

# **Angels & Advent Day 4**

## **The Angel Gabriel Appears to Joseph**

**Reading: Matthew 1:18-25**



## Matthew 1:18-25:

Now 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.

19 Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man,\* yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decided to divorce her quietly.

20<sup>i</sup> 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.

21 She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus,\* because he will save his people from their sins.”

22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet:

23<sup>\* k</sup> “Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means “God is with us.”

24 When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home.

25 He had no relations with her until she bore a son,\* and he named him Jesus.!

# Reflect:

Here, in the Christmas story, God's divine plan works itself out in the faithful, obedient, submissive response of Mary and Joseph; as they obediently respond by doing what the angels tell them to do on the one hand and follow the directions of the state and register in Bethlehem on the other. God's servants surrendering to God's direction brings them and us to the place where the Christ-child is born.

You have to be so utterly impressed with this young couple. Before they are married, angels appear to both of them independently. They respond positively, agree to stay together, and parent a child that is not of their (future) marriage. They provide for us a powerful example of what it means to follow God. ..they show us what it means to be God's servants; surrendering themselves to God's direction in their lives. And the child that is born to them becomes the center of our attention at this time of the year.

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