

ST. KEVORK “GEORGE” THE WARRIOR



Saints are the heroes of our faith who inspire us with their exemplary lives and help us to overcome our daily troubles. One of the exemplary persons of early Christian Church was St. Kevork (George) who was a Cappadocian nobleman born to pious parents. St. Kevork was an excellent soldier and a military commander.

During the ruthless persecutions of Christians by Emperor Diocletian (3rd century), St. Kevork bravely confessed his faith before the emperor. He was then subjected to numerous tortures, which he endured courageously. Miraculous signs accompanied his life which inspired great fear among the heathens who then admitted that the God of Christians was great. Impressed by the miraculous signs, the empress Alexandra found faith in Christ. She too was sentenced to death together with saint Kevork.

According to a tradition, St. George fought and killed a dragon to save a girl that was presented to the dragon for food. This legend symbolizes his brave fight and victory against the Evil one. Interestingly, Emperor Diocletian, whom St. George defeated by his invincible faith, was also called the dragon of abyss.

The well-known icon depicting St. George on a white horse piercing the dragon with his spear is a symbol of Christian's battle and victory over evil, not only through martyrdom, but also by virtuous and holy life.

St. George is one of the highly venerated saints recognized by the Armenian Church. There are many churches named after St. George both in Armenia and in Diaspora.