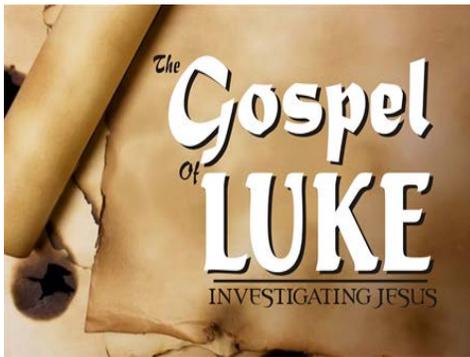


We share this “continuing reflection” on the Gospel of Luke and pray you discover a new awareness of God’s Spirit present and at work in your lives each day. For more information on any of the parish’s Faith Enrichment programs contact the Evangelization & Faith Formation Office or Dr. Little at tlittle@olfparish.com



Questions for your reflection

1. What does Simeon have to teach me about the value found in waiting? How can I be patient and hopeful while I wait?

2. How did the testimony of Simeon indicate that the work of salvation includes both light and shadow? How is that demonstrated throughout Luke’s gospel?

3. How might Mary have felt when Simeon addressed the prophecy of the piercing sword to her? What does she teach me about suffering with the Lord?

Let us pray: Lord and Master, you asked me to wait with patience and hope for your will to be done. Give me a longing for your presence and help me to trust you are always with me in your word. Amen.

Our Lady of the Fields Church Scripture Review and Reflections Saturday & Sunday May 18 & 19, 2019

Gospel of Luke 2: 22-40

The Presentation in the Temple

The infancy of Jesus is part of a universal drama, taking place in the world of Judaism. Luke mentions five times that Mary and Joseph did everything required by the Jewish law. Specifically he notes two regulations of the Torah: purification of the mother after the birth of the child and the dedication of the firstborn son to God. Luke is very clear that Mary and Joseph observed all the rituals at Jerusalem and at the Temple, the symbolic center of Israel's faith.

It was in that context that we meet Simeon who had been promised by the Holy Spirit he would see the Messiah before he died. Now, taking the six-week-old child Jesus in his arms, this devout old man praises God for keeping His word. Simeon clearly represents ancient Israel awaiting its Messiah with expectation and hope. The old Israel can now rest in peace as the new age of God's salvation begins. As in the songs of Zachariah and Mary, the song of Simeon weaves his personal experience of God with what God is doing for all people. Jesus is now the light both for the Gentiles and for Israel. This is the first clear indication that the salvation offered in Jesus is for all people. Simeon's words preview the saving drama that will continue through the Gospels and into the Acts of the Apostles. Jesus is glory for the people of Israel and for all the Gentiles. He is the light of salvation for everyone on earth.

Then, after this joyful song, Simeon speaks directly to Mary and prophesies salvation will not be accomplished without great cost. As Jesus will cause rejection and opposition, He will provoke a divided response within Israel, a sign that some will accept and others reject. And Simeon tells Mary she will also pay a price for her association with Jesus. She, the first to hear and receive the message, will experience in her heart the full joy and grief of his saving actions. “Great love requires great pain.” Mary is to be a Lady of Sorrows!