

KEEPING FAITH FIRST- FAMILY FUN

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

ANGEL	GOOD NEWS	SWADDLING
BEHOLD	INFANT	
BETHLEHEM	INN	
BETROTHED	JOSEPH	
BIRTH	JOY	
DAVID	JUDEA	
ENROLLED	MANGER	
	MARY	

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*



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Disciple's Reflection

for the

Question of the Week

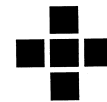
The Nativity of the Lord
 12/25/2022

A Call to Prayer

The Word of God
 Matthew Luke 2:1-14

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 Luke 2:1-14

A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that the whole world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. So all went to be enrolled, each to his own town.

And Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.

While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and

laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. Now there were shepherds in that region living in the fields and keeping the night watch over their flock. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were struck with great fear.

The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger."

And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying:

"Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Gospel Glossary

Betrothed means engaged.

To Divorce, in this case, means to break off

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: What is one teaching of Jesus that most challenges you in your everyday life?

Teens: If asked by an agnostic friend why you celebrate Christmas, what would you say?

Children: What do you think Jesus is asking you to do in order to show your love for him?

Families: As a family, think about all of the things a family like the Holy Family needs.

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.

The Nativity of the Lord