



# Celebrating the birth of the Christian Church

The feasts of the month of May are all based on the birth of the Christian church. It is not possible for us Armenians to separate the history of our nation from that of our church, one is not conceivable without the other, and separating one from the other would result in the destruction of both.

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Sourp Hagop Armenian Church

# newsletter

It's time to vote!

Thank you for all the "Newsletter name" submissions. Please refer to the trilingual page for the list of names and cast your vote by email or by phone.



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## KHACHI YEREVMAN DON

### Appearance of the Holy Cross

Sunday, May 6, 2007

This is one of four special celebrations of the Armenian Church dedicated to the Cross. It commemorates the day in the year 351 AD when a huge luminous cross appeared in Jerusalem.

In the time of Jesus Christ, the cross was a symbol of punishment so excruciatingly painful and inhumane, that it was eventually banned by the government. The closest analogy to the cross in today's world would be capital punishment. Yet as with everything else which comes into contact with the Lord, even an instrument of death is miraculously given new life and meaning. Christians began to use the cross, which was once a sign of death, as a symbol of their faith and the new life that had been given to them through Jesus Christ.

#### Observation:

*It would be impossible to participate in the Divine Liturgy of the Armenian Church without noticing the importance of the cross; most obviously each believer makes the sign of the cross dozens of times.*

**When, during the divine liturgy do we make the sign of the cross and why?**

We constantly make the sign of the cross; for example, when the priest blesses us, before and after the "Hayr Mer", every time the names of Jesus Christ or the Trinity are mentioned, and on other specific occasions.

The cross is the sign that saves and saved us.

The cross is our strength.

If done by faith, the sign of the cross is a seal against evil. We do it to remember the divine support that is available to us.



### Cross-stone (Khachkar)

**Characteristically the most Armenian image representing the cross**

Khachkar, derives from the word for cross (khach) and stone (kar). These free standing, rectangular shaped cross-stones are found everywhere in Armenia. Without exception the central motif is a cross, elaborately and elegantly carved. Leaves sprout upwards from each side of the base of the cross towards its arms. The foliage represents the living cross. The cross of the Crucifixion was thought to be made from the Tree of Life, and like the Crucifixion itself, was not a mark of death, but of rebirth through Christ's Resurrection. Without the Crucifixion the Resurrection was impossible; the living and flowering cross, symbolizes the hope of a new life.

In Armenia the cross became the most powerful religious image, more prevalent than the image of the Virgin or even Christ Himself, and this is because the cross is the sign of the ultimate Christian message of salvation.

## HAMPARTSOUM

### Ascension Day

Thursday, May 17, 2007

Following His glorious Resurrection, Jesus appeared to His disciples numerous times.

On the fortieth day, again Jesus was with His eleven disciples. He gave them his final instructions and told them to go out in the world and become his witnesses. Jesus then went with them to Bethany, from where He rose to heaven.



#### Traditions of Hampartsoum

*It used to be a particularly joyful celebration for girls, who would collect flowers, which would be put in a bucket full of water, along with a small personal item from each girl. The girls would then sit around the bucket and sing the "Yar Gulé". With each stanza of the song one object would be taken from the bucket and the owner of that item would know her fortune, happy or sad. The opera "Anoush" is based on this theme.*

*It is believed that this celebration of the beauty of spring, and the joyful freedom of the female, stems from Armenia's pagan past and is adopted into our Christian tradition.*

#### Traditional food for Hampartsoum:

*Gatnabour (rice pudding) and Tzevazegh (French toast).*

## HOKEKALOUSD

### Pentecost

Sunday, May 27, 2007

Ten days after Hampartsoum, the disciples received the promised powers when the Holy Spirit\* descended on each of them. Hokekalousd (Pentecost)



is considered the birth of the Christian Church.

*\*Holy spirit is one of the three persons in the Holy Trinity coexisting with, and equal to, the Holy Father and the Holy Son.*



## INDEPENDENCE DAY OF ARMENIA MONDAY, MAY 28, 2007

After the mass, the special prayer of thanksgiving for the Armenian Republic is a witness of the firm conviction that nation and religion, church and homeland are bound together in a profound union.

On this day, we pray in memory of all those who have sacrificed their lives for our homeland.

## MOTHER'S DAY

May 13, 2007

Maternity occupies a central place in Christianity, in the image of the Virgin Mary, Mother of God.

The Armenian Church has always recognized the extremely important role of mothers in human life.

A mother plays a fundamental role in the formation of a child's personality.

In our times, when influences and pressures exerted on young generations are so much stronger than they were in the past, the mother's role is becoming even more important.

## HYMNE DE PENTECÔTE

La colombe expédiée des cieux,  
À la voix retentissante et descendant tel l'éclair,  
A armé les disciples par le feu sans les brûler,  
Alors qu'ils étaient assis dans le grenier.

La colombe immatérielle,  
L'insondable qui s'agite dans la pensée la plus  
profonde de Dieu,  
S'inspirant du Père, relate le redoutable  
Et second avènement du Christ.  
Il a été prêché à son sujet: «Il est consubstantiel  
au Père».

Que l'Esprit Saint soit béni jusqu'aux cieux,  
Lui qui provient du Père:  
Les apôtres se sont enivrés de sa coupe immortelle,  
Et ils ont invité la terre à rejoindre le ciel.

## HYMN OF PENTECOST

The dove sent down from on high,  
Descending with a very powerful sound and like  
sparkling thunderbolt,  
Fortified the disciples by fire without burning them  
While they were sitting at the upper chamber.

The immaterial dove, who is inscrutable,  
He who strolls in the deepest mind of God,  
Taking from the Father  
Tells us about the awesome  
second coming of Christ.  
He has been confessed as consubstantial  
with the Father.

Glory in the highest  
To the Holy Spirit who proceeds from the Father.  
The apostles got inebriated with the  
cup of immortality,  
And invited the earth to heaven.

## ՀՈԳԵԳԱԼՈՒՍՏԻ ՇԱՐԱԿԱՆ

Երկինքէն առաձուած աղանին  
Հօրաձայն ու փայլակի նման իջնելով  
աշակերանները առանց այրելու հրագինեց,  
երբ անոնք վերնատան մէջ կը նստէին:

Աննիթական աղանին,  
անճննելի՛ն՝ որ Աստուծոյ խորագոյն մտփին  
մէջ կը յաճի,  
Հօրմէն առնելով՝ (Քրիստոսի) ահաւոր եւ  
երկրորդ գալուստը կը պատմէ:  
Անոր մասին «Հօր համագոյակից է»  
ֆարոգեցին:

Մինչեւ երկինք օրհնութիւն՝ Հօրմէ ելլող  
Սուրբ Հոգիին.  
առաձայնները անոր անմահական բաժակով  
արբեցան,  
եւ երկիրը երկինք հրախրեցին:

# mayisian ՄԱՅԻՍԵԱՆ

## WHY THE ARMENIAN CHURCH? IT HAS BEEN SAID...

"The church is our essence... If you take the church out of our history, what else will we be left with?

Take away the fact that we have been the first nation to adopt Christianity; or the fact that it was the Church that created our alphabet; or that the first book ever written in the Armenian language was the Bible in the fifth century.

Remove from our history the evidence that our literature is inspired by the Christian experience and thinking; remove all the churches built throughout the centuries. What will be left of our culture?

Or take away our architecture, our liturgy, our cross stones, the manuscripts and miniature illuminations, and, what else shall we have to offer to the world? Our armies? Our victories? Our economic power? Where and when did we have them?....

Only moral values will make us great. We have not ruled by our economy, nor by the politics of our kingdoms. Whatever we have been, we have been by our spiritual values and our culture.

Our church has always been the force that tutored and strengthened our soul and led us to victory."

"An ancient proverb says: "From the fires of the past, carry the flames not the ashes." In this sense the past may turn into a force that may lead the young generation to a new conscientiousness of their identity as the torchbearers of the living and life giving flame of the Christian faith which has proven indomitable all along the past twenty centuries.

The young are not only the inheritors, but the torchbearers, a generation not to look backward to the past for a sort of consolation or empty pride, but forward with new vigor and vision for greater achievements, to carry on forward the flame that gave life to their forefathers."

"The traditions of a nation are the cementing elements of it's identity. When they are ignored, forgotten or despised, the face of that nation loses its colour, it becomes distorted and eventually it's identity is tarnished and lost forever. Traditions serve as anchors for strength and durability. Take them away from the life of a people and the people will shake like reeds without roots and fall like leaves severed from a tree..."

### ԲԱՑԱՏՐԱԿԱՆ ՄԸ

## Վերստին Ծնունդ եւ Դարձ

Ի՞նչ է վերստին ծնունդը եւ ի՞նչ է դարձը: Վերստին ծնունդը, որ նաեւ վերէն կամ երկինքէն ծնունդ կը նշանակէ, մարդ էակի կեանքին մէջ այն արմատական փոփոխութիւնն է, որով ան Քրիստոսի աշակերտ կ'ըլլայ: Իսկ դարձը այն արարքն է, որով կամայ թէ ակամայ, գիտութեամբ թէ անգիտութեամբ Աստուծմէ հեռացած անձը խոր զոյժումով մը ետ եւ վերջնականօրէն կը դառնայ Անոր (իշել Անառակ որդիին առակը):

Մկրտութեան խորհուրդը վերստին ծննդեան խորհրդանշական արտայայտութիւնն է: Ըստ Եկեղեցւոյ հաւատքին, մկրտող ենթական, անկա փոքրիկ ըլլալ, թէ մեծ՝ Աստուծմէ կանչուած մըն է: Կրնայ ան զանազան պատճառներով հեռանալ Աստուծմէ, սակայն այն օրը՝ որ խորապէս կը զոյժայ եւ կը դառնայ Աստուծոյ՝ վերստին կը լսէ Անոր ձայնը, որովհետեւ զոյժումով իր հոգիին ականջները բացուած են: Վերջին դարուն

ճոր թիրիմացութիւն մըն է առ Աստուած վերջնականօրէն դարձը «վերստին ծնունդ» կոչել: Ըստ Եկեղեցւոյ, մկրտուածները վերստին չեն ծնիր, որովհետեւ ծնած են արդէն. անոնք դարձ կրնան ունենալ՝ եթէ իրենց ճամբէն շեղելով հեռացած են: Իսկ անոնք որ չեն մկրտուած եւ Քրիստոսի կը հաւատան օր մը վերստին կը ծնին:

ԳՔ

Nommez le Bulletin –  
Votez maintenant!

Transmettez-nous, par courriel ou par téléphone, seulement un choix de la liste: une vote par personne.  
Délai : jeudi le 24 mai 2007.  
Pour des raisons pratiques, nous avons éliminé quelques noms suggérés. Si vous voulez en savoir plus, veuillez nous contacter.

Name the Newsletter –  
Vote Now!

Send us your selection by email or by phone. Only one selection per person.  
Deadline: Thursday, May 24, 2007.  
For reasons of practicality some suggested names had to be eliminated. If you require more information on this, please don't hesitate to contact us.

### Քուէարկէ հիմա՛

Ցանկէն միակ ընտրութիւնը յայտնէ մեզի ե-նամակով կամ հեռախօսով. իրաբանշիւր անձ՝ մէկ քուէ: Ժամկէտ՝ Հինգ. 24, Մայիս 2007: Առաջարկուած որոշ անուններ, գործնական պատճառներով, դուրս ձգուած են ցանկէն: Մանրամասնութեան համար կրնաս կապուիլ մեզ հետ:

LATIN SPELLING	ARMENIAN SPELLING
AMEN	ԱՄԷՆ
AVEDIS	ԱՒԵՏԻՍ
HOUSAPER	ՅՈՒՍԱՔԵՐ
AKHTAMAR	ԱԽԹԱՄԱՐ
HAY HOKI	ՀԱՅ ՀՈԳԻ
MENK MEZI	ՄԵՆՔ ՄԵՅԻ
GANTEGH	ԿԱՆԹԵՂ
HAYDNOUTIOUN	ՅԱՅՏՆՈՒԹԻՒՆ