

## KEEPING FAITH FIRST- FAMILY FUN

U P B T S J F P B E  
 D V R U W U Z E D X  
 A E S O L K T I E P  
 W E D F P R E C V O  
 J E I N O H R U I S  
 X L E T A O E Y E E  
 L E H M V M L T C B  
 B E O I M Q M P N E  
 D E D R E A M O O H  
 P N A P A X N Z C O  
 P O K R W M F U X L  
 H I J O S E P H E D  
 T T Z H L E V P U L  
 A N G E L I F A R E  
 A E V Y L O H I S M  
 V T S P I R I T W A  
 R N N I G R I V R H  
 J I H T R I B A U S  
 S U O E T H G I R Q

ANGEL	DREAM	PROPHET
BEAR	EMMANUEL	RIGHTEOUS
BEHOLD	EXPOSE	SAVE
BETROTHED	FULFILL	SHAME
BIRTH	HOLY	SPIRIT
COMMANDED	INTENTION	VIRGIN
CONCEIVED	JESUS	WIFE
DIVORCE	JOSEPH	

## Catechizing Corner!

Traditionally miraculous birth events in scripture point to God's role in salvation history. Whenever there are miraculous events surrounding the birth of an individual, it is meant to highlight the role the child would one day assume in God's plan. "Just as God had miraculously created Moses to be his people's deliverer, so now God raised up Jesus to be the new and greater Moses, the ultimate savior." The miraculous circumstances of Jesus' birth would immediately alert peoples in antiquity that this child was destined for a great role in God's plan.

By naming Jesus "Emmanuel-God is with us," Matthew reminds us of the greatest truth of the Incarnation. God through Christ is present in our lives. God through Christ continues to reveal God's self to us. In perfect freedom God, through Christ, invites us into an intimate relationship. When humanity sins, it does not just turn against God's will, but turns its face on the God who dwells within; who desires intimate, living relationship; who spends a lifetime communicating Godself to each individual and to the world. Karl Rahner puts it best: "It is both terrible and comforting to dwell in the incomprehensible nearness of God, and so to be loved by God himself that the first and last gift is infinity and incomprehensibility itself. But we have no choice. God is with us."

Joseph's first response to the mysterious conception was to remove himself from it—to walk away. But God revealed to him that he had a role to fill. He was part of the plan. His first reaction no doubt was shock. "From astonishment to faith and submission of one's life by the reception of the word, extraordinary as it may be--this is the path for all believers and the Church itself to follow to respond to the call of God and his word..

*Mary Birmingham, Word and Worship Workbook,  
Cycle A, Paulist Press*



**Holy Family Catholic Church**  
 South Pasadena, CA  
[www.holyfamily.org](http://www.holyfamily.org)

## Disciple's Reflection

for the

## Question of the Week

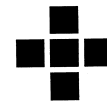
Fourth Sunday in Advent  
 12/18/2022

A Call to Prayer

The Word of God  
 Matthew 1:18-24

Faith Sharing  
 Questions of the week

Closing Prayer



**HOLY FAMILY CHURCH**

**Holy Family is a welcoming Catholic Eucharistic community of disciples of Jesus Christ connecting faith with life and reaching out to those in need!**

## Call to Prayer

**Begin by calling upon God: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.**

Let us pause for a moment and listen attentively to this week's passage.

## The Word of God Matthew 1:18-24

A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about.

When his mother Mary was  *betrothed*  to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the Holy Spirit.

Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decided  *to divorce*  her quietly.

Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said,

“Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home.

For it is through the Holy Spirit

that this child  *has been conceived*  in her.

She will  *bear*  a son and you are to name him Jesus,

because he will save his people from their sins.”

### Gospel Glossary

*Betrothed* means engaged.

*To Divorce*, in this case, means to break off

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet:

*Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,* which means “God is with us.”

When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home.

## The Gospel of the Lord.



the engagement. (Some of the marriage customs were different in the time of Jesus.)

*To be conceived* means to begin living and growing in a mother's womb

*To bear* means to give birth to a child.

## Faith Sharing

### Questions of the Week:

**Adults:** How is Saint Joseph a model of faith for you?

**Teens:** How did Jesus respond to God's call? If called, would you respond likewise?

**Children:** How do you know when God is with you?

**Families:** What Christmas carol helps you better understand the real meaning of Christmas?

## Closing Prayer

Lord, You have called us to be your disciples, to live in faith, walking always in your footsteps. By your suffering, death, and resurrection, you have made us children of God. As you have loved us and asked us to love one another, help us to love and embrace everyone in our lives.

Fill us with love, compassion, forgiveness, patience, understanding, and tolerance, even when we face the pain of hatred, rejection, and failure.

Guide us to be good disciples. May we seek always the praise and glory of God and the good of all people. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Fourth Sunday in Advent*