

For St. James Sunday School Students – 11/22/2020

Sunday School continues with 1 p.m. Zoom connection

Your Sunday School teachers hope you can join us and your classmates for a Zoom connection this Sunday. As the school year unfolds, our No. 1 priority is to keep you and your families safe and healthy. For our 11th session, please join us on Zoom at 1 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 22, for a half-hour virtual get-together to talk about ADVENT and keep each other up to date on how things are going in these challenging times! Is it even possible that Christmas is around the corner?? Yes!!

ZOOMDETAILS

Meeting ID: 890 0274 0217

Passcode: 4TnLcF

Also, please view this [video](#) about Advent, the time we prepare for celebrating the birth of Jesus.

Today is the First Sunday of Advent



There is no “Advent” per se in the Armenian church calendar. Rather, the 50-day period preceding our Christmas is called *Heesnag* (from the word for fifty, *Heesoon*). Heesnag contains a total of three designated weeks of fasting -- aside from the usual Wednesday and Friday fasts -- so unlike Great Lent, it is not a continuous period of such discipline. Bottom line: Our Heesnag, just as in the Western Church’s Advent, is a beautiful time to prepare, body and soul, for the celebration of the birth of our

Savior, Jesus Christ. Focus on Scripture, being at church with your Christian family, prayer, worship, fasting, and good works. *Reflection: Plan concretely for a season of spiritual preparation before Christmas. What simple, doable goals can you set for Bible study, prayer, and service?*

Bible Readings for Sunday, Nov. 22

From Today’s Readings

Luke 12:13-31 Jesus warns against greed; as an illustration, He tells the parable of the rich fool in which a man plans to build a bigger place to store his surplus grain so he might “eat, drink, and be merry” (v.19). Life, Jesus reminds us, is not about how much we *have*, nor do we need to

anxiously worry about inconsequential things (vv 22-31). *Discuss/reflect: Can you identify with the man in the parable? What things do you feel you need to enjoy life? Say this brief prayer: "Lord, I know I ask for all things that I might enjoy life; remind me that you gave me life that I might enjoy all things."*

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 St. Paul declares his heartfelt gratitude for the Thessalonians whose exemplary faith, even in suffering, had inspired countless others. *Discuss/reflect: Paul thanks and prays for people whose faith has touched so many. Write a letter to your own parish, thanking them for the specific ways they inspire your faith. Keep this handy as you pray for individual parishioners.*

Isaiah 36:1-9 The king of Assyria has invaded the fortified cities of Judah and from captured Lachish sends a commander to demand Jerusalem's surrender; he questions King Hezekiah's reliance on God. *Discuss/reflect: In v.5, the king describes Egypt -- the power on which Judah seems to depend - as "that splintered reed of a staff which pierces the hand of anyone who leans on it." Can you think of something you depend on for comfort and support that is actually harmful?*



For a video about how we can celebrate Advent, the time we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Please click this [link](#):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6pxPALw2abo>