

St. James Armenian Apostolic Church (Evanston, IL)

NEW YEAR DAY!

JANUARY 1, 2016

12:00 Noon

**PRAYER FOR
THE CATHOLICOS OF ALL ARMENIANS
BLESSING OF POMEGRANATES**



We invite you to St. James Armenian Church on New Year's Day, Friday January 1st at 12 noon to offer a Prayer for the Catholicos of All Armenians and to participate in the ceremony of the Blessing of Pomegranates. 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.

