

Day Twenty-Three: Thursday, March 19

From Today's Gospel:

Now this is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. When his mother Mary was engaged to Joseph, she was found to be expecting a child through the power of Holy Spirit. Joseph her husband, since he was a good man, but did not want to expose her to shame, decided to divorce her quietly. This was his intention when 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." When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home. (Adapted from Matthew 1:16, 18-21, 24A)

Reflection:

Today we step out of Lent for a day to celebrate the feast of St. Joseph, the husband of Mary, and foster father of Jesus. We hear very little about St. Joseph in Scripture; in fact there is not one word recorded that he ever spoke. But what we do learn about him speaks volumes. In today's Gospel we learn that Joseph is a righteous man. When he discovers that Mary is expecting a child, he is shocked. Joseph knew of Mary's vow to God, and of her virtue, so he may have suspected that God was at work. Maybe he was planning to step out of the picture because he didn't want to be an obstacle to God's plan. Either way, when God makes clear to Joseph what He needs him to do, Joseph immediately believes and obeys. It is these virtues - righteousness, faith, and obedience - that turned a simple carpenter from a small town into one of the greatest saints of all time.

Journaling Prompt:

To the world, Joseph was a nobody, but because of his holiness, he has become a hero. What hidden gifts do you have, that God can use to do amazing things with?

Today's Challenge:

Pay attention to someone you've never noticed before. Pick a classmate or someone from your neighborhood - someone you know, but have never really given much attention to. Try to see that person through fresh eyes, and find his or her hidden greatness.

For a children's video: <https://youtu.be/K4NBV840xTc>

Video de San Jose para Niño's: <https://youtu.be/Ua95tzAtXxo>