



ADVENT

St Joseph



Word of the Week

Luke 1: 18-25

This is how Jesus Christ was born. A young woman named Mary was engaged to Joseph from King David's family.

But before they were married, she learned that she was going to have a baby by God's Holy Spirit. Joseph was a good man and did not want to embarrass Mary in front of everyone. So he decided to quietly call off the wedding.

While Joseph was thinking about this, an angel from the Lord came to him in a dream. The angel said, "Joseph, the baby that Mary will have is from the Holy Spirit. Go ahead and marry her. Then after her baby is born, name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

So the Lord's promise came true, just as the prophet had said, "A virgin will have a baby boy, and he will be called Immanuel," which means "God is with us. After Joseph woke up, he and Mary were soon married, just as the Lord's angel had told him to do.

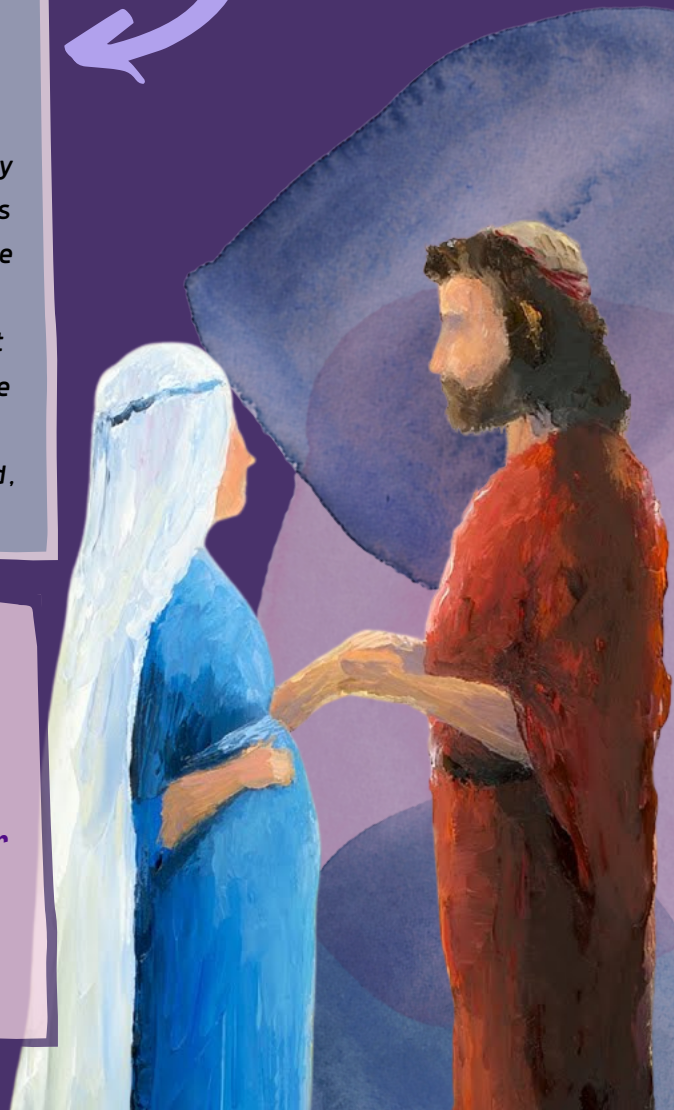
Before you read this week's Word of the Week take a moment to think about Joseph in the story of leading up to Jesus' birth. Imagine how he must have felt. His fiancé has just told him she is pregnant. How do you think he would be feeling?



Prayer for the Week

Father, like Joseph, help us to place our blind trust in you. So that we experience complete joy this Advent knowing that your Son, Jesus comes to be with us forever.

Amen.



It is not easy trusting someone. We are usually very careful about deciding which people we can trust. This is because we are scared of being let down and being made a fool of. It is very hurtful to trust someone which a secret and find that they have told other people. St Joseph is an excellent example to us of trust. He must have been shocked at the angel's message, and although it wasn't what he had planned for Mary and himself, he trusted God completely and accepted it. He could have walked away.

There are times in our lives when we have to trust other people and hope for the best. But there is a lesson to be learnt from Mary and Joseph. In the difficult times in our lives we should trust God knowing that he is in control and will look after us. This Advent we are invited to trust in God as Mary and Joseph did.



Sleeping ST JOSEPH

While asleep, St Joseph received messages from God. We read about one of these times in this week's Word of the Week. But there is also another instance when Joseph receives a message from God in his sleep. God appeared to Joseph and warned him about the danger posed by King Herod. God entrusts Mary and Baby Jesus to Joseph's loving protection. Because of the courage and care of St Joseph he is known as the guardian of the Family.

Pope Francis has a statue of sleeping St Joseph on his desk in his office in the Vatican. "So when I have a problem, a difficulty, I write a little note and put it underneath St Joseph, so that he can dream about it! In other words I tell him: pray for this problem!" says Pope Francis. St Joseph is a truly special saint, who protects and helps us even while he sleeps!

Advent is a good time for letting go of our worries and troubles and anything that is bothering us. So like Pope Francis take a moment to write down, on a piece of paper or in a space in your planner, of any worries, concerns, problems, or prayers that you would like St Joseph to sleep on.

A Prayer to the Sleeping St Joseph

O SAINT JOSEPH, YOU ARE A MAN GREATLY FAVOURED BY GOD. THE ANGEL OF THE LORD APPEARED TO YOU IN DREAMS, WHILE YOU SLEPT, TO WARN YOU AND GUIDE YOU AS YOU CARED FOR THE HOLY FAMILY. YOU WERE BOTH SILENT AND STRONG, A LOYAL AND COURAGEOUS PROTECTOR. DEAR SAINT JOSEPH, AS YOU REST IN THE LORD, CONFIDENT OF HIS ABSOLUTE POWER AND GOODNESS, LOOK UPON ME. PLEASE TAKE MY NEED INTO YOUR HEART, DREAM OF IT, AND PRESENT IT TO YOUR SON. HELP ME THEN, TO HEAR THE VOICE OF GOD, TO ARISE AND ACT WITH LOVE. I PRAISE AND THANK GOD WITH JOY.

ST JOSEPH...PRAY FOR US. AMEN.



YouTube

Advent's Key Figure: St. Joseph

[CLICK HERE](#)

Amy Grant Breath of Heaven (Mary's Song) -
The Nativity Story

[CLICK HERE](#)

JOSEPH - A Modern Nativity Story (up to 2:55)
[CLICK HERE](#)