

Sacraments: A Call to Holy Living

THE LIVING WATER: BAPTISM

UNIT

3

LESSON
TWO

From Our Hearts to God

Bless my parents and godparents, Lord. Give them long life and good health. Amen.

MY WORLD

single copy: free



EXTRA! EXTRA!

Gregory Baptizes King Drtad In Euphrates River

301 AD. Hundreds gathered along the banks of the Euphrates River to witness the baptism of King Drtad and the royal family by Bishop Gregory. The king was recently healed from his illness by Bishop Gregory who was released from his imprisonment of 13 years in the pit at Khor Virab by the king. Upon the restoration of his health, the king accepted Christ and wished to become

a Christian. This amazing change of heart from persecutor of Christians to becoming one himself shocked the nation. There has been an underground Christian community in Armenia for three centuries. It is even said that the king's wife, Queen Ashkhen, and his sister, Princess Khosrovitookht, were following Christ. Now Armenian Christians can worship openly with their king.



GOD'S GUIDING WORDS

Jesus said: I tell you for certain that before you can get into God's kingdom you must be born not only by water, but by the Holy Spirit.

John 3:5

Getting Closer to God

Baptism is our first sacrament.

Jesus was baptized. What do you remember about his baptism?

Turn to Matthew 3: 13-17. Imagine you are there.

What do you see?

What do you hear?

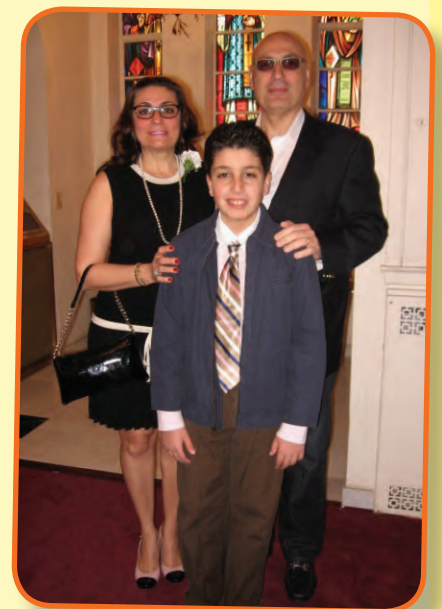
Along with the sacraments of Chrismation and Holy Communion, Baptism brings us into a holy life, our life with God. We are called to holy living and our parents and godparents respond by having us baptized. This sacrament opens the doors of heaven to us, making us a child of God. Christ is now our brother. The grace of God can now enter our lives. With baptism we are adopted by God. God becomes our heavenly, spiritual father. A new bond and closeness begins.

Parents choose a godfather (gnkahayr) and godmother (gnkamayr) to sponsor their child at baptism. The priest asks the godfather, "What does this child want?" and the godfather replies, "Faith, hope, love and baptism." Our parents and godparents guide us to living a God-pleasing life, a good life.

As we grow up to adulthood our parents and godparents, our grandparents and Sunday School teachers, our priest and our church are there to help us live a holy life. What do you think shows we are living a holy life?

RESPONDING IN FAITH

Thank you God for adopting me into your family. Amen.





Taking a Closer Look

Jesus called himself the LIVING WATER. Being baptized in water we are born again of the Holy Spirit. We have a new life through the living water of Jesus Christ.

Our Armenian Way

In the Armenian Church, a special necklace is prepared by the priest to place around the baby's neck. It is made of two strands of ribbon or yarn, one red and one white. Red is the color of blood. It is a symbol of life and of sacrifice. White is a symbol of purity. A cross is placed on the narod. Together they represent Jesus Himself. To place this around the baby's neck is a beautiful way of saying: "You are now walking with Christ. He is with you and around you!"



Time to Celebrate

Making a narod

White= purity and hope

Red=sacrifice and life

FAMILY CORNER

Sharing Our Faith

Today we learned more about baptism and becoming part of a Christian family. The children reviewed the story of St. Gregory's baptism of King Drtad, making Armenia the first Christian nation. They also reflected on what makes a life holy, since baptism calls us to holiness.

Living Our Faith

1. If your child's godparents live nearby, invite them for dinner.
2. If your child's godparents live far away, sit with your child and make a card for them.
3. Make a "Growing Up Booklet" with pictures of your fourth grader from infancy to today, including their baptism. Put one picture on each page and have everyone in the family write a comment around the picture.