

4th Week of Advent

From the Gospel of Mt. 1:18-24

Reflection – Asia

Reflecting on the Gospel of *Matthew 1:18-24* on this last Sunday of advent, encourage all of us to look intently at the following:... ***an angel appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, “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...”***

On his lost, fears, doubts, and confusions, an angel appeared to Joseph to console, assure and guide him in discovering God’s action in this event. To understand that Mary’s pregnancy is the fruit of the Holy Spirit and he has a great role and mission to do with the fulfillment of God’s plan of salvation. As we examine our lives, are we that sensitive to recognize on how God communicates and intervenes to accompany us daily towards the fulfillment of his plan? Are we aware of “*God’s messengers*” consoling, vivifying or inspiring us in our qualms and worries? Or God’s mediators leading us to the discovery and fulfillment of our deepest call and happiness.

“... She (Mary) will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people with their sins.” Today’s Gospel reminded us the centrality of the celebration, we are all preparing “*Yahweh saves*” a God in his infinite love and mercy gave his only Son Jesus Christ, to save all of us thru him. Jesus the savior as the fulfillment of prophecy (Is7:14): ***“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel”*** God is with us. An undeniable reality that speaks the **truth**; that we are loved, we are saved and we are not alone. May all the preparation we are doing as we approach to the commemoration of his birth **“a God made flesh”** help us all to encounter God, his infinite and unconditional love in a very personal way.

... When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home. Like Saint Joseph, may we learn to trust God’s way more and more each day; and to obey him in faith and in total availability in the fulfillment of His saving plan.