



Սուրբ Սարգիս Հայաստանեայց Առաքելական

Եկեղեցի

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St. Sarkis Armenian Church Santa Clarita

Շաբաթաթերթիկ-Weekly Bulletin

Sunday, March 30, 2025

Bible Reading

Philippians 3:1-4:9

3 Further, my brothers and sisters, rejoice in the Lord! It is no trouble for me to write the same things to you again, and it is a safeguard for you. ² Watch out for those dogs, those evildoers, those mutilators of the flesh. ³ For it is we who are the circumcision, we who serve God by his Spirit, who boast in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh— ⁴ though I myself have reasons for such confidence. If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless. ⁷ But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a

righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in^[a] Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead. ¹² Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. ¹³ Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

The Parable of the Persistent Widow

Luke 17:20-18:14

18 Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. ² He said: “In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared what people thought. ³ And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, ‘Grant me justice against my adversary.’ ⁴ “For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, ‘Even though I don’t fear God or care what people think, ⁵ yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won’t eventually come and attack me!’” ⁶ And the Lord said, “Listen to what the unjust judge says. ⁷ And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? ⁸ I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?”

Interpretation of the Parable of the Persistent Widow

The message of the day teaches us with the parable of the widow and the Judge. This parable comes to us in the Gospel of St. Luke (Luke 18:1-8). The parable tells the story of a widow who repeatedly came to a judge, who neither feared God nor respected man, and pled for her rights. For a long period of time the judge refused to act, but in the end, he fulfilled her request, to put an end to her continuous appeals. Otherwise, he feared that she would continue to return indefinitely.

After telling this parable, the Lord assures everyone, that if a man as corrupt and unfair as this judge decided in favor of the widow, then God surely would judge in favor of his own people and grant the requests of all those who submit to Him through prayer. This parable exhorts us to always and continually pray, as prayer symbolizes the soul's eternal striving and thirst for God.

In the parable of the persistent widow, a poor, powerless person (the widow) persists in nagging a corrupt, powerful person (the judge) to do justice for her. The parable assumes teaching that holding a position of power and leadership obligates you to work justly, especially on behalf of the poor and weak.

The parable also contains an appeal from Christ. After telling the parable, Christ says: "But will the Son of Man find faith on earth when He comes?" In His words, Jesus gives a reference to the Second Coming, and sadness and anguish are felt in the Lord's remark.

It is truly painful for the Savior that many people may be subject to just, yet cruel judgment, instead of becoming the inheritors of the Kingdom of God.

St. Sarkis Programs & Events:

ACYO Raffle: check for the flyer at the front door desk

Join us for the Sunday School

MICHINK LUNCHEON

SUNDAY, MARCH 30th, 2025

Following Divine Liturgy

ST. SARKIS SATURDAY SCHOOL

CARNIVAL

April 26, 2025 12pm-5pm

"Text to Give:

Check for the flyer at the front door desk
First time users, text "**give**" to the St. Sarkis designated phone number, **(844) 796-0091**. You will receive a text back.

Donate Your Car

Save a little of this

Keeping that extra vehicle is expensive. Donate it and save some money while also getting a tax-deduction. It's a win for you and a win for our church! For more information, call to church office at (661)5057260 or (818)6449398

