

## ST. SARKIS

St. Sarkis was a famous Cappadocian general who lived in the 4th century. He was a pious and rich Christian who inherited his wealth from his parents.

At the time of Roman emperor Julian, Christianity was in a great danger, as the emperor was demanding Christians to forsake their faith and convert to paganism or suffer persecution and death.

St. Sarkis decided to give all his possessions to the poor and leave the empire with his son.

After spending some time in Armenia, he went to Persia, where he was put in charge of Persian army. With his extraordinary bravery, he won many victories, meanwhile converting many Persian soldiers into Christianity.

Learning about the saint's religion and his major influence on his army, the Persian pagan king became enraged and attempted to forcibly convert Sarkis to paganism. The saint endured tortures of all kinds and was martyred with his young son, without forsaking his Christian faith. His exemplary life drew many pagan Persians to Christianity.

Many years later, St. Mesrob Mashdots brought the relics of Saint Sarkis to Armenia.

St. Sarkis is considered to be the patron saint of young couples in the Armenian Apostolic Church.

