

For St. James Sunday School Students – 1/24/2021

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 19th session of the 2020-21 school year, please join us on Zoom at 1 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 24, for a half-hour virtual get-together to talk about how and why Jesus walked on water -- and keep each other up to date on how things are going in these challenging times!

Meeting Link, ID and Passcode for 1 p.m. Sunday

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83340215685?pwd=UCswMXJSZW9DU0ZhYWlxM2g5Wnk5UT09>

Meeting ID: 833 4021 5685

Passcode: FhR6u8

Please view this [video](#) about the miracle Jesus performed when he walked on water, showing his disciples He was the Son of God!



Saturday, January 30: St. Sarkis the Warrior (4th century)

Sarkis was a valiant and faithful soldier in Emperor Constantine's army. When Julian became emperor and attempted to reinstate pagan practices, Sarkis took refuge with his son Mardiros (depicted seated with his father) under the protection of King Tiran of Armenia. From there, he went to serve in the Persian army, where he and his son won many converts to Christianity. Both were martyred when they refused to worship pagan idols. Sarkis believed that telling people about Jesus was more important than his life in this world. He died witnessing to Jesus. Fourteen Persian soldiers whom he had converted to Christianity risked their lives to bury the general's body and they too were executed. In the fifth century, Mesrob Mashdots moved the saint's remains to Armenia.

Reflection: Pagan idols exist even today (identify them!). In the spirit of St. Sarkis, do you refuse to worship them? In that same spirit, do you share your faith with others?

Department of Christian Education

Bible Readings for Sunday, Jan. 24

From Today's Readings

John 6:15-21 In this account of Jesus' miracle of walking on the water, he assures his terrified disciples: "It is I; don't be afraid."(v.20). The original Greek is a more powerful construction, namely, "I AM," echoing God's very same self-identification to Moses at the burning bush.

Discuss/reflect: Where in your life do you need to remember that Jesus is with you and there is nothing to fear?

2 Tim 2:15-26 Timothy describes the life of righteousness and love for all ministers in God's service. To counter false teachings, he suggests instructing people gently so that their hearts might open to God's truth. *Discuss/reflect: What excellent advice for today's divisive political environment! Have you ever been involved in a "stupid argument" that led to even more quarreling (23-24)? How does St. Paul suggest we handle this? (v.24)*

Is 61:10-62:9 Isaiah describes God's redemptive promises to the Israelites who have returned from a long and painful exile. Now they will be acknowledged by all as a blessed, priestly people of God, clothed in "garments of salvation" and "robes of righteousness."(v.10). These images are echoed in the Armenian rites of baptism and ordination as well as in the priest's vesting prayers before the Divine Liturgy. *Discuss/reflect: In 62:10, God tells Israel that "as a bridegroom rejoices over his bride, so will God rejoice over you." The marriage metaphor is often used to describe God's love for us. What are the unique qualities (i.e. fidelity) of marital love that make this so powerful and reassuring?*



For a video about the miracle of Jesus walking on water, please click this [link](#)