

## ST. JAMES OF NISIBIS



St. James of Nisibis (Medzbin), an Assyrian by nationality, was related to St. Gregory the Illuminator on his mother's side. He became one of the most popular saints of the Armenian people. Armenians have shown an extraordinary affection towards him and have dedicated many churches in his name.

St. James lived in the fourth century and was educated during his childhood with St. Gregory in Caesarea, the famous educational center of Asia Minor. He was consecrated Bishop for the See of Nisibis of Mesopotamia by Melidos,

Archbishop of Antioch.

Bishop James of Nisibis was one of the 318 participant bishops of the first ecumenical council in Nicea in 325 A.D. and became famous for his virtuous and pious life and asceticism. He won fame and popularity especially for his "miracle-working" power, for which he is often called in Armenian *skanchelakordz*, which means "wonderworker."

The feast day of St. James of Nisibis will be celebrated this year on Saturday, December 16.