

Annunciation Parish - Scripture Study 12/15/20

—Greeting and Opening Prayer

Any thoughts or questions from scripture passages you have read?

- Other faith questions?

READINGS:

SIR 3:2-6, 12-14

PS 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 (Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways)

Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19

LK 2:22-40

GOSPEL:

- Mary and Joseph had completed “their purification” - what is this?
- They fulfill the law with regards to their son
 - The son must be offered to the Lord ... in the case of the human son they must be *redeemed*
- Simeon is waiting to see the Christ - God has promised he would see
 - We also have been promised we can see the Christ. Do we appreciate that gift? What do we have to do to see Him?
- Simeon responds to the Spirit’s prompting to go to the temple at that moment. If he did not listen he would have missed it. This is a model of the calling process we have.
- His prophecy is bittersweet - rise and fall, contradiction, hearts laid bare, heart pierced by sword.
 - How is the path of life like this? The path to glory and good things has many turns.
- Anna dedicated herself to the Lord after her husband’s death - even after death there is life to be had (this is true of earthly life, and also true after the end of this earthly life).
- The family life in Nazareth can be assumed a bit by the final line. How do you see it?

FIRST READING:

- The order in family life.
 - It is one of position and proper authority
 - This gives balance - and in human families, as in Church family, as in Heavenly Kingdom
- The observing the respect in family gains forgiveness of sins and God’s ear
- The benefits not only go to the individual, but spread through the whole family and bringing positive things there.
- Family duties extend to times when it is difficult, such kindness will not be forgotten.
- Family duties bring good things - but how do we often experience them?

SECOND READING:

- The faith of Abraham - faith in the promise of God - was key to receiving the promise.
- This faith led to miraculous things happening (having a child).
 - He trusted that God was trustworthy - how about us?
- He was placed to a great test in offering up his firstborn son - but God redeemed him, as Jesus was redeemed in the temple, and we are able to be redeemed in the person of the Son Jesus who is offered up as Isaac (only all the way).

—Closing Prayer