASTS



## Our Armenian Way

The Five Major Feast Days: Who, What Where When!

The Five Major Feast Days in the Armenian Church are called “Tabernacle” or “Daghavar” feasts. The word “tabernacle” means “booth” and comes from the Old Testament tradition of setting up special little booths during the harvest festival.

You’ll be making special memory cards on these important feasts.



# Time to Celebrate

Decorate your Feast Day cards and play a review game!



## FAMILY CORNER

### Sharing Our Faith

This week we learned about the church calendar which marks feast days and saints days year after year. The *Donotzooytz* is the calendar of the church which guides us through the year. Students did a thorough review of the Five Major Feast Days of the Armenian Church – ask them to tell you about these feasts!

### Living Our Faith

1. At home this week look through your family's photo albums. Look for all your Christmas and other holiday gatherings. Dye a few hard boiled eggs red with onion skins in the traditional Armenian way.
2. Together with your child look at the Church Calendar. Show your child the feast days marked on it. Look for your name day if you were named for a saint. Look at the weeks before Easter and their special names. Look for days when special events are celebrated.