Joseph’s Dream

NATIVITY OF THE LORD · VIGIL



Thursday evening, 24 December 2026

Matthew 1:1-25

A FAMILY BOOKLET

READ TOGETHER

The Gospel story



Matthew opens his Gospel with Jesus' family story. He goes back through many generations to Abraham and King David. Long after their time, Mary and Joseph were going to be married.

Joseph learned that Mary was expecting a baby. He wanted to do what was right and keep her from being shamed. He planned to end their engagement quietly.

An angel appeared to Joseph in a dream. God's Holy Spirit had given Mary this child. Joseph could welcome Mary as his wife. The angel told him to name the child Jesus, because he would rescue his people from their sins.

When Joseph woke, he did what the angel had asked. He welcomed Mary. When her son was born, Joseph named him Jesus. Matthew remembers the prophet's promise that the child would be called Emmanuel, a name that means God with us.

An original retelling of Matthew 1:1-25

Draw or write

How can you help someone feel welcome?

Draw an open door. Inside it, draw or write one way to help someone feel at home.

AT HOME

Talk and pray

SAY TOGETHER

Jesus, Emmanuel, thank you for being with us. Help us listen with care and make room for one another. Amen.



WONDER TOGETHER

How did the dream change what Joseph chose to do?

TRY ONE THING

Choose a small job everyone can share, such as laying the table. Make sure each person has a part.

The shorter Vigil Gospel is Matthew 1:18-25.

Liturgy Office calendar

RSV Catholic Edition