

ST. JAMES ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH

ՍՈՒՐԲ ՅԱԿՈԲ ՀԱՅԱՍՏԱՆԵԱՅՑ ԱՌԱՔԵԼԱԿԱՆ ԵԿԵՂԵՑԻ

Rev. Fr. Hovhan Khoja-Eynatyan, Pastor

Տէր Յովհան Քինյ. Խոջա-Էյնատեան, Հովիւ

July 31, 2021

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

The Feast of the Assumption of the Holy Mother-of- God, *Soorp Asdvadzadzin*, is one of the major feasts of our church dedicated to the Virgin Mary. The Church teaches that the Blessed Mother is the image of humanity, fully obedient to God and ultimately sanctified by doing God's will, and it is through her that our Savior is born. Throughout the centuries St. Mary has also become the role model of the Christian Mother.

On this day, the blessing of the grapes takes place immediately after the Divine Liturgy. The ceremony is rich in symbolism and emphasizes the important role of the Virgin Mary assumed in the revelation of God. The custom of blessing grapes, the first fruits of the harvest, can be traced back to Old Testament times, when farming was a common vocation. Of the vast variety of produce, grapes had a special place of honor and were considered the "first fruits" because they were the first produce of harvest. With the birth of Jesus, these dedications took on a new meaning. Jesus Christ was the first born—or the first fruit—of Mary and, as such, was offered to God in the temple. (Luke 2:25-30)

It is pious tradition in our church for the faithful to donate the grapes for blessing or to contribute toward the purchase of grapes/ We are thankful to all those who on the past, throughout the years have honored this beautiful custom and we encourage all of our parishioners and friends to bring your heartfelt donation in Honor of the Holy Virgin Mary and celebration of the Feast of the Assumption of the Holy Mother- of- God.

With blessings,

Fr. Hovhan Khoja-Eynatyan
Pastor

Ս. Աստուածածնի Տօնին առթիւ
հետևեալ նուէրը կը ներկայենք Եկեղեցւոյ պայծառութեան համար

To celebrate The Feast of Holy Virgin Mary I/we make the following donation

Խաղողօրհնէքի համար

For Grape Blessing \$ _____

Ի յիշատակ

In Memory of: _____

Ի պատիւ

In Honor of: _____

Անուն

Name : _____