

DECEMBER 18, 2020  
Friday of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Week of Advent  
Matthew 1: 18-24

“ST. JOSEPH, A HUMBLE SERVANT OF GOD’S PLAN”

There are two personalities that our gospel talks about: Mary and Joseph. Both are perplexed and anxious what is the meaning of all of this: a child to be born is through the Holy Spirit and could be born without a biological father. “Mary had to face an enormous challenge to her faith and trust in God and to the faith of her family and Joseph, the man she chose to marry. She was asked to assume a burden of tremendous responsibility. It had never been heard of before that a child could be born without a natural father. Mary was asked to accept this miraculous exception to the laws of nature. That required faith and trust in God and in his promises. Second, Mary was not yet married. Pregnancy outside of wedlock was not tolerated in those days. Mary was only espoused to Joseph, and such an engagement had to last for a whole year. She was asked to assume a great risk. She could have been rejected by Joseph, by her family, by all her own people. Mary knew that Joseph and her family would not understand without revelation from God. She nonetheless believed and trusted in God's promises. Joseph, no doubt took this troubling matter to God in prayer. He was not hasty to judge or to react with hurt and anger. God rewarded him not only with guidance and consolation, but with the divine assurance that he had indeed called Joseph to be the husband of Mary and to assume a mission that would require the utmost faith, confidence, and trust in Almighty God. Joseph believed in the divine message to take Mary as his wife and to accept the child in her womb as the promised Messiah.”<sup>1</sup>

Pope Francis declared Year of St. Joseph from December 8, 2020-December 8, 2021. According to him, “Joseph is a father in obedience to God: with his ‘fiat’ he protects Mary and Jesus and teaches his Son to “do the will of the Father.” Called by God to serve

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<sup>1</sup> [www.dailyscripture.net](http://www.dailyscripture.net)

the mission of Jesus, he 'cooperated... in the great mystery of Redemption,' as St John Paul II said, 'and is truly a minister of salvation'”<sup>2</sup>

My brothers and sisters, for us, St. Joseph is really a model for being a faithful servant of the plan of God amidst uncertainties and anxiety. He is a strong image of humility accepting what God wants him to do. He is a father who protects, loves, and serves his family all his life. Let us therefore ask the intercession of St. Joseph that amidst this pandemic and difficulties in life we encounter, we may not lose hope and believe in the promises of God that we will never be alone, He will be always with us. Like St. Joseph, we may trust and follow the will of the Lord with love and humility.

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<sup>2</sup> [www.vaticannews.va](http://www.vaticannews.va)