

St. John Paul II Parish, Sellersburg IN

The First Fifteen

The Spiritual Life and Evangelization Commission asked that all parish meetings begin with a program we are calling "The First Fifteen." We are asking all parish meetings to begin with a few minutes of faith sharing. One person in the group reads the reading provided below (which corresponds with this next week's weekend readings) and everyone is given an opportunity to reflect and share on the readings. The questions below are simply a way to stimulate your reflection. You can use them or anything that strikes you about the word of God.

Sunday, December 31, 2017

Gospel Reading: Luke 2: 22-40

When the days were completed for the purification according to the law of Moses, they took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout And the Holy Spirit was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not die before he had seen the Christ the Lord. He came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform the custom of the law in regard to him, he took him into his arms and blessed God saying; "Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in sight of all the peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and glory for your people Israel." The child's father and mother were amazed at what was said about him; and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted- and you yourself a sword will pierce so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.".....

When they had fulfilled all the prescriptions of the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

Questions to Ponder:

1. If you have children, did/do you see their potential when they were born? Have your plans for them become reality? Were you surprised at what they became?
2. In this gospel we see rituals performed within the temple. What rituals does our Catholic Faith prescribe for parents? Did these rituals support you as a parent?
3. Have you grown in wisdom? In what ways does your faith benefit from this wisdom?

End with the "**Glory Be**"

"Glory be to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen"