

DECEMBER 18, 2021  
Saturday of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Week of Advent  
Matthew 1: 18-24

“FAITH AND HOPE IN GOD.”

According to the dictionary, promise is “a statement telling someone that you will definitely do something or that something will definitely happen in the future.”<sup>1</sup> It gives hope and aspiration that something good will happen or someone will bring good to others. The person who makes the promise, we hold on to it especially when we wish that thing and will give us satisfaction or make us feel good. “The prophets Jeremiah and Isaiah spoke words of hope in a hopeless situation for Israel. The Davidic dynasty was corrupt and unfit for a Messianic King. Apostates like King Ahaz (2 Kings 16) and weaklings like Zedekiah (Jeremiah 38) occupied the throne of David. The prophets trusted that God could somehow ‘raise up a righteous shoot’ from the stump of Jesse (Isaiah 2:11).”<sup>2</sup> In our first reading from the Prophet Jeremiah, God promises to have an upright person, a Branch in the line of David who will restore Israel, shall reign as king of the land with wisdom, justice and righteousness. A promise fulfilled in the coming of the Messiah, Jesus Christ.

St. Joseph did not understand this promise or there is doubt in his heart. How can a virgin bear a son without a man? God ‘explained’ that to Joseph through a dream. The angel said to him: “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”<sup>3</sup> A dream that changes everything from the perspective of St. Joseph. He understands his role and life in relation to Mary and Jesus. His silence and obedience caused joy and happiness to generations to generations. According to Pope Francis: “Joseph, was ‘not a dreamer’ in the sense of

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<sup>1</sup> [www.merriam-webster.com](http://www.merriam-webster.com)

<sup>2</sup> [www.dailyscripture.net/](http://www.dailyscripture.net/)

<sup>3</sup> Matthew 1: 20-21 Holy Bible NRSVCE Canadian Bible Society

someone with his head in the clouds, detached from reality, no, but a man who knows how to look beyond what he sees: with a prophetic outlook, capable of recognizing God's plan, often where others see nothing, and in this way, has clarity about the way in which to head."<sup>4</sup>

My brothers and sisters, Mary and Joseph are models of faith for us. They are faithful witnesses, loyal and servants of God and believed on the promises. So, let us ask ourselves: Do we believe that the promises of God will happen amidst suffering and difficulties and what seems like overwhelming problems? Like the prophets of old, all of us are called in hope to believe against hope that God can and will fulfill all his vows and promises. May we celebrate Christmas, the feast of the Birth of the Messiah with joyful hearts and renew our faith and hope in God that all things are possible.

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<sup>4</sup> [www.exaudi.org](http://www.exaudi.org)