

December 27, 2015 The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

Be thankful and receive His blessings!

Sirach 3:3-7, 14-17a

Psalms 128:1-5

Colossians 3:12-21

Luke 2:41-52

In the first reading the wisdom of Sirach gives children important guiding principles in treating parents. Honor them, comfort them, be considerate, kind, and act always with reverence towards them. This will bring long life and the joy of children.

The Psalmist emphasizes walking in the ways of the Lord and reverent fear of Him. This brings blessings, happiness, and even prosperity. Wives will be fruitful and children sturdy as olive plants.

In the second reading Paul identifies the faithful as the holy and beloved who are to clothe themselves with mercy, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. They are to perfect thankfulness, forgive grievances, bear with one another, cultivate peace in their hearts and act always in the name of Jesus. Adding love to all of this brings perfection.

The Gospel tells us of the annual trip to Jerusalem made by Joseph and Mary for the feast of Passover. When they were ready to return, Jesus, 12 years old at the time, was nowhere to be found and only after three days did they find him in the temple, sitting amidst the teachers and asking them questions and astounding them with his understanding and answers. His parents indicated their anxiety but he answered: "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?"



**The Father is to be continuously thanked
Through the Son
By life in the Holy Spirit.**

All that was prophesied for the Messiah came to pass and the holy family received the guidance and protection they needed so that Jesus would have a safe place to grow up. It was clear by his episode in the temple with the teachers that he was spiritually gifted even at an early age. Now we receive love, forgiveness, and enlightenment from Him and are asked to let peace reign in our hearts. Be forgiving of all grievances and as Paul advises, put the perfection of love to work in all of your acts.

Love

brings virtues to perfection.

It seeks things above and will not be hindered by things below.

It lightens our burdens and bears every inequity equally.

Love wills to detach from worldly values,

It bears no entanglements in temporal prosperity

Or anxiety in temporary misfortune.

Nothing is more consoling than Love,

Nothing more potent,

Nothing higher, deeper, more satisfying,

For love is born of the Father

rests in Jesus

and perfected in the Spirit.

(Adapted from Thomas of Kempis, Imitations of Christ, Book 3, Chapt.5)

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