

When children and parents have faith discussions regularly, faith multiplies.



Faith at Home

Parent Handout 12/09/18

Theme of the Sunday: Making good choices

Verse of the Sunday: *"Once when Jacob was cooking a stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was famished. Esau said to Jacob, "Let me eat some of that red stuff, for I am famished!" (Therefore he was called Edom.) Jacob said, "First sell me your birthright." Esau said, "I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?" Jacob said, "Swear to me first." So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob. Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank, and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright."* Genesis 25:29-34

Message/Moral of the day: Sometimes you and I make foolish choices too. As God's children, we have a birthright. God has promised us wonderful things, but we are sometimes willing to give up God's eternal blessing for a moment of pleasure. We often live for today with no thought for what is best for the future.

Faith at Home :

- Talk with your children about good and bad choices
- Explain consequences of good and bad choices
- Make an effort today to speak good words and do good works

Prayer & Worship: Heavenly Father, you have promised good things for your children. Help us to be faithful to your Word. We don't want to be like Esau and give up your blessing for a bowl of stew. Amen.

Liturgical Calendar: **Conception of the Holy Virgin Mary by St. Anna**

Mary was born in Bethlehem or Nazareth, some 20 years before Christ's nativity. Her parents, Joachim and Anna, were a devout couple whose earnest prayers for a child were answered with the birth of a daughter. Although Mary was born naturally, she is considered morally pure and immaculate. It is for this reason that the church celebrates not only her birth, but also her conception, which the Armenian and the Greek Orthodox churches observe on December 9, and the Roman Catholic Church celebrates on December 8.

St. Mary's purity is unquestioned. According to the teachings of the Armenian Church, at the time of the Annunciation, when the Holy Spirit entered Mary, she was cleansed of all original sin, as she was to be the vessel in which God manifest was to be incarnated.

According to tradition, following the Ascension of Christ, Mary lived out the rest of her days in Jerusalem, cared for by St. John the Evangelist. She died in Jerusalem some 15 years after Christ's Ascension and was buried in her family tomb in Gethsemane.