

LENTEN DEVOTIONAL

27 FEBRUARY 2021

Lent Devotion/Day 11/Saturday, February 27, 2021

JOSEPH

And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth into Judea and the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was great with child. Luke 2:4-5

Meditation: Most of our information on Joseph, Jesus' foster father, comes from his role as the unsung hero of the first Christmas. After learning the corrosive news about his intended – that he was not responsible for her pregnancy – he believed, with angelic encouragement, Mary's explanation and did everything in his power to assist the divine plan. He protected Mary on the trip to Bethlehem, rescued her and Jesus from the murderous intentions of King Herod and took them safely to Egypt and back to Nazareth.

Joseph appears once more, in Luke's account of the twelve-year-old Jesus in the Temple. Justin Martyr, an early Christian writer, reported that young Jesus was an apprentice carpenter in Joseph's shop, where they made agricultural implements, including yokes for oxen and plow handles.

In those days, men usually had to earn an adequate next egg before marriage to support their households and so were often somewhat older than their brides-to-be and would thus die before them. Joseph must have died before the start of Jesus' public ministry.

Prayer: *May the example of faithful Joseph inspire us today, Our Father, so that, like him, we do all we can to obey Your will and assent to Your plans for all of our lives.
Amen*

-from **Faithful Facts for Lent**, Paul L. Maier, Creative Communications for the Parish.