

# Kids' Chronicle

## An angel comforts Joseph

BY JOE SARNICOLA

Joseph loved Mary. He was not a wealthy man, but he was determined to provide a modest home for his family. They would not live in one of the finest houses in the city, but their home would be full of love. Joseph followed the teachings of the Law on marriage and asked Mary to be his wife.

Mary loved Joseph. She saw him as a good man who would be loyal and kind to her. When he asked her if she would be his bride, Mary said, "Yes." They both wanted to raise a family and to teach their children about God.

But during the engagement time, before the wedding, Mary told Joseph she was going to have a child. Joseph knew he was not the father of the child. He still loved Mary, and since he did not want her to suffer shame, he made plans to free her of her marriage obligations to him in a discreet manner.

When Joseph went to bed, he was very upset about what had happened and what he would have to do. He tossed and turned, sleeping only occasionally and waking up again. At one point when he was asleep he had a very unusual dream. He saw an angel.

The angel pointed at him 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."

Although Joseph was asleep, he knew this was no ordinary dream. He listened closely as the angel spoke again.

"All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet. 'Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,' which means God is with us."

Then the angel was gone and Joseph was awake. He was not sure how long the dream had lasted, but the sun was rising and it was morning. Joseph said a prayer of thanks to God. He could not wait to tell Mary what he had seen. Now he could marry her. They would be able to live as a family and they were going to be the parents of a very special child.

Later that morning, Mary said she had once had a dream when an angel had visited her. He said a child would be born to



Illustration by Linda Jeanne Rivers

her who would be "the Son of the Most High."

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Matthew 1

### Q&A

1. Why was Joseph upset when he went to bed?
2. What did the angel tell Joseph?

### Puzzle

Unscramble the names of some of the places in the story of the first Christmas.  
Answers on page 15.

1. melethebh
2. typeg
3. geelila
4. deaju
5. theranaz
6. yairs
7. ramsleelj

### Advent

The word advent comes from the Latin word *adventus*, which means "coming." The season of Advent, which opens the church year, is the time when we remember the coming of Jesus. The church views the coming of Jesus in three ways.

The first is the coming in history, when Jesus was born in Bethlehem more than 2,000 years ago. We should imagine how it must have been to be waiting for the promised Messiah to come. Next is the coming in mystery, or how we celebrate Jesus with us in the present time, the Eucharist being one example. And third is the coming in majesty, which will be when Jesus returns at the end of time for his people. This year let us prepare the way of the Lord, let us honor him every day, and let us look forward to his promised return.


### St. Dominic

St. Dominic was born shortly after the turn of the 11th century in the Spanish Pyrenees. He came from a simple peasant family and often watched over his father's sheep as they grazed at the foot of the mountains. He enjoyed the peacefulness of his life and, when he felt the desire to join the clergy, he became a monk.

His first position was at the monastery of San Milan de La Cogolla. Dominic was well-suited for monastic life and eventually became prior of the monastery.

The king claimed ownership to some of the items in the monastery, but Dominic refused to turn them over to him. As a result, Dominic and two other monks had to flee for their safety. Dominic joined the monastery of St. Sebastian, where he was named abbot. He is credited with many miracles and the monastery of St. Sebastian became famous because of him. We honor him on Dec. 20.

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## Kids' Club

You can win a \$50 savings bond by writing an essay (100 or fewer words) answering this question: **What do you know about the role of altar servers?** Send your essay — including name, home address, telephone number, school and grade — to *Catholic Courier*, PO Box 24379, Rochester, NY 14624. Deadline for entries is Nov. 15, 2001.

The winner will be notified by phone and receive the savings bond by mail. In addition, the winner's essay will be published in an upcoming issue of Kids' Chronicle. The winner to the last essay question was Brianna Petrella, a sixth-grader in St. Theodore's religion program. In response to, "Jesus told his disciples he would prepare a place for them in heaven. What do you think heaven will be like?" Brianna wrote, "I think heaven will be a great place to go to when I pass away. I think of heaven as a sweet, warm comfortable place. I picture heaven like this: with beautiful flowers and bushes comforting the area, the warm glow of the sun on your face, and just talking with God. I also think of heaven being a place where you can sit down with God, and just talk to him about everything that's happened, and to have a good time, right up there with God. I think that when we go to heaven, we will be forever welcomed in his arms and embraced in his love."

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