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ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH OF AMERICA

EASTERN PRELACY - 138 East 39th Street, New York, NY 10016
Tel: (212) 689-7810, FAX (212) 689-7168, e-mail: email@armenianprelacy.org

2017 FEASTS & FASTS

According to the Liturgical Calendar of the Armenian Apostolic Church¹

Below is a basic classification of the **feasts** and **fasts** of the Armenian Apostolic Church:²

- I. Dominical Feasts
- II. Feasts of Saints
- III. Fasting Days

I. Dominical Feasts

Dominical Feasts are divided into three groups:

- A. Feasts of Christ
- B. Feasts of the Holy Mother of God (“*Soorp Asdvadzadzin*,” “*Theotokos*”)
- C. Feasts of the Holy Cross and the Holy Church

A. Feasts of Christ

1. Theophany (Fixed)

- Nativity (Christmas) and Baptism—January 6
- Naming of our Lord Jesus Christ (8th Day of Nativity)—January 13
- Presentation of the Lord to the Temple—February 14 (40th Day)

2. Resurrection (Easter): April 16

Celebrations related to the resurrection of Christ include:

- Remembrance of Christ’s Raising Lazarus—April 8
- Palm Sunday and Holy Week—April 9-15
- The 40-day period from Easter to Ascension—May 25
- Pentecost³ (7 Sundays after Easter)—June 4

2. Transfiguration⁴ (*Vartavar*): July 23

¹ Prepared by AREC—Eastern Prelacy.

² For information on feasts and saints, see *Saints and Feasts of the Armenian Church* by Patriarch Torkom Koushagian (in Armenian and an abridged version in English); *Feasts of the Armenian Church and National Traditions* by Garo Bedrosian (in Armenian and English). These books are available at the bookstore.

³ The 50th day of Easter.

- B. Feasts of the Holy Mother of God (“*Soorp Asdvadzadzin*,” “*Theotokos*”)
1. Annunciation—April 7 (fixed)
 2. Discovery of the Box (fifth Sunday after Pentecost)—July 9
 3. Assumption (observed on the Sunday closest to August 15)—August 13
 4. Discovery of the Belt (second Sunday of the Assumption) —August 27
 5. Birth of the Holy Virgin Mary—September 8 (fixed)
 6. Presentation to the Temple—November 21 (fixed)
 7. Conception of the Holy Virgin Mary by Anna—December 9 (fixed)

C. Feasts of the Holy Cross & Feasts of the Holy Church

Feasts of the Holy Cross

- i. Apparition of the Holy Cross (fourth Sunday after Easter)—April 14
- ii. Exaltation of the Holy Cross (observed on the Sunday closest to September 14)—September 17
- iii. Holy Cross of Varak (third Sunday of the Exaltation)—October 1
- iv. Discovery of the Cross (Seventh Sunday of the Exaltation)—October 29

Feasts of the Holy Church

- i. New Sunday (first Sunday after Easter) —April 23
- ii. Green Sunday (second Sunday after Easter)—April 30
- iii. Red Sunday (third Sunday after Easter)—May 7
- iv. Holy *Echmiadzin* (second Sunday after Pentecost)—June 18
- v. Commemoration of the Old Ark [of the covenant] and the Feast of the New One – the Holy Church (Saturday preceding Transfiguration, “*Vartavar*”)—July 22
- vi. *Shoghagat*—Feast of *Echmiadzin* (Saturday preceding the Assumption)—August 12



II. Feasts of Saints

In the Armenian Apostolic Church, saints are commemorated on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, except during Great Lent on Saturdays only and during Eastertide no saints are commemorated.

For the list of all the Armenian Saints in our Liturgical Calendar, see below.



III. Fasting days

There are two kinds of fasting:

- 1) Abstinence from meat and animal products – “*bahk*”
- 2) Total abstinence – “*dzom*”

Fasting days are classified as follows:

° **Daily Fast**

⁴ This feast is always seven weeks after the feast of Pentecost (or 14 weeks after Easter).

Wednesday and Friday, except during the forty days of Eastertide (until Ascension) and during the octave of the Theophany (January 6 – 13)

◦ **The Fast of Great Lent and Holy Week (7 weeks)**

Great fast (*medz bahk*) starts on the first day of Great Lent, Monday, February 27, and continues until Great Saturday, April 15, 2017.

◦ **Weeklong Fasts**

There are ten weeklong fasts preceding major feasts and commemorations, observed from Monday through Friday, except for the fast of the Nativity which is 6 days:

1. Fast of Nativity/Theophany: December 30-January 4
2. Fast of the Catechumens: February 6-10
3. Fast of Elijah: June 5-9
4. Fast of our Holy Father St. Gregory the Illuminator: June 26-30
5. Fast of Transfiguration: July 17-21
6. Fast of the Assumption of the Holy Mother of God: August 7-11
7. Fast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross: September 11-15
8. Fast of the Holy Cross of Varak: September 25-29
9. Fast of Advent: November 20-24
10. Fast of St. Hagop: December 11-15



Major Feasts (*Daghavar Doner*)

1. Nativity (Christmas) and Epiphany – January 6
2. Easter – Resurrection (between March 22 and April 25)
3. Transfiguration (14 Sundays after Easter)
4. Assumption of the Holy Mother of God (the Sunday closest to August 15)
5. Exaltation of the Holy Cross (the Sunday closest to September 14)

Fixed Feasts

1. Nativity (Christmas) and Theophany – January 6
2. Presentation of the Lord to the Temple – February 14
3. Annunciation to Mary – April 7
4. The Birth of St. Mary the *Theotokos* – September 8
5. Presentation of the Holy Mother of God – November 21
6. Conception of the Virgin Mary by Anna – December 9



For more info, see the **Liturgical Calendar and Daily Bible Readings** posted on the Prelacy website (www.armenianprelacy.org).

Armenian Saints

According to the *Donatsooyts* of the Armenian Church

Century	Name	Description
1 st	Santookhd	Princess, Martyr
	Addeus of Edessa	Patriarch, Martyr
	Apkar	King
2 nd	Voski and 4 companions	Priest, Martyrs
	Sookias and 18 companions	Martyrs
3 rd	Hripsime and 33 companions	Nuns, Martyrs
	Kayane and 2 companions	Nuns, Martyrs
4 th	Nooneh	Nun
	Maneh	Nun
	St. Gregory the Illuminator	Confessor
	Drtad	King, Martyr
	Ashkhen	Queen
	Khosrovitookhd sister of Drtad	Princess
	Andon	Hermit
	Kronites	Hermit
	Arisdages	Catholicos, Martyr
	Vrtanes	Catholicos
	Krikoris	Bishop, Missionary, Martyr
	Hoosik	Catholicos, Martyr
	Taniel the Syrian	Bishop, Martyr
	Nerses the Great	Catholicos
	Khat	Bishop
	5 th	Sahag Bartev
Mesrob Mashdots		Vartabed
Stephen of Oolnya and his companions		Martyrs
Adom Knooni and Manajih Rshdooni and their armies		Martyrs
Vartan and his 1035 companions		Martyrs
Hovsep		Catholicos, Martyr
Sahag		Bishop, Martyr
Tatik		Bishop, Martyr
Ghevont		Priest, Martyr
Mooshegh		Priest, Martyr
Arshen		Priest, Martyr
Manuel		Priest, Martyr
Abraham		Priest, Martyr
Khoren	Priest, Martyr	

	Kachach	Deacon, Martyr
	Abraham	Deacon, Martyr
	Yeghishe	Translator
	Movses	Translator, Martyr
	Tavit	Translator
	Tatool	Hermit
	Varos	Hermit
	Tomas	Hermit
	Shooshan, daughter of Vartan the Great	Martyr
6th	Krikoris-Razhik	Martyr
	Asdvadzador	Martyr
7th	7 Khodajarak	Anchorite, Martyrs
8th	David of Dvin	Martyr
	John of Otsoon	Catholicos
	Vahan of Koghtun	Prince, Martyr
	Sahag Ardzrooni	Satrap, Martyr
	Hamazasb Ardzrooni	Satrap, Martyr
9th	Sahag Garnetsi	Prince, Martyr
	Hovsep Garnetsi	Prince, Martyr
	Adomian Generals	Martyrs
11th	Gregory of Narek	Vartabed, Mystic
12th	Koharinos, Radigos, Dzamitos, Dookigos	Martyrs
	Nerses Shnorhali (Graceful)	Catholicos
14th	John of Vorodan	Vartabed
15th	Gregory of Datev	Vartabed
20th	The Martyrs of the Armenian Genocide	Martyrs

SOURCES

Ashjian, Mesrob. *The Saints and Us*. New York: Armenian Prelacy, 1993.

Koushagian, Torkom. *Saints & Feasts of the Armenian Church*. Abridged ed. New York, N.Y.: St. Vartan Press, 1988.

Ormanian, Malachia. *The Church of Armenia: Her History, Doctrine Rule, Discipline, Liturgy, Literature, and Existing Conditions*. 2nd English ed. London: Mowbray, 1955.