

REFLECTIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS DECEMBER 19, 2022

SUBMITTED BY	ANNOUNCEMENT-SCHOOL RELATED
Ma. Magistrale	Our varsity boys basketball hosts Heart Lake this afternoon. Spectators must be in school uniform. Bags and coats are permitted in the gym, but coats are not to be worn. Gym doors open at 3:10. Go Eagles!
Albano	"Don't Trust Anyone" actors. Yes you have a practice after school Wednesday. Be prepared to stay for at least two hours.

DAILY REFLECTION

In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
Amen

A reading from the Gospel of St. Matthew

“Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose (MARY) her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, ‘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.’ All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:



One of the forgotten, yet very important figure in both the Advent and Christmas season, is Joseph. If you were to read any narrative from the Gospels, you find Joseph is present, but he doesn't have a piece of scripture attributed to him. What do I mean? In today's age, he isn't someone you will find with an Instagram or a tikTok account. See, when we think of Christmas, we think of Mary holding her child, Jesus. You will find very few Christmas Cards with St. Joseph and Child. Why is there little fanfare?

Maybe its modern cultural sensibility, more so now when movies and television portray fathers as being a missing in action, unintelligent, or overtly stern and unforgiving figure. But in today's reading, we get a different type of father figure. St. Matthew shows how scared Joseph was and how God helped him. Remember, the world Jesus entered was a not a safe place, especially for women. We forget God sent an angel to Joseph telling him not to be afraid, but to take Mary as his wife and name the child Jesus. What did Joseph do? Like Mary, he said yes. He did not abandon her or the baby. He remained faithful to God and trusted Him and committed himself to serve and protect those who would harm the mother and child. Next Sunday, we will celebrate the feast of the Nativity, known too many as Christmas. We celebrate God's gift to the world, where God invited Mary and Joseph to bring forth this gift of life, who said yes not for glory or fame, but in deep faith and trust in the Lord. This Advent season is our time to prepare and reflect on this great mystery, so we can give thanks for God coming into our lives to dwell with us.

Beyond the gift exchange and time with family, Christmas is the celebration of how The Son of Man entered our humanity through a woman and was kept safe in Joseph's yes. Never forget, the Lord dwelt in a family. Protected by the care of his parents, who trusted in God's will.

I pray, especially for those who do not have this bond of family or have parents or guardians who protected them or have been disappointed by them countless times in their physical or spiritual absence. May you look to St. Joseph and Mary and find the strength to trust in God. Be part of that family because they will protect and guide you to God. May the absence not weigh those who have lost their mother or father down, but find comfort they rest in the heavenly home. Remain safe in God's care and take care of each other, even if that means not seeing those you love most face to face. Amen. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.