

Parish Meeting Prayers

Use in December, 2022

Introduction

Leader The way the birth of Jesus came about tells us how God's ways can surprise us in our own lives as well.

Opening Prayer

All God of surprises, give us the wisdom to find your will in our daily lives. May the wonder of Christ's birth fill us with awe and gratitude. We pray our thanks through Christ. Amen.

Word of God Matthew 1:18-24

Reader A reading from the Gospel of Matthew (Pause for silent reflection)

Optional Discuss these questions in two's or three's. *The reading is on the reverse side.*

1. When have you paid attention and followed God's will with obedient faith as Joseph did?
2. As Christmas approaches with its busy preparations, how can you remain grateful for the gift of the birth of Jesus?

Response

Side 1 "Joseph, son of David, have no fear about taking Mary as your wife. It is by the Holy Spirit that she has conceived this child."

Side 2 We pray to have the faith and confidence in God that Joseph had.

Side 1 "She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

Side 2 We give thanks for Jesus who is always saving us from our sins.

Side 1 "When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had directed him and received her into his home as his wife."

Side 2 What a man of faith Joseph was. We pray to grow daily in our love of Jesus whose birth we remember each Advent and Christmas.

Petitions Individuals add intentions to remember here.

Closing Prayer

All Generous God, we are grateful for the gift of Jesus and the wonder of his birth. Continue to teach us the ways we can know God's will through the persons and events of our lives. We are grateful through Jesus, our savior born for us. Amen

Parish Operations & Mission Planning, 2022



Matthew 1:18-24

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.

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

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

All this happened to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet:

“The virgin shall be with child and give birth to a son,
and they shall call him Emmanuel,”
a name which means, “God is with us,”

When Joseph awoke he did as the angel of the Lord had
directed him and received her into his home as his wife.