

Think of the possibilities. Think of the things that could happen if you were able to double your attendance at Sunday church services.

Group 1: More people would be involved
It would be spiritually uplifting
You would get to know the needs of the community
There would be personal renewal
You would need more Sunday Schools and Armenian Schools
You could do more programs
You would improve social values and morality
You'd get more liturgical support
There would be more interaction between parishioners

Group 2: Income from plates and candles would increase
There would be more spiritual enthusiasm
Dues paying membership would increase
You'd have more human support for activities
It would be heaven for the priest
It would show people's needs are being met
There would be more diversity
There would be more comradeship

Group 3: You'd need more worship services
Need to expand facilities
There would be more participation
You'd need more schools
You'd create a better impression within our community
Finances would improve
You'd have more workers at church functions
You'd see a change in attitude toward the church

Group 4: There would be more participation
You'd need more capacity in the building
Income would go up
You'd have more support of the pastor/parish council/treasurer
There would be an inspirational uplifting
It would certainly change things
There would be more fellowship
It would strengthen all of our other organizations
It would lead to liturgical reform to make services more relevant and understandable
It would increase the pool of church leaders
It would enable us to do outreach
You'd get more ideas and better programs

Group 5: Finances would improve
God will be glorified
More people will receive salvation
It would be very good news
More will experience the body and blood of Christ in Holy Communion
More people will hear the message
It will spread the news

How would you go about doubling membership at your parish? What pathways would you take to get more people in the door? What specific things would you do?

- Group 1:** Give parishoners something spiritually uplifting
 Invite people and make them feel welcome
 Give them meaningful teachings
 Improve the quality of the worship
 Increase opportunities for people to participate in the worship
 Make the language more understandable
- Group 2:** Create special days for people to come. Godfathers Day. Grandparents Day
 Make people feel welcome. Greet them at the door
 Be more competitive vis-a-vis other Christian denominations
 Vary Badarak in English/Armenian for sake of variety
 Share ideas that are working with others
 Keep families together in Badarak through Communion. Then let kids go
 Deliver communion in a more sanitary fashion
 Call the drop-outs who used to come to church
 Build up acolytes, altar servers, and choir members
 More contemporary discussions
 Let non-Armenians learn about our Christian witness
- Group 3:** Emphasize our faith with Armenian brotheren
 Welcome and accept non-Armenians
 Make worship the #1 focus in the church
 Make special efforts to get people in the church as a family. Children's
 Christmas Eve or Easter Eve communion.
 Change the intent within yourself
 Establish a welcome wagon. Outreach. Visits. Social help.
 Have parishoners participate in the service
 Give parishoners responsibilities to assume
 Publish information on the meaning of the Badarak in English
 Encourage participation in English
 Once a month children's service. Sermon directed at kids
 Do an instructive Badarak once a month

Group 4: Educate people

- Give priest the option to change language of the Badarak and the length of the service to meet his parish needs
- Better choir performance
- More participation and involvement in church services
- Put a minimum attendance requirement in the by-laws
- Special services for renew marriage vows, or godparent responsibilities
- Create warmth. Greet people. Lead by example
- Include children in activities like plate collection
- Make people be on time for education classes, Bakarak, communion
- Introduce a uniformity of responsibilities in the church
- Get better sermons. Send priests to school so they can learn better.
- Better fellowship hour
- Engage people during fellowship hour. Talk to them
- Use liturgical visual aids. Color. Music
- Read a book by George Barna. "9 Characteristics of Good Worship"
- Have children bring their parents

Group 5: Have a priest like Fr. Ghevont who actually teaches about Armenian Christianity

- Train priests to deliver good homelies in English
- Priest should do home visits
- Have parishioners get up and deliver spiritual messages
- Make the service understandable. Language and meaning.
- Start children early in Christian thought
- Get kids to St. Necess to learn the Badarak at the summer conferences
- Get parishioners to share their spiritual experiences at fellowship hour
- Thier friends will come. The Holy Spirit will be released
- Have children bring their parents to church
- Don't separate families. Have them worship together.
- Start family worship at 9:00. Leave before 11:00.
- Do this type of workshop in the parishes for people who actually are responsible on the local level