

A Holy Family



WE PRAY TOGETHER



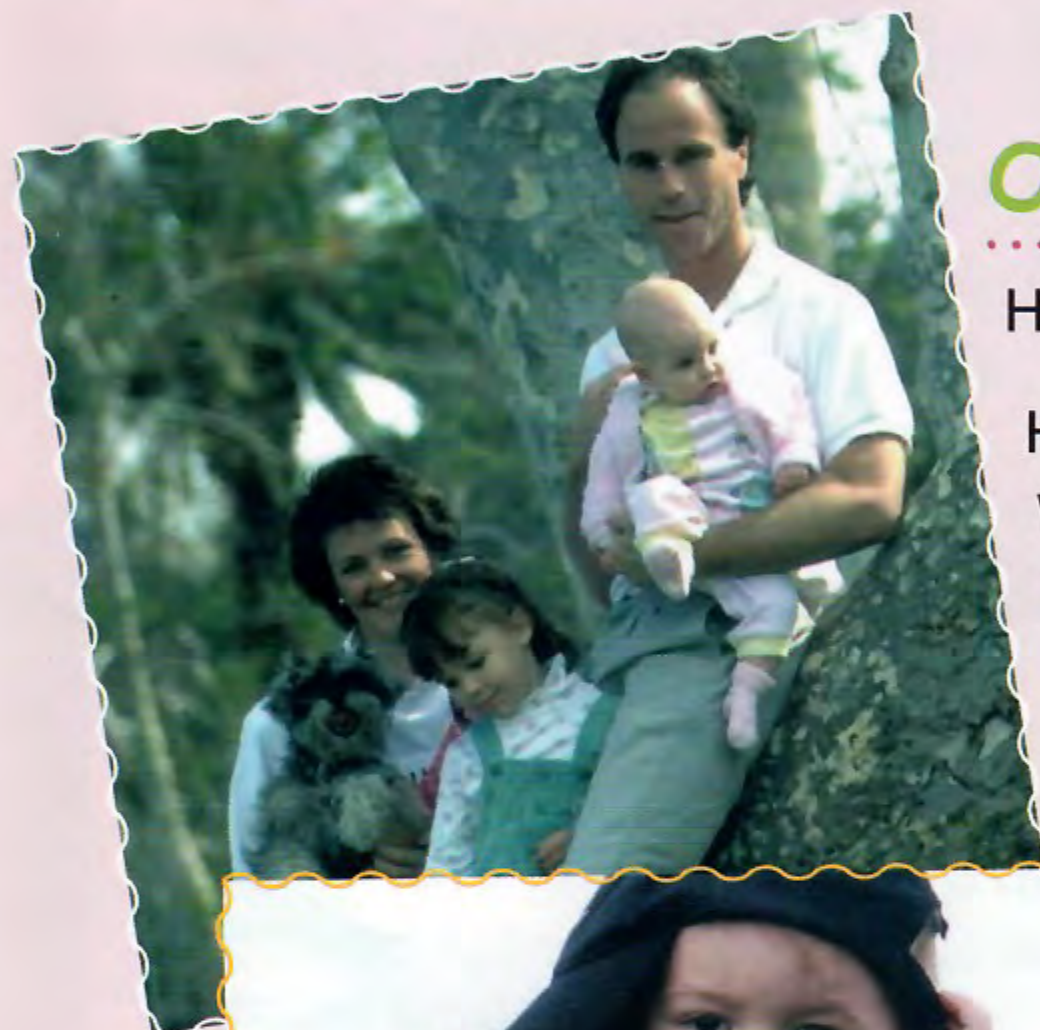
Hanoon Hor yev Vortvo yev Hokvooy'n Srpo.

Dear God, we pray for our families and families all over the world. Amen.

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

How many families do you see?

How do we know these families are happy?
What are they doing that shows us they are happy?



GOD'S WORD TO US

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Jesus and his parents went back to their home in Nazareth. The years passed, and Jesus grew strong and wise. He loved his parents and obeyed them. God was pleased with him.

Luke 2:51-52

WE LEARN ABOUT GOD

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Jesus, Mary and Joseph were a loving family. They showed their love for God and for one another by being thoughtful, respectful and kind to each other and to their neighbors in the village.

Joseph was a carpenter. He taught Jesus how to be a carpenter, too. With Jesus' help, Joseph made furniture for their neighbors and friends.

Our families are like this holy family. We love God, and we share his love with others by being thoughtful, kind and helpful.

What are some ways we can share God's love? How can we be kind and helpful to others?

The Litany for Families

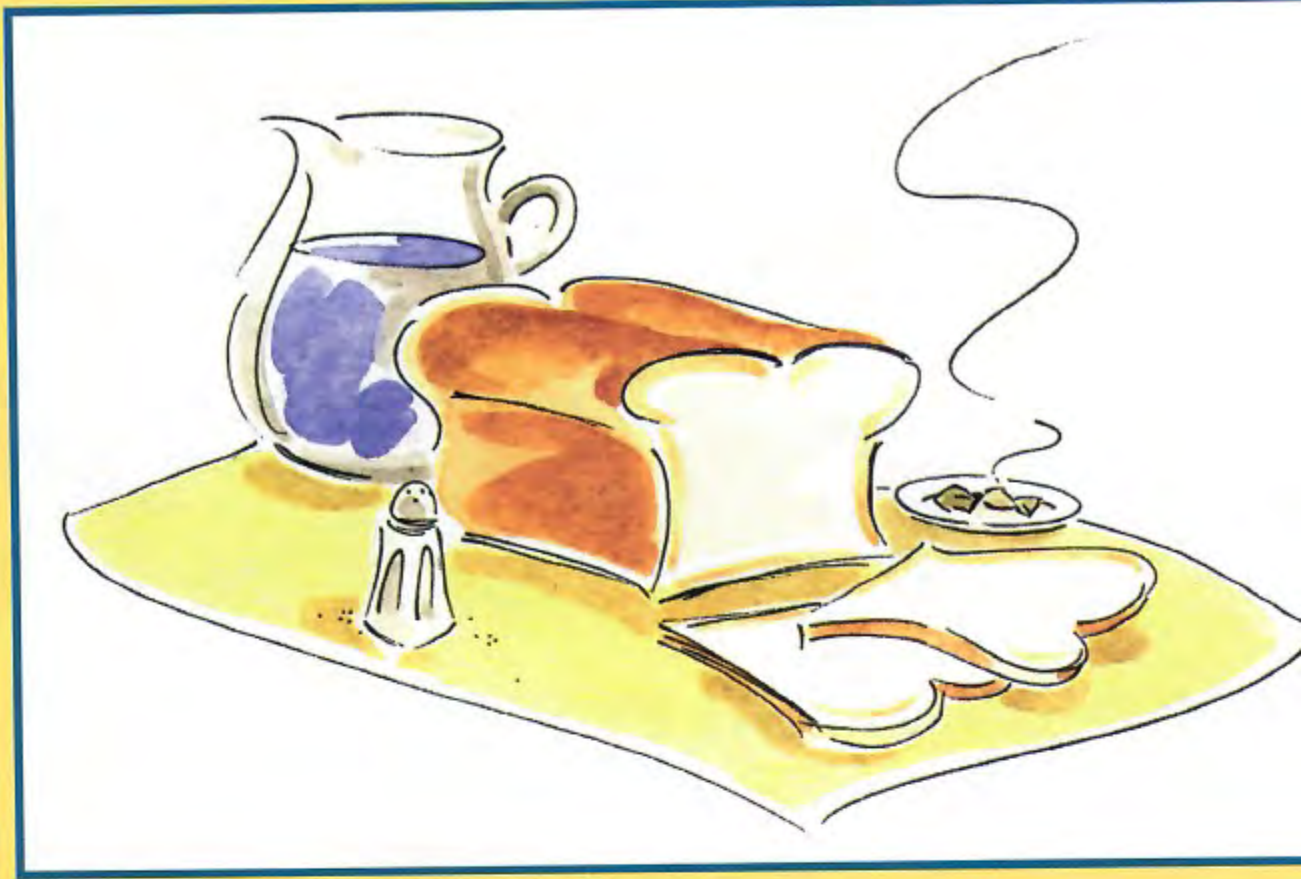
God bless everyone of us,
You and you and me.
All of us belong
to God's holy family.



OUR ARMENIAN WAY

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In the Armenian Church, there is a beautiful service called the “Blessing of the Home” (D’norhnek). God’s blessing brings peace, faith and love to the family.



Homes are usually blessed during the Christmas and Easter seasons. On the day when the priest comes to the home for the D’norhnek, the following things are given by the family to the priest for blessing:

Bread (Hahtz). We eat bread every day. It is an important part of our diet.

Water (Choor). We need water to live! Water should also remind us of our baptism.

Salt (Agh). Salt gives flavor to food. It also reminds us to live a God-pleasing life.

The priest brings with him:

Incense (Khoong). The smoke of the burning incense rising upward reminds us of prayers rising to heaven, and it is a reminder that we must pray.

WE CELEBRATE

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“All of the families of the earth shall be blessed.” Acts 3:25

The priest offers this prayer: “May this house and all its gifts be blessed and this family be protected by the sign of the Holy Cross and the Holy Gospel. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit now and always and for ever.” Amen.





FAMILY PAGE

SHARING OUR FAITH

The theme of today's lesson was the wholeness and holiness of families. Jesus, Mary and Joseph were a very special and holy family. You and your child(ren) are a holy family, too. Ask your child to tell you about the Holy Family and their early life in Nazareth.

The children learned that holiness and happiness begin right in their own homes, through the many loving acts of *sharing, hugging, smiling, giving* and *helping*, initiated and shared by you or another member of your family.

The Home Blessing (D'norhnek) service is another way that we can become a part of God's kingdom. God's blessing brings peace, unity, harmony, faith and, above all, love.

"And in your posterity shall all the families of the earth be blessed." (Acts 3:25)

LIVING OUR FAITH

The key to holiness in your family is *you*. The way you live your daily life will be an example for your children to follow. Our example is the Holy Family who shared in God's love and who expressed this love for each other and to others through loving kindness and respect.

With your child, choose one or more of the following activities:

1. Arrange to have your house blessed.
2. Check in on an elderly neighbor just to say hello.
3. Go shopping for an elderly or ill neighbor.
4. Bake cookies for a neighbor who is homebound.
5. Draw cheerful pictures to bring to a lonely neighbor.
6. Recite "The Litany for Families" for grandparents.

