

St. James Armenian Apostolic Orthodox Church (Evanston, IL)

# **NEW YEAR'S EVE**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2017**

Psalms	8:30 AM
Morning Service	9:00 AM
Divine Liturgy	10:00 AM

## **PRAYER FOR THE CATHOLICOS OF ALL ARMENIANS**



## **BLESSING OF POMEGRANATES**



## BLESSING OF POMEGRANATES



The Order of Special Prayer for the Catholicos of All Armenians will be offered and the ceremony of the Blessing of pomegranates will take place at the end of the Divine Liturgy on December 31, 2017.

This is a new tradition established by the Pontifical Order of His Holiness Karekin II, Catholicos of All Armenians that will become a part of Armenian New Year's traditions.

The pomegranate symbolically represents the Church of Christ. Although the seeds of the pomegranate are separated by thin membranes, they hold tight together, in the same way that the Christian Church holds all Christians around the world together in Christ's love - separate, but not divided. The pomegranate shows unity in diversity.

The crown of the pomegranate represents Jesus' crown and His sovereignty over the world. The red color symbolizes His Salvific Blood that was shed for All. It also contains 365 seeds as the number of days in a year symbolizing new life in Christ in the new year. Each family will receive one blessed pomegranate to take home.

In 2015 H.H. Karekin II, Catholicos of All Armenians Etchmiadzin blessed pomegranates in the Mother See of Holy for the first time and established it as a tradition on New Year's Day.

The blessed pomegranates will be distributed to the faithful.

