

For St. James Sunday School Students – 12/6/2020

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 13th session of the 2020-21 school year, please join us on Zoom at 1 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 6, 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! The Feast Day for our church's namesake is coming up, Christmas is around the corner and we need to get ready

Meeting ID and Passcode for 1 p.m. Sunday

Meeting ID: 834 0245 4486

Passcode: ieNwj9

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.

December 12 is the Feast of St. James of Nisibis



St. James, a cousin of St. Gregory the Enlightener, was appointed bishop of Nisibis, Mesopotamia, in 308 A.D. (Nisibis is the modern city of Nusaybin in southwest Turkey on the border with Syria.) He founded a theological school there, attended the Council of Nicaea in 325 A.D., and was renowned for his pious and virtuous life. One of the young men he mentored was St. Ephrem, who was to become a prolific writer and particularly beloved to the Armenian Church.

James is perhaps best known, however, for his divine vision on Mount Ararat, where he found the sacred relic of Noah's Ark. According to tradition, while St. James preached in and around Nisibis, he heard that people doubted the story of Noah's Ark. He was determined to provide his flock with evidence, so he set out for the peak of Mount Ararat to find the remains of the ark. During his arduous journey, an angel appeared to him in a vision and brought him a piece of the wood from Noah's Ark. St. James prayed to God to produce a miracle at the place where he had the vision and immediately afterward a spring gushed forth, which exists to this day. The relic of Noah's Ark received by St. James is currently housed in Holy Etchmiadzin.

Reflection: In the spirit of St. James, identify an ambitious faith goal you are determined to achieve. Pray for strength to persevere. Mentor someone on the journey.

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Bible Readings for Sunday, Dec. 6

From Today's Readings

Luke 14:12-24 The Parable of the Great Banquet, Jesus' response to the complacent faith of the lawyers and Pharisees, relates the story of an invitation blithely ignored. We learn that it is sadly foolish to be too busy for God; an egocentric faith puts us in danger of losing our place at His table. *Discuss/reflect: What excuses did those invited give for declining to attend? (vv 18-20) What are the reasons you don't make time for God?*

2 Thessalonians 1:1-12 St. Paul expresses his gratitude for the example the Thessalonians have set as followers of Jesus. Not only does their faith deepen and their love for one another grow daily but they have endured persecution with exemplary courage. *Discuss/reflect: Read Paul's prayer for these people he so loves in verse 11. Pray it for yourself: "Lord, make me worthy of your calling; and by your power, bring to fruition every desire I have for goodness and every action I want to take in faith."*

Isaiah 37:14-38 After Hezekiah's prayer for deliverance from the Assyrians, Isaiah conveys God's comforting response: the planned attack on Jerusalem will fail. *Discuss/reflect: Neighboring countries that fell to Assyria worshipped gods of "wood and stone, fashioned by human hands." (v.19) What "gods" have you (or the world) fashioned to have power over your life? Read Matthew 6:19-20 for Jesus' insight into the fraud of such gods.*



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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