

December 18, 2025



Daily Reflections



Center for
Spiritual
Development

JOSEPH'S DREAM

By Sister Jane DeLisle, CSJ

Excerpt from Today's Gospel

*“When Joseph awoke,
he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him
and took his wife into his home.
He had no relations with her until she bore a son,
and he named him Jesus.”*

MATTHEW 1:24-25

Reflection

Our gracious God has run down through the ages to love us into Life -- and God works in collaboration with people. When the time was right, God invited two seemingly insignificant and ordinary people to participate in the drama of God's lavish love for humankind. While we are keenly aware of the Angel's encounter with Mary asking her

to bear God's son into the world -- and her gracious "Yes" -- it is easy to pass up Joseph's part in this story of Great Love.

While struggling with the reality of a pregnant Mary, Joseph had a dream, a moment of "Annunciation." God chose Joseph to be the human father to Jesus, alerting Joseph to take heart and to be steadfast in his love for Mary, his wife-to-be.

Joseph, too, was taken into God's confidence and asked to be the one to make God's dream for humanity come to life -- and to serve as protector, father, mentor, and provider for his family, the Holy Family.

Joseph had a dream, God's dream for Jesus and for the people of God. He could have said no and "divorced Mary quietly." As a man in personal relationship with God, a dream solidified his purpose and awakened him to the great possibilities that God intended for all of creation. As perplexing as this reality was, Joseph trusted the slow and constant work of God within him and in Mary, his chosen one and God's chosen one as well.



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For Pondering

Ask yourself:

- What is my part in God's dream for humanity?
 - What have been "annunciation" moments in my life?
 - How am I being drawn into God within my life journey?
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For Prayer

*Gracious and loving God,
"everything is wrought by your love and grace."
I pray that "I not only perceive more clearly
but also feel more deeply that you alone are the God of my heart,
my portion in eternity.
May I find that You are with me,
though apparently hidden, helpless, forgotten, and ignored
at this Advent season.
Show yourself to me in the hidden fullness of our grace."
Come, Lord Jesus, come!*

ADAPTED FROM AN ADVENT PRAYER BY KARL RAHNER, SJ

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