

This email was sent to update parishioners and interested individuals in the events and activities of the Church of the Holy Trinity Makati. If you do not want to receive any emails from CHT, kindly inform us via email. Thank you.

TRINITY NEWS

Looking at human dilemma from God's point of view

Joseph had a dilemma. He wanted to be obedient to the Law and be merciful. If he claimed that Jesus was his child then he would be lying. The ninth of the Ten Commandments says to not lie. In addition, he would be admitting to breaking the social custom about not fulfilling his obligation as a man with his betrothed until after the marriage ceremony. Being a righteous man he did not want to lie or admit to a wrong doing he was not guilty of. On the other hand, Joseph wanted to be merciful to Mary. He believed that by divorcing her quietly and privately he could accomplish both. He solved the problem from a human point of view but not from God's point of view.

The angel clearly tells Joseph that this son is the Messiah. The angel's words confirm Mary's story (in Luke's Gospel) and give Joseph specific instructions to obey. This story comes just after Joseph's genealogy, which establishes he is a descendant of David. The Messiah had to be a descendant of David. It will be Joseph's responsibility to name the boy Jesus, which he does in verse 25, to show his obedience.

Verses 22 – 23, "All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"—which means, "God with us." Isaiah uttered these words in 734 B.C. Only two chapters later (Isaiah 9:1 -7) he will predict that a child will be born in the future who will reign on David's throne forever. It is likely that he saw this as a later fulfillment of the earlier prophecy. Now, Matthew claims that this later fulfillment has taken place through Mary and Jesus. Matthew tells his readers that the Hebrew name Immanuel means "God is with us."

Matthew uses Isaiah's words to assure his own readers that Jesus fulfills OT predictions about the Messiah. In turn, it reassures us that our belief is correct that Jesus is the Messiah, the savior of the world. He really is the one the OT prophets predicted. When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

Our Gospel emphasized Joseph's obedience after looking at situation in God's point of view. He exercised both righteousness and justice through his decision to obey. Matthew does not give any of the details of Jesus' birth as Luke does. He has chosen to write about other aspects instead. Matthew relates Joseph's role as the head of Jesus' family and the obedience that God required for him to fulfill that role. The simple theme of this passage is Joseph's obedience; however, being obedient to God is sometimes not simple, is rarely easy and often costs us something.

Deacon Melvin Bautista

CHRISTMAS-NEW YEAR SCHEDULE:

Christmas Eve, Dec. 24

- **Family Service, 4:30 p.m.**
- **Midnight Mass, 10:30 p.m.**

Christmas Day, Dec. 25

- **Holy Eucharist, 10:00 a.m.**

New Year, Jan.

- **Holy Eucharist, 10:00 a.m.**

PARISH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:

- **January 26, 2014 after the 9:30 service.**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

Isaiah 61:10-62:3; Psalm 147; Galatians 3:23-25;4:4-7; John 1:1-18



GOODIES SOUGHT.

A sign-up paper is on the board by the Parish Office for those who wish to bring some cookies, cakes, chips, etc. to be shared after the Midnight service on the 24th. Christmas punch will be served.