

Jesus is Born!



WE PRAY TOGETHER



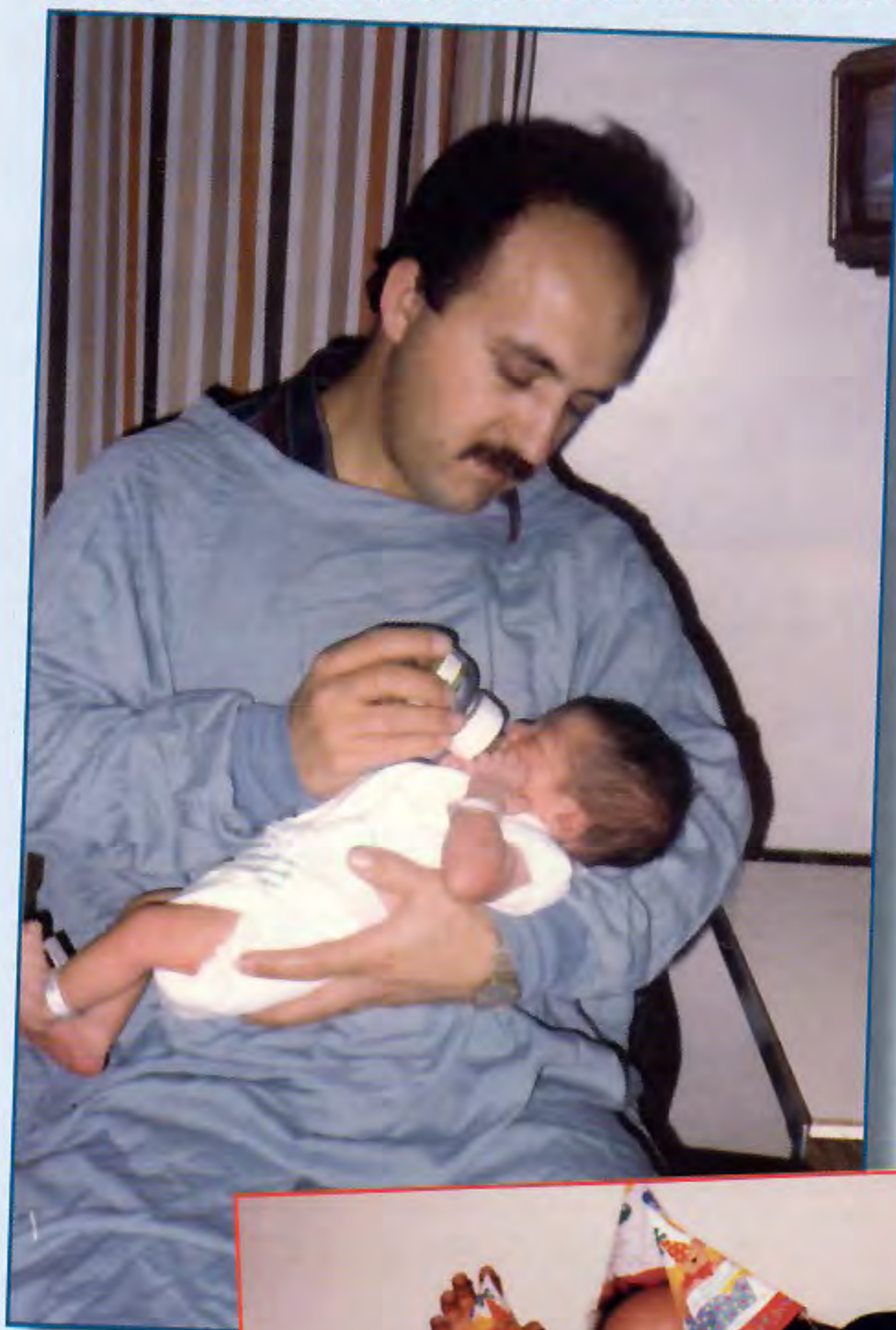
Hanoon Hor yev Vortvo yev Hokvooyn Srpo.

Dear heavenly Father, we thank you for sending your Son Jesus to us. Amen.

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

A few years ago, there was a special gift delivered to your family, and it was YOU. You were that special gift of love! Everyone wanted to hold you and hug you.

Because of their great love for you, your family gathers on your "Birth Day" to celebrate with gifts and candles, a birthday cake and a Happy Birthday song.



GOD'S WORD TO US

Joseph and Mary were in Bethlehem when the baby Jesus was born. The town was very crowded! There was no room anywhere. Mary and Joseph stayed in a stable. When Jesus was born, Mary wrapped him in cloths and laid him in a bed of hay.



That night, shepherds were watching their sheep on a hillside. An angel sent by God, came to them. "Do not be afraid. I have good news! Avedis! On this day a baby was born in Bethlehem. He is called Jesus. You will find him in a stable lying on a bed of hay."

The shepherds went to Bethlehem and knelt down when they saw the baby Jesus. They would always remember this holy night when Jesus was born!

WE LEARN ABOUT GOD



God's greatest gift to us is Jesus. Jesus is the Son of God and the Son of Mary. When Jesus was born, the angels sang out the good news. "Avedis!"

You are a gift of love to your family. Each year, your family celebrates the day you were born. Each year in church, we remember and celebrate the wonderful day when Jesus was born.

How does your family celebrate your birthday?

How does the Armenian Church family celebrate Jesus' birthday?

Armenian families go to church together. Your mother or grandmother may prepare special Armenian foods like *anoush aboor* (a dried fruit pudding) made especially for New Year and Christmas.

OUR ARMENIAN WAY

Once, when the disciples asked Jesus who the greatest people were in God's eyes, he said, "the children, and they all have an angel in heaven." In Armenian, the word angel is "hreshdag."



St. Gregory of Nareg was an Armenian monk who lived many hundreds of years ago. He wrote a beautiful prayer about guardian angels. Here is a simple prayer based on his words.

Dear God,

Hear the prayers of our guardian angels
Who are mighty
and pure
and fast as the blink of an eye.

They help us
Do good things
Be strong in faith
Get to know you better.

Through the prayers of my guardian angel, help me turn to your light!

WE CELEBRATE

The angels brought news of the baby Jesus. "Avedis," they sang to the shepherds. "Avedis. We bring you good news. We bring you news which will give you great joy."

Avedis

The angels sang.
The shepherds sang.
The people sang.
Jesus is born.

Avedis
Avedis
Avedis
Avedis





The birth of your child changed your small world. This week the children learned about the birth of Jesus and how it changed the whole world forever. Your child learned that just as friends and family celebrate his or her birthday, the birthday of Jesus is celebrated by the church family. In the Armenian Church, the birth of Jesus and his baptism are celebrated on the same day, January 6.

1. If you have special foods and customs to celebrate this holy day, share them with your child.
2. Each day open the window of an advent calendar. Read and discuss the passage.
3. For your child(ren), set up his/her own nativity scene.
4. Bring toys to a collection site; visit a nursing home; take gifts to a shelter.
5. Recite the Avedis chant together as a family.

