

The Badarak

(Divine Liturgy) means sacrifice. Christ, the Lamb of God, sacrificed Himself on the cross for our sins. Therefore, the ultimate sacrifice is the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. Hence, every Sunday (the day of the Lord) we participate in Badarak to receive and accept this sacrifice: Holy Communion.

We celebrate Badarak in remembrance of our Lord and receive Christ's body and blood, for He told us to do so (Luke 22). It is only through Christ that we can enter the Kingdom of Heaven and through liturgy we are given the privilege to see a glimpse of God's Kingdom.



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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The Basics of Badarak

Badarak belongs to the people; it is a corporate act. We pray, repent, confess our sins and receive the Eucharist as one community— God's community. Badarak is vertical and horizontal, like the cross. The "vertical branch" of the cross symbolizes the harmony between God and His creations, whereas, the "horizontal branch" represents harmony between ourselves.

Every Sunday during liturgy, the priest walks amongst us offering incense during the procession.

As the priest is approaching us, we should get closer to him, kiss the cross he is holding, make the sign of the cross and say the following, "Heeshescheer yev ezmez arachee anmah kareenn Asdoodso," which means, "Remember us also before the immortal lamb of God."

And the priest responds that we will be remembered before the immortal Lamb of God. By doing so the priest is pledging that he will pray for us while celebrating Badarak.

That is because we are asking the priest to pray for us as he goes back to the Holy Altar and stands in the presence of Christ while celebrating Badarak on Sundays.



The first part of the Badarak is connected to the reading of the Gospel, and the second part is focused on the Holy Communion. Moreover, the Eucharistic Prayer is the central prayer of the Badarak.

The Eucharistic Prayer of the Armenian Church

We've been reciting the Eucharistic Prayer for hundreds of years now and it is attributed to St. Athanasius. Originally the prayer was chanted out loud by the priest, but throughout the years, the tradition changed (not due to theological reasons).

Even though the priest recites some parts of the prayer silently and other parts out loud, he is delivering it on behalf of the whole community. It is through the Eucharistic prayer that the worship of the faithful of the Armenian Church is expressed.

The divine plan is emphasized in this prayer, where God acted in Christ, who executed His Father's will to restore us from our sins. Christ volunteered to sacrifice Himself for us.

Christ's torture, crucifixion death and resurrection show us God's love for us.

At the Last Supper, Jesus assures us that if we accept His body and blood, we will be granted eternal life with God. During Badarak we are repeating Christ's words that He uttered during the Last Supper and are communing with God and each other.