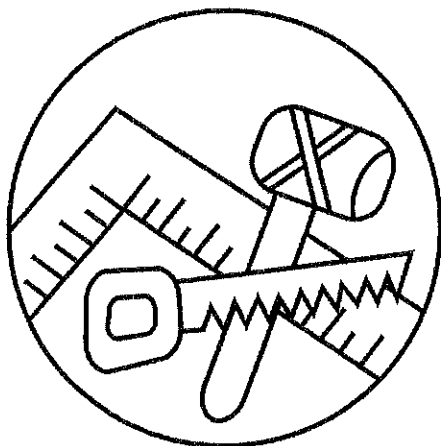


December 20: Joseph, Stepfather of Jesus



Joseph was the stepfather of Jesus and the husband of Mary. He is a stepfather because Mary conceived Jesus by the Holy Spirit and not in the ordinary way. This took place while Mary was betrothed to Joseph but not yet married formally. At first when Joseph found out Mary was pregnant since he wasn't the father he was going to divorce her quietly. However, an angel told him through a dream that Mary's baby was

conceived by the Holy Spirit and to take Mary as his wife. Joseph was a righteous man who obeyed God. He took care of his wife Mary and raised Jesus as a loving father. Joseph made a living as a carpenter who worked with wood and other materials. He also taught Jesus how to be a carpenter.



"Saint Joseph with Child Jesus"
Caspar Jele, 1848, Germany



Matthew 1:18-24. ¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus Christ was like this: After his mother, Mary, was engaged to Joseph, before they came together, she was found pregnant by the Holy Spirit.¹⁹ Joseph, her husband, being a righteous man, and not willing to make her a public example, intended to put her away secretly. ²⁰ But when he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, don't be afraid to take to yourself Mary, your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She shall give birth to a son. You shall call his name Jesus, for it is he who shall save his people from their sins."

²² Now all this has happened, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, ²³ "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and shall give birth to a son. They shall call his name Immanuel;" which is, being interpreted, "God with us."

²⁴ Joseph arose from his sleep, and did as the angel of the Lord commanded him, and took his wife to himself...