

Advent Devotional - Day 04

2025

December 4th



Scripture: Matthew 1: 18-21 Verse: *"This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. But after he had considered 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 home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."*

Reflection:

Joseph shows us a faith that works in everyday life, not in big shows. When he found out about Mary's pregnancy he faced shame, confusion, and real risk, but he chose compassion over blame and obedience over looking out only for himself. That's a quiet kind of courage: protecting a vulnerable family, changing plans when needed, and making a safe place for new life and promise.

The name Jesus — "God saves" — ties that courage to purpose. Joseph's role is the first, practical sign of that saving: he provides shelter, stability, and a trustworthy home where redemption can begin. Salvation in this story isn't just an idea; it looks like food on the table, a roof overhead, and someone who stands between danger and the vulnerable.

In our city, rescue looks the same: steady, practical, and relational. Reconciliation fixes broken relationships. Meals, rent help, and warm clothing ease immediate pressures. Advocacy opens doors for people shut out by systems. Joseph calls the church to pair quiet steadiness with concrete action so healing actually reaches people.

Put simply, Joseph's faith asks us to choose protection over prestige, presence over speeches, and consistency over occasional heroics. It asks Mt. Hope to be a place that welcomes all families, mentors young fathers, supports single parents reliably, and speaks up for those who have no voice. When trust and steadiness guide our work, the neighborhood becomes safer and more ready for God's redeeming work to grow.

Prayer: God, give us hearts like Joseph's — steady in trouble, ready to protect others, and willing to follow Your way. Amen.

Today's Mt Hope Mindful Response Challenge:

Do something practical for a family/person in transition—deliver a home-cooked meal, offer a few hours of childcare, or tackle an urgent household task.



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