

Gospel Reflection

Fill our hearts with love

What a great man St. Joseph must have been! How deeply his heart must have been filled with love. There have been many movies that have tried to capture the moment when Joseph found out that Mary was pregnant. Was he angry? Did he feel betrayed? What were his thoughts as his all hopes and dreams for a happy, God-fearing family seemed dashed forever?

Another man might have been angry. Another man might have been bitter. Another man might have dragged Mary out to be publicly stoned. After all, he would have been within his rights to do so. But, scripture tells us that “he was a righteous man.” And righteousness steeped in love yields compassion and mercy, not anger and retribution. So St. Joseph decided to divorce Mary quietly, rather than expose her to shame. It was not until after he made this decision that the angel of the Lord appeared to reassure him that the child had been conceived through the Holy Spirit.

On this last Sunday of Advent, 2007, we ask God to fill our hearts with love as we read about this remarkable, faithful, righteous, loving man, who was willing to set aside his pride for the sake of compassion. Can we do the same? Can we allow God to fill our hearts with so much love that we too are willing to act out of compassion and mercy?

As Christmas rushes upon us, may we follow St. Joseph’s example of righteousness and love.

Elena Cardena, Faith Formation Director

KEEPING FAITH FIRST FAMILY FUN

Matthew 1:18-24

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

Find these words from the Gospel passage.

ANGEL	BETROTHED	BIRTH
CHILD	CONCEIVED	DREAM
EMMANUEL	HOLY SPIRIT	HOME
JESUS	JOSEPH	MARY
RIGHTEOUS	SON	VIRGIN

Disciple's Reflection & Questions of the Week

*Fourth Sunday of Advent
12/23/07*

*Matthew 1:18-24
Faith-Sharing
Questions of the Week*



Our Lady of the Assumption

435 Berkeley Ave.
Claremont, CA
www.olaclaremont.org

Call to Prayer

We begin by calling upon God:

**In the Name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the
Holy Spirit, Amen.**

*We then pause for a moment to listen with
our hearts to this week's Gospel passage...*

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

The 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 will name him Jesus,

because he will save his people from their sins."

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



Gospel Glossary

Betrothed: engaged to be married

Righteous: strictly observant of religious or moral codes

Conceived: formed in the womb

The prophet: Isaiah

Faith Sharing

Questions of the Week

- What are the hurts that love calls me to forgive?
- What does it mean to me to know that "God is with us"?
- How have I invited Mary into my home and heart?

Closing Prayer

*Lord,
fill our hearts with your love,
and as you revealed to us by an angel
the coming of your Son as man,
so lead us through his suffering and
death to the glory of his resurrection,
for he lives and reigns with you and
the Holy Spirit, one God,
for ever and ever,*

Amen.

Fourth Sunday of Advent