

This is My Son



WE PRAY TOGETHER



Hanoon Hor yev Vortvo yev Hokvooyin Srpo.

Dear God, your Son Jesus always made you happy. Help us to be like him in all we say and do. Amen.



OUR LIFE TOGETHER

Vahan was eight years old. His brother Alex was five. Vahan, Alex, their parents, cousins and friends were in church for the baptism of Vahan's and Alex's baby sister. Everyone came except Grammy, Medz Mama. She was not able to travel.

Later that afternoon, Vahan's father said, "Why don't you write a letter to Medz Mama and tell her about Araxie's baptism? That will make her very happy. I will help you."

"I want to tell Grammy all about it," and he began to write ...

Dear Grammy,

We went to church this morning for Araxie's baptism. I was sad you could not be with us. Araxie cried a lot when Uncle Kevork handed her to Der Hayr. Der Hayr said some prayers and put her in something like a tub. When she was dried off, the priest put Holy Oil on her body. Then Auntie Susan dressed Araxie in white clothes. Der Hayr carried her to the Altar to give her Holy Communion. Daddy helped me spell that word. Araxie did not cry for that part. Mommy said that Araxie is part of God's family now.

We will come to see you soon and will bring some pictures of the baptism.

Love,

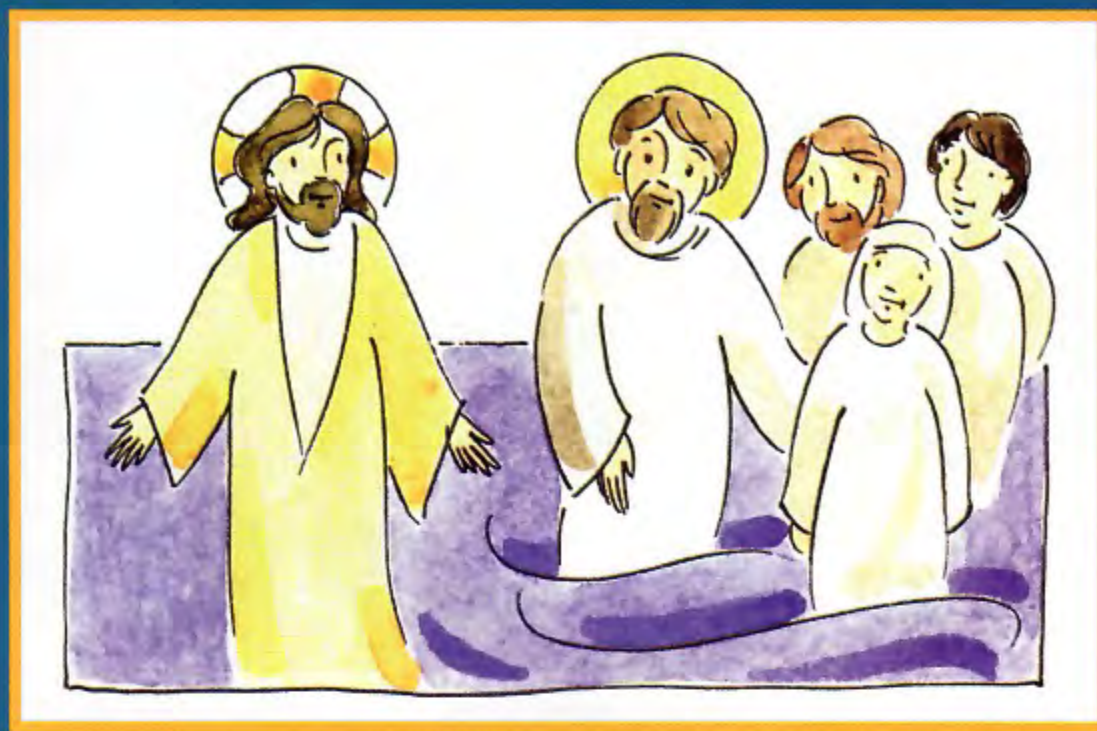
Vahan



GOD'S WORD TO US

Jesus left Galilee and went to the River Jordan because he heard that his cousin, John, was baptizing people there. Jesus wanted John to baptize him. John was happy to see Jesus, and he asked, "Why have you come to me? You should baptize me."

Jesus answered, "For now, this is how God wants it to be." John baptized Jesus. As soon as Jesus came out of the water, a dove, sent by God, came down from the sky and a voice from heaven said, "This is my dear Son, and I am pleased with him." *Matthew 3:13-16*



WE LEARN ABOUT GOD



God the Father and God the Holy Spirit were always with Jesus, the Son of God. At Jesus' baptism, the Father and the Holy Spirit were there. The dove appeared as the Holy Spirit, and God the Father uttered the beautiful words from the heavens, "This is my beloved Son." The people heard the words of God, saw the beautiful white dove and knew that Jesus was the Son of God.

Following the example of Jesus, babies are baptized, too. In this way, they become a part of God's family.

OUR ARMENIAN WAY

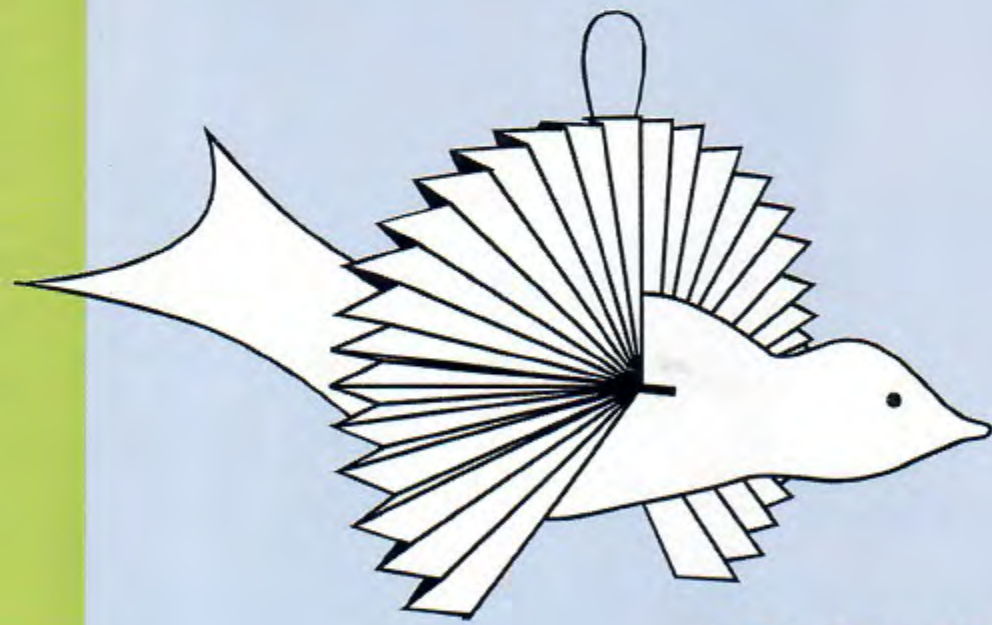
All of the people who attend a baptism are special. But there are two very special people – the godfather and the godmother. At Araxie's baptism, Uncle Kevork was the godfather and Auntie Susan was the godmother.

The godfather and the godmother have special duties. The godfather speaks for and presents the baby. The godmother brings the white clothing for the baby's baptism. The godfather and the godmother both have another very important duty. They promise that when the baby gets a little older, they, along with the parents, will bring the child to church and to Sunday School.



My godfather is _____.

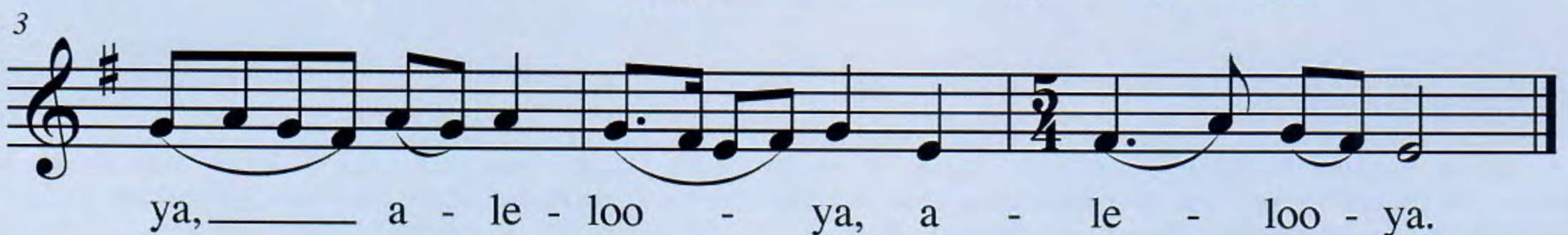
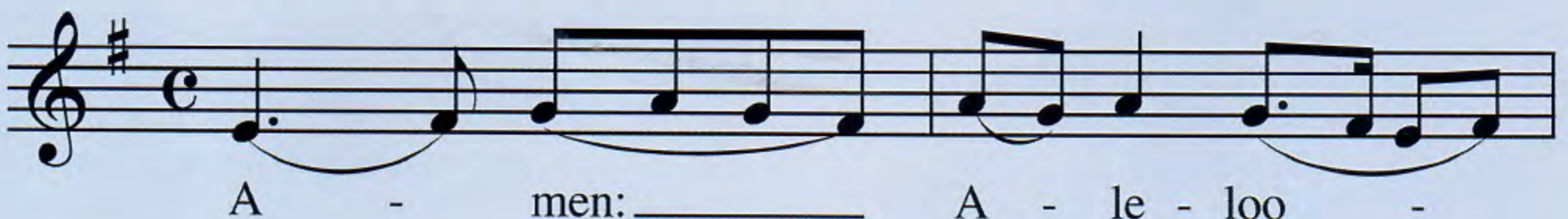
My godmother is _____.



WE CELEBRATE

At the time of Jesus' baptism, God sent a dove down from heaven, and God's voice was heard saying, "This is my Son. I am so pleased with him."

AMEN ALELOOYA





FAMILY PAGE

SHARING OUR FAITH

Today, the focus of our lesson was baptism. The children listened to a story about the baptism of a baby in the Armenian Church. They also heard the story of the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan. God the Father sent the Holy Spirit down in the form of a dove to seal the love and communion between the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. At this holy event, a message was communicated to all of us about God's abiding love.

We talked about the importance of family and, in particular, the important roles of the godfather and the godmother. The children made paper doves to symbolize the Holy Spirit who was present at the baptism of Jesus. They "flew" the doves as they sang the hymn, "Amen Allelooya."

LIVING OUR FAITH

God the Father loved his Son. Your children are precious and loved by you. With each hug, each kiss and each prayer, the bond that exists between you and your child and God grows stronger.

Choose one activity to do with your child:

1. Ask your child to explain the significance of the dove; sing "Amen Allelooya" together.
2. Share with your child his/her baptismal photos, pointing out your child's godparents.
3. Suggest that your child write a letter to his/her godparents.

