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We refer to St. Mary, the Mother of our Lord Jesus Christ, as the Mother of God:

Asdvadsamayr/Աստուածամայր, for when she was conceived by the Power of the Holy Spirit, she carried the Son of God in her womb (Mt 1:18).

When we accept Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, as our God, and admit that it is no longer we who live, but Christ Who lives in us (Gal 2:20), we accept that Mary is our Mother too. She intercedes between the Lord and ourselves.

We put our trust in her: we ask her to protect us as we ask our own mothers to do so.



The *Narod* pamphlet is published by the Holy Trinity Armenian Church of Greater Boston to provide the faithful significant information regarding the sacred traditions, rituals and services of the Armenian Apostolic Church. If you have questions regarding the topics covered in the *Narod*, please speak with our pastor, Fr. Vasken Kouzouian.

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Stained glass window in the
Baptistry of the Holy Trinity
Armenian Church of Greater Boston

Narod
St. Mary
The Mother of God



The stairway leading down to St. Mary's Tomb in Jerusalem. A scene captured during an Armenian Church service.

When the angel Gabriel approached Mary, she was troubled! And when the angel told Mary she was going to bear a Son, Jesus, she asked how that was possible since she didn't even have a husband.

The angel gave Mary the example of Elizabeth and how she bore a child at an old age, and told Mary that with God nothing is impossible (Lk 1:28-37).

Mary responded to the angel: "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word" (Lk 1:38).

Mary's consent and cooperation of her faith played a major role, for even though God can do anything and does not need human consent, He wills human consent and respects our freedom—the freedom, which He has given us from the moment He created us.

Mary exhibited intolerable patience as a mother when she looked up to Golgotha and saw the soldiers nailing her own Son, Jesus, on the cross to death (Jn 19:17-27). Due to her Divine Motherhood, we venerate Mary, who was raised to heaven after she fell asleep in Christ. Her Assumption is different from Christ's Ascension. God raised her to heaven, whereas Christ arose by His own Divine Power (Mt 28:6).

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF UNDERSTANDING WHO TRULY IS THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

The identity of Christ, who is hundred percent God and hundred percent human, has so many layers of understanding and mystery, and one aspect of it is the vital understanding of who His mother is.

Mary is the source of Jesus' humanity.

It is important to acknowledge and know who Mary is, because through her we would know who Jesus is. For example, if we believe that Jesus was conceived in a natural way, then we don't know who Jesus is. If Jesus were the son of Mary and Joseph, He would only be human like us, and not the eternal Son of the living God.

Jesus in the womb of Mary is not a



We honor the Mother of God by including her in our liturgical services, worship, and iconography. Her portrait carrying Jesus is placed on all the Altars of the Armenian churches. She is not an exception, but an example.

new person, for He is the eternal Son of God.

Mary conceived as a Virgin by the Power of the Holy Spirit. During His Ministry, Jesus was told, "Your mother and your brothers are standing outside, desiring to see you" and He responded that His mother and brothers are those who hear and act upon the word of God (Lk 8: 20-21).

Therefore, Mary, our Mother, is the fertile ground. She is the doer and keeper of God's word: she is the exemplary disciple. The apostles become the hearers and bearers of Christ's word and also look upon Mary's life as an example.