

## For St. James Sunday School Students – 1/3/2021

### *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 16th session of the 2020-21 school year, please join us on Zoom at 1 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 3, for a half-hour virtual get-together to talk about Christmas and keep each other up to date on how things are going in these challenging times! Please remember to ask your parents about Der Hovhan's invitation for families to visit St. James during this special season.

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

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 862 0383 8648

Passcode: LbyKV3

Also, please view this [video](#) from Arpi Nakashian of the Diocese Department of Creative Ministries. It's all about **pomegranates**! A delicious way to welcome 2021...

#### The Feast of Theophany: Wednesday, January 6



While much of the Christian world celebrates the birth of Christ on December 25, the Armenian Church celebrates the birth *and* baptism of Christ on the feast of *Asdvadzahaydnootyoon* on January 6. Surprisingly to us today, the birth of Jesus was of little interest to the Early Church. The nativity of Christ was not viewed as the “birthday” of Jesus Christ the same way we tend to view birthdays; rather, the reverent emphasis was on Christ’s death and resurrection (beautifully demonstrated in Armenian miniatures where the baby Jesus is always

shown with a cross embedded in His halo). Yet looking back at His birth from the perspective of His death, the nativity takes on deeper meaning, not as the birthday of a person, but as the coming of salvation into this world in Jesus Christ. *Reflection: Think back on Advent and your Christmas preparations. Were you once again caught up in the extraneous secular hubbub? Make concrete plans to do things differently next year, focusing more on prayer, service, Scripture reading, and simpler living (less spending and more charity).*

## Christ was born and revealed! Blessed is the revelation of Christ!

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# Bible Readings for Sunday, Jan. 3

### From Today's Readings

**Luke 22:24-30** At the Last Supper - the eve of Jesus' death (!) - the disciples argue over who will be considered the greatest. Jesus turns their thinking upside down by saying that it will be the one who serves most humbly -- in imitation of Him -- who will be exalted. *Discuss/reflect: Is being a servant of Christ just signing up for a job at church or is it a mindset, where each day you make yourself available to Christ and ask Him to use you in His service in whatever way He chooses? Prayerfully imagine how this might play out in your life.*

**Hebrews 13:18-25** The writer ends his epistle with a benediction, praying that God "equip them with everything good for doing His will, and work in them what is pleasing to Him."(v.21) *Discuss/reflect: What a beautiful and timeless prayer! In what areas of your life do you need special help from God so that you may indeed (in the words of St. Nersess Shnorhali) "think, speak and do that which pleases" Him?*

**Isaiah 51:15-52:3** God's anger will be turned to Jerusalem's enemies and He will redeem Israel. The words "awake, awake" are repeated, calling Israel to rouse herself from hopelessness and defeat. *Discuss/reflect: In vv 52:1-2, God calls upon Jerusalem and its citizens to "awake, clothe yourself with strength, put on garments of splendor, shake off your dust, rise up, sit enthroned, and free the chains from your neck." How might these reflect your own spiritual state and what you might need to do (think of each command as it applies to your life)?*



**For a video from Apri Nakashian of the Diocese about how Pomegranates loom large in the Armenian faith, please click this [link](#):**

[Bread & Salt: The Mystery Fruit - YouTube](#)