

Fr. George's Message for the Weekly 1.15.21



I always felt that my parents were well-suited for one another. They were loving, family oriented, and happy even as they worked side-by-side in their family-owned restaurant raising their three sons. Growing up, I sometimes worried whether my father's health was adequate since he was much older than most of my friends' fathers. He was 56 years old when I was born. I recognized how fortunate I was to have an older father whose life experiences gave him the wisdom and insight to respond to others with patience and hospitality. My parents modeled a caring and supportive outlook to my two brothers and me; they nurtured our faith in God.

Regrettably, my father fell asleep in the Lord just weeks before I met Presbytera Marinda. I always wished he could have met my wife of now more than 40 years and hold and help raise our children and grandchildren. When Presbytera Marinda and I married, I prayed constantly that if it were God's will, God would bless us to live long enough to "see our children's children" – the same prayer the Priest offered during our wedding. I hoped God would give us the opportunity my father and Presbytera Marinda's mother never had to see their grandchildren. Indeed, we rejoice and thank God for blessing us with our three precious children and four grandchildren.

During the Divine Liturgy on Christmas Eve, God reminded me He had answered my prayers. With the help of her *Yiayia*, our first grandchild, Evie, read the Holy Epistle. Seeing this powerful image, I thanked God for enabling us to worship together. It bore witness that just as my parents had led me to know God, my children were now doing so with their children. Again, this past Sunday, Evie proclaimed the Epistle of St. Paul bringing God's hope and promise:



"But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift... to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ." (Eph 4:7-13)

Thank you, Lord, for blessing and reassuring our parents to teach us and give us the opportunity to learn Who You are and witness Your Good News and grace with future generations! Having been so blessed with the answer to my prayers, I rejoice and exclaim:

"Praise the Lord! O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His steadfast love endures forever." (Psalm 106:1) Amen!