

# The Junior Observer

Vol. 38, No. 4 Published by The Observer, Official Catholic Newspaper of the Diocese of Rockford JuniorObserver@RockfordDiocese.org

A Good News Story

## An Angel Speaks to Joseph in a Dream

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Catholic Courier

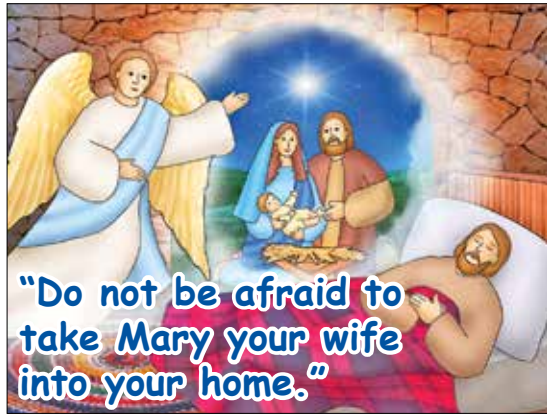
**J**oseph was a carpenter who lived in Nazareth. He was a devout and righteous man who always obeyed God's laws.

Although Joseph was not wealthy, he did come from a very important family. One of his ancestors was King David, the shepherd boy whom God chose to become ruler of the Israelites during Old Testament times.

Joseph was betrothed to a virgin named Mary. "Betrothed" means that Joseph and Mary were married but were not yet living together as husband and wife in the same house.

One day, Joseph learned that Mary was going to have a baby. Joseph decided that according to the law, he should not remain married to her. Joseph did not want to bring shame or harm to Mary, so he decided to divorce her quietly.

What Joseph did not know was that God's angel Gabriel had visited Mary



(Illustration/Linda Jeanne Rivers)

### Bible Trivia

After Gabriel appeared to Mary, whom did she visit?  
(Hint: Luke 1:39-40)

**Answer:** Elizabeth, who was pregnant with John the Baptist.

and told her the Holy Spirit would come upon her.

"You will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus," Gabriel told Mary. "He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will

give Him the throne of David His father, and He will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."

But after deciding that he should divorce Mary, Joseph had a dream in which one of God's angels spoke to him.

"Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home," the angel said. "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."

The angel's words to Joseph fulfilled an Old Testament prophecy God had revealed to His people through one of His prophets: "Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name Him Emmanuel." Emmanuel means "God is with us."

When Joseph awoke, he did just as the angel had told him. Instead of divorcing Mary, he took her into his home and waited for Jesus to be born.

## Q&A

What king was a relative of Joseph's?

Who spoke to Joseph in a dream?

Read more about it in Matthew 1



(Photos provided/Robbin Clifton)

### Sterling and Rock Falls Basketball Teams Finish in Third Place

STERLING, ROCK FALLS—Both age levels of the Sauk Valley Saints boys basketball teams recently completed their seasons with third-place finishes in their conference tournaments. The Saints, a co-op team, includes students from St. Mary School, Sterling, and St. Andrew School, Rock Falls. The fifth- and sixth-grade team, above, makes the "W" for "win" with their coaches Dustin Repass and Tony South. The seventh- and eighth-grade team, below, poses with their coaches Brian Garland, Ed Hanlon and Mike Sprague.



(Photos provided/Sue Croke)

### Sycamore Students Pack Many, Many Meals

SYCAMORE—St. Mary School's Builders Club and Student Council members, joined by many other members of the school community (below), volunteered at a Feed My Starving Children mobile packing event Nov. 10. The full Sycamore team packed roughly 10,584 meals in 2 hours.

