

prayer and dinner

Questions

1. "How are you preparing for Christmas?"
2. "When has God been with you in your busy life this year?"
3. "What difficult and unexpected moments in your life has God unexpectedly appeared?"

December 19
2010

Video Reflection

Silent night (Emanuel)

Song

Silent Night

Silent night, holy night
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon Virgin Mother and Child
Holy Infant so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace
Sleep in heavenly peace

Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight
Glories stream from heaven afar
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!
Christ, the Saviour is born
Christ, the Saviour is born

Silent night, holy night
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth "



Gospel

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 took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means "God is with us." When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home.

Common Prayer



Final Prayers

Our Father

Hail Mary

Glory Be

Song :

O Come O Come Emanuel



Gospel Reflection :

Mary's virginity is not focus of today's Gospel.
Nor is a debate about the goodness or badness of human sexuality.

Rather, Today's Gospel teaches us that
God comes to us in unusual ways.

God uses everything in life.

In the messiness of life.

Even when we don't expect it.

God is somehow "with us".

Christmas is a time when we
discover Jesus born anew in our life.

In our time.

We reach out beyond our own expectation
and beyond own reason

so that God's goodness

maybe born in us.

Maybe you are Joseph today

filled with fear

filled with a strange scenario

where your partner, friend or relative

has somehow sinned.

Like Mary.

Having sex outside of marriage

in a 1st century Jewish culture was a stonable offence.

But God's ways is to use sin,

not to stone her,

but as the bearer of his own son.

You are to help to

bring light into the darkness.

Transforming, changing, renewing.

"Joseph - are you ready to

take back the covers

of what seems bad,

however, is somehow

an amazing

goodness just waiting to

come into this world?

To come into your life.

God is with us

God is with you

God is with

God is

God

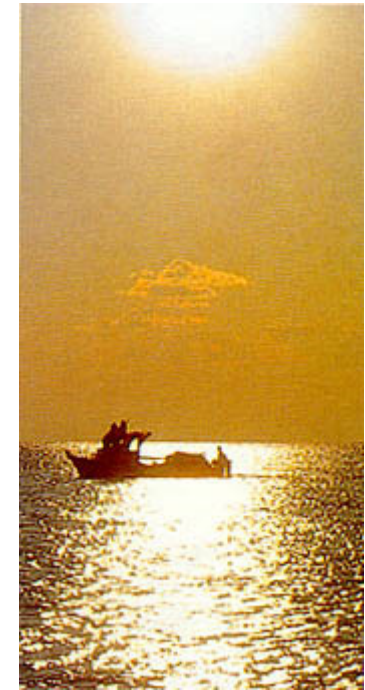


Reflection :

'Tasting God' and Trusting 'in God alone'

Once a person had 'tasted God' everything else would fall into place. This 'tasting God' in prayer is to be an inner experience even in the busiest moments of a Christian life. Through that experience we develop a willingness to put all our trust in God alone. In our many activities and concerns we trust more in God than in ourselves. This gives us purity of heart.

Whatever the your situation in life, he or she will be a prayerful person. This does not mean saying long prayers or spending hours on one's knees - it rather means living in the presence of God, having deep faith in the love of God, and interceding for the world. A Christian is concerned particularly with those who are lost and seem to be far from God and seeks to point them to Christ in the gentle way of Mary. There are a thousand ways of praying and caring for people what is essential for the Christian is to taste God in life, in prayer and our apostolic mission that Jesus has given each one of us.



Journal

Record your reflections, either writing
or drawing and anything you have
learned or felt - reflect on

"How are you preparing
for Christmas?"

"when has God been with you
in your busy life this year?"

"What difficult and unexpected
moments in your life
has God unexpectedly appeared?"

(Song – Mary's Song)