

## KEEPING FAITH FIRST- FAMILY FUN

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

AMAZED  
 BETHLEHEM  
 CONCEIVED  
 EIGHT  
 GLORIFYING  
 HEART  
 JESUS  
 JOSEPH

MANGER  
 MARY  
 PRAISING  
 SHEPHERDS  
 WOMB

## 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*

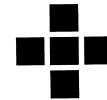
**The Octave Day of Christmas  
 Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin  
 Mary, the Mother of God  
 1/1/2023**

**A Call to Prayer**

**The Word of God  
 Luke 2:16-21**

**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 2:16-21

A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke

The shepherds went in haste to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known the message that had been told them about this child.

All who heard it were amazed by what had been told them by the shepherds.

And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart. Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told to them.

### Gospel Glossary

**Manger:** a box where animal feed is kept

**Circumcision:** a religious ritual done to young Jewish boys

When eight days were completed for his **circumcision**, he was named Jesus, the name given him by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

The Gospel of the Lord.



## Faith Sharing

Questions of the Week:

**Adults:** The shepherds were amazed. How are you amazed by the child Jesus?

**Teens:** Mary kept the events of Jesus' life in her heart. What events in Jesus' life do you reflect upon?

**Children:** If you saw Jesus in a manger, what kind of gift would you like to bring him?

**Families:** As a family, make a list of the things you remember when praising God.

## 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.

*Solemnity of Mary*