

ADVENT: PREPARING FOR CHRIST'S ARRIVAL

As Armenian Orthodox Christians, we begin the celebration of the Theophany [Christmas Arm. *Asdvadzahaydnootyoon*] with a time of preparation called Advent [Arm. *Hisnag*] fifty days before January 6. Advent is a time to begin to purify both soul and body to enter properly into and partake of the great spiritual reality of Christ's Coming.

Although Advent was like Lent at one time, a period of fasting; yet, in modern times, it has taken the form of three separate week-long fasts during the fifty days in addition to the regular fast days of Wednesdays and Fridays.

The three week-long fasts during Advent are:

1. **The Fast of Advent** (November 20-24)
2. **The Fast of St. James** (December 11-15)
3. **The Fast of the Nativity** (December 30-January 4)

The joyful note of the season, in anticipation of the Nativity of Christ, grants us an opportunity for the faithful to exercise their Christian commitment in a mood of happy spiritual toil to "make ready the way of the Lord". (Matthew 3:3).

As we "make ready the way of the Lord", let us heed the words of Christ from the Gospel reading of the day according to St. Luke (9:44-50) who reminds us that in order to prepare for and receive the Coming of the Lord, we must become like a child—in innocence, sincerity, simplicity and humility.

LILIES OF THE FIELD DECODER

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
W	H	X	R	B	K	O	D	V	I	E	L	P	M	U	Q	C	Y	A	G	F	T	J	Z	N	S

1. 1-7-4-4-18 _____
2. 26-7-12-7-14-7-25 _____
3. 12-19-5-7-4 _____
4. 26-13-12-11-25-8-7-4 _____
5. 12-10-12-10-11-26 _____
6. 17-12-7-22-2-11-26 _____
7. 26-13-10-25 _____
8. 21-10-11-12-8 _____
9. 8-4-11-26-26-11-8 _____
10. 20-4-7-1 _____

SPIN FIELD	LILIES LABOR	SPLENDOR GROW	WORRY CLOTHES	DRESSED SOLOMON
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Worrying

First Sunday of Advent | Gospel Reading: Luke 12:13-31

Nobody likes to worry. Worrying makes us feel uncomfortable, scared, and nervous about things that we should not be scared or nervous about. Have you ever worried about something before? What have you been worried or scared about?

Jesus tells us not to worry about things in this life because everything we have in this life is temporary – that is to say, we cannot take anything in this life to heaven.

People worry about many things. People worry about food, clothing, money, houses, health, family members, children, parents, and other things, but Jesus tells us not to worry. But how can we not worry about these things? We care about certain things and want to make sure everything is good and works out for them.

However, Jesus tell us that we should only be concerned about the Kingdom of God. When he says this, He means we should search for God in our lives and make God a priority. When we do this, God will give us all that we need: food, clothing and more. He will take care of us.

This does not mean we should not plan for our future or just sit and wait for things to happen to us, but we should not worry about the future and what might happen. When we worry about the future and things in our lives, we end us not thinking about God anymore and about worldly things. When God is the center of our lives, He helps and guides us to do what is right and true.

Is there something in your life that you have been worried about? Why don't you try giving that worry to God, praying to Him that He help you in that situation and then trust that He will help?

God promised to be with us and help us, and for that reason, there is no other reason to worry.

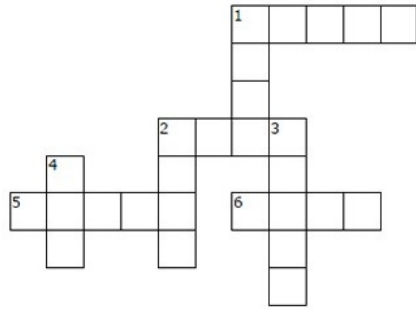
ARMENIAN WORDS TO KNOW FROM HOLY BADARAK

շնորհեա => sh-nor-hya => grant

Շնորհեա Տէր:
Shnorhya Der.
Grant [it], Lord.

(An example is on page 20 in the Liturgy Book)

LILIES OF THE FIELD CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1. To be uneasy or concerned about something; to be troubled.
- 2. A creature with feathers and wings, usually able to fly
- 5. Work, especially that which involves physical effort
- 6. A plant with large, usually bell-shaped flowers on long stems

DOWN

- 1. To have on your body (clothing, for example)
- 2. A large building on a farm in which grain and animals are often kept
- 3. To take in and swallow liquid through the mouth
- 4. To put food into the mouth, chew it, and swallow it

EAT	DRINK	WEAR	BIRD
BARN	LABOR	LILY	WORRY

SPIRITUAL THOUGHT

A house without God the Father is like a cemetery. A house without Jesus is like a morgue. A house without the Holy Spirit is like a funeral home. A house without faith is blind. A house without hope is dark. A house without love is poisonous.



Consider the lilies how they grow: they toil not, they spin not; and yet I say unto you, that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

Luke 12:27

«Հայեցարուք ընդ շուշանն, որպէս ածի. ոչ ջանայ եւ ոչ նիւթէ. ասեմ ձեզ. եւ ոչ Սողոմոն վն յամենայն ի փառսն իր զզեցաւ իբրեւ զմի ի նոցանէ:»

Ղուկաս ԺԲ.27