

Family Scripture Days

St. Josaphat Eparchy in Parma, Ohio

Ukrainian Catholic Church

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Twenty-sixth Sunday After Pentecost, November 22:

Gospel: Luke 12:16-21

16 And he told them a parable, saying, "The land of a rich man brought forth plentifully; 17 and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' 18 And he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns, and build larger ones; and there I will store all my grain and my goods. 19 And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; take your ease, eat, drink, be merry.' 20 But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you; and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' 21 So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

Epistle: Ephesians 5:9-19

9 (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), 10 and try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. 11 Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. 12 For it is a shame even to speak of the things that they do in secret; 13 but when anything is exposed by the light it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. 14 Therefore it is said, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give you light." 15 Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, 16* making the most of the time, because the days are evil. 17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. 18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, 19* addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart,

Readings are from the Revised Standard Version Second Catholic Edition

For Reflection:

What Matters Most: Jesus reminds us that loving God and sharing with others matter more than having lots of things. What do we love or treasure most? How can we share the blessings God has given us with others?

Preparing for the Nativity: St. Paul tells us to make good use of our time. What is one thing we can do during the Nativity Fast to grow closer to God and prepare our hearts to welcome Christ?

Being a Light to Others: St. Paul calls us to live as children of light. How can we share Christ's light through our words and actions, especially with those who need our love and help?

Choosing What Is Good: St. Paul tells us to seek what is pleasing to God. What sometimes keeps us from listening to God or doing what is right? How can we make better choices?

Family Activity:

Sharing Christ's Light

During the Nativity Fast, commit to one small act of kindness, charity, or sacrifice each day for a family member, friend, or someone in need.

This might include helping a family member without being asked, encouraging a friend, giving to someone in need, forgiving someone who has hurt us, or taking time to pray for others.

For each act of love, draw or write what you did on a paper star and place it in your family's icon corner.

Younger children can simply decorate or add a star each time they do something kind. As the stars gather, let them remind us that our acts of love help prepare our hearts to welcome Jesus Christ, the Light of the World. Just as the Star of Bethlehem led the Wise Men to Jesus, our acts of love can reflect His light and help lead others closer to Him.

On the Feast of the Nativity, gather as a family before your icon corner. Pray the Troparion and Kontakion of the Nativity, offer a prayer of thanksgiving, and reflect on how your small acts of love have helped you grow closer to Christ and one another.

Reminder:

Our next Family Scripture Day is Sunday, December 20
Sunday of the Ancestors, Sunday Before the Nativity (Christmas)