

For St. James Sunday School Students – 2/7/2021

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 lucky 21st session of the 2020-21 school year, please join us on Zoom at 1 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 7, for a half-hour virtual get-together to talk about how WATER figures into the teachings of Jesus and our church traditions. Jesus is Living Water for a thirsty world!

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

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82797199187?pwd=MVQyNjROcHBFOGdSZmpOeFBIY1k4Zz09>

Meeting ID: 827 9719 9187

Passcode: yST4L9

Please view this [video](#) about the “living water,” which is the eternal life we receive when we accept Jesus as our Savior. On Sunday, please be ready with a glass of water so we can “toast” Jesus together.

February 9 & 11: St. Ghevont and St. Vartan



Vartanantz commemorates St. Vartan and the other martyrs who perished in the Battle of Avarayr in 451 A.D. This was the war the Persians waged against the Armenians after attempting in vain to oppress them under Persian rule and religion. The Armenians were hugely outnumbered (60,000 Armenians

against 200,000 Persians excluding the armored elephant brigade) in this first recorded battle in defense of Christianity. Under the leadership of their commander-in-chief, Vartan Mamigonian, they fought valiantly. Although the battle was lost, it paved the way for the religious freedom that was conferred not long afterwards through the efforts of Vartan’s nephew, Vahan.

Fr. Ghevont was General Vartan’s advisor, serving as what might be called today the army chaplain. Before the battle, he inspired the army with a deeply moving speech and went among the soldiers and encouraged them, holding the cross of Christ in his hand and distributing Holy Communion. St. Ghevont was later taken to Persia with other clergymen and in response to

his fervent evangelizing, martyred along with the other priests. He and those clergy martyred with him are celebrated two days before *Vartanantz*, on the feast day known as *Ghevontyantz*.

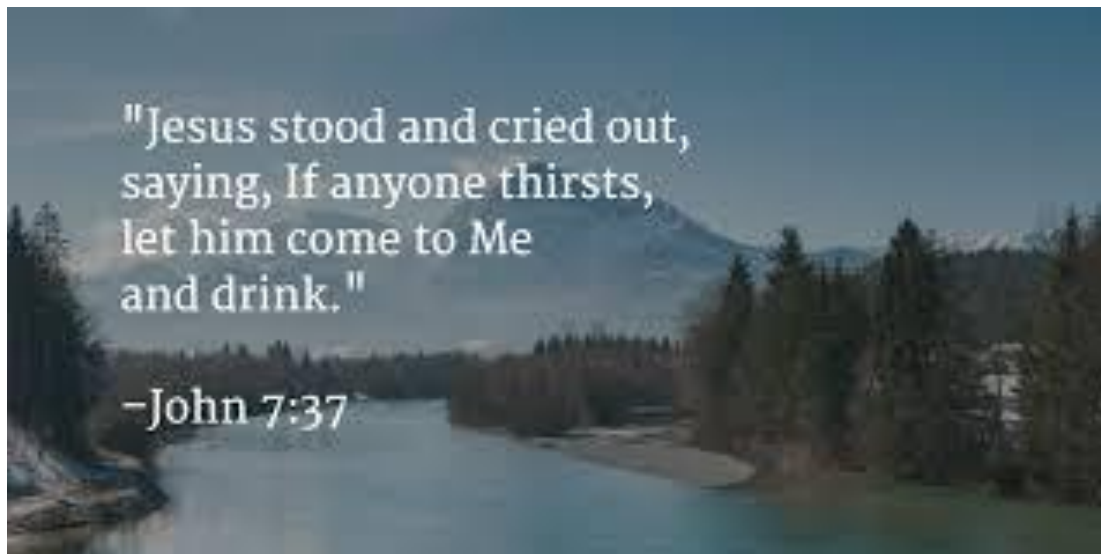
Bible Readings for Sunday, Feb. 7

From Today's Readings

John 7: 37-52 During the important Jewish Feast of the Tabernacles, Jesus has been teaching the crowds and the Temple authorities. He speaks of the “living water” that will flow from those who believe in him (meaning that they will be filled with the Holy Spirit). People ask one another if he is indeed the Christ. The Temple guards, transfixed by his words, feel powerless to intervene. *Discuss/reflect: Why were the guards unable to stop Jesus from speaking (vv 45-46)? In what ways would the presence of the Holy Spirit in your life be like “flowing water?”*

Titus 1:1-11 St. Paul advises his protégé Titus to discourage wrong teachings and to carefully consider the qualities of those appointed elders of the community. *Discuss/reflect: What are the qualities St. Paul considered important to those who lead a Christian community? (vv 6-9) Why do you think these are mostly about ‘being’ rather than ‘doing’? What would you add to the list?*

Is 63:18-64:12 Israel continues its frank admission of sinfulness and pleads for God’s merciful intervention. *Discuss/reflect: Meditate on 64:8; pray the verse several times slowly. Imagine yourself as soft clay on a potter’s wheel with God’s hands poised to shape you. What do you feel? Do you trust him to shape you?*



For a video about Jesus, the “Living Water,” please click this [link](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lvmD4CRDFZI):

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