



The Feast of the Holy Family

The First Reading from the Book of Sirach speaks of the blessings received by the one who honors his parents. Revering his father, he will live a long life. Bringing comfort to his mother is in obedience to God Himself. Kindness to one's parents will be remembered by God and serve as an offering for sin.

St. Paul in his letter to the Colossians gives instruction on living the Christian life as one in the world. He describes the virtues as if they were garments to dress in. "... clothe yourselves with heartfelt mercy, with kindness, humility, meekness, and patience." He urges them to forgive one another as the Lord has forgiven them. Putting on love binds everything else together. All these things are to be done in the name of the Lord Jesus so that we might give thanks to God the Father through Him.

The gospel account from Luke records the journey of Mary and Joseph to Jerusalem to fulfill the prescription of the Law in presenting every firstborn male child in the Temple. There they meet Simeon and Anna. These two prophets recognized who the child was and praised God for allowing them to live to see the Messiah. Simeon also informs Mary of the child's future and the suffering which lies ahead for Him and her as well.

On this Feast of the Holy Family only two days after Christmas, the Scriptures have the most wonderful lessons to teach for the success of any family. May we be blessed in this most holy time and call upon the Holy Family to bless and protect our own families.

Peace,

Fr. Robert