

For St. James Sunday School Students – 11/29/2020

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 12th session of the 2020-21 school year, please join us on Zoom at 1 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 29, 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! Christmas is around the corner and we need to help each other get ready!

ZOOM DETAILS

Meeting ID: 895 7773 4727

Passcode: ipy8LJ

Also, please view this [video](#) about a wonderful Armenian woman in California who made an incredibly generous gift. In the TV news clip, you will see she is more than 100 YEARS OLD and sets a special example for us all in this season of giving.

Saturday, December 5 is the Feast of St. Nicholas of Myra, Wonderworker



St. Nicholas, Bishop of Myra (c 270-342), was said to have been imprisoned for his faith during the persecution of Christians under Emperor Diocletian and present at the Council at Nicaea in 325. But his name is most associated with Christmas and with the boundless love he had for those in need, a love that inspired miracles.

According to tradition, when Bishop Nicholas' wealthy parents died, he sold all that he had and distributed the money to the poor. He then devoted himself to helping orphans, widows, and prisoners. One well-known legend of his charity concerned the bags of gold he secretly gifted to three very poor girls whose father was about to turn them out of the house. This led to the practice of children

being given presents at Christmas in his name which itself evolved from St. Nicholas to Santa Claus. The modern day image of Santa also draws from the story of the pagan god Thor who was associated with winter and the Yule log and rode on a chariot drawn by goats named Cracker and Gnasher. *Reflection: Santa Claus appears each year to be seen and heard for a short time; St. Nicholas is part of the communion of saints, surrounding us always with prayer and example. Which gets more of your attention at Christmastime?*

Bible Readings for Sunday, Nov. 29

From Today's Readings

Luke 13:1-9 Jesus talks of two tragic events, one in which Pilate had a group of Galileans killed as they were making sacrifices, and another, a construction accident. He contends that those who died were no more sinful than anyone else, countering the widespread belief that suffering was often visited upon those who deserved it. Since death is everyone's fate, he urges all to repent while there is still time. *Discuss/reflect: The parable of a fig tree not yet bearing fruit (vv 6-9) suggests that there might be some time to straighten ourselves out, but not much! The best time to repent and live godly lives is now. If you had a year like the fig tree to turn your life around, what would you do?*

1 Thessalonians 4:1-11 St. Paul praises the Thessalonians for their god-pleasing way of life and urges them to even greater holiness, treating their own bodies and one another honorably. He counsels them to live quiet lives and be productively busy, relying on their work to sustain them. *Discuss/reflect: Paul tells this community that he has instructed them "how to live in order to please God." (v.1) What specific instructions have you received from your faith as to how to live to please God? What people, experiences, or resources were most instructive?*

Isaiah 36:22-37:11 Assyria continues to demand Jerusalem's surrender. Both King Hezekiah and Isaiah demonstrate their trust in the one true and beloved God over the Assyrian threat. *Discuss/reflect: The pandemic is much like a relentless enemy power. What other threats are you experiencing in your life? In what ways do you think God can help you deal with them all?*



For a video about this 102-year-old's special gift, please click this [link](https://www.yourcentralvalley.com/news/armenia/102-year-old-makes-1m-donation-to-armenia-non-profit-i-dont-want-armenians-wiped-from-the-map/):

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