

Sunday Readings Reflections of 12/27/2015

Reading 1 Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14

Whether we are five, or fifteen, or thirty-five years old, the Lord expects us to show respect for our parents. A mother or father shares in God's work of teaching, guiding, and caring for us. We honor our mothers and fathers and guardians by obeying them in all reasonable ways, and by comforting and caring for them when they are in need. Those who honor their parents will be richly rewarded.

Reading 2 Colossians 3:12-21

How can families and Christian communities live together in peace? The letter to the Colossians today offers helpful advice. We should "put on" in compassion and kindness. We must be willing to forgive, no matter how many times a parent or brother or sister offends us, just as the Lord forgives us without limit. Over all other virtues we "put on love." When we allow ourselves to be truly loving, gratitude and joy overflow in our lives.

Gospel Luke 2:41-52

Can you identify with Jesus in this wonderful story from Luke's Gospel? Jesus at the age of twelve is on the verge of becoming a man in the Jewish society of his day. He and his parents have traveled to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover. After the departure of Mary and Joseph, Jesus remains behind in the Temple. There he amazes the religious teachers with his wisdom and intelligence.

When Jesus' parents discover him missing, they are upset. Jesus explains the importance of putting God first in our lives. When we do this, everything else in life will fall into place.

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