

As I began my Advent preparation this year, the word Hope came to mind, and continues to come to my mind each day. I know this is God speaking to me. I try to listen to Him. Each morning as I journey to work in the silence of my car, I reflect on the message God is sharing with me that day.

Today's Gospel is offering us a Christmas gift of Hope, Faith, Joy and Peace. What a wonderful, priceless gift this is! It is a gift that is meant to be shared.

Saint Matthew tells how Joseph, betrothed to Mary, discovers she is with child. When suddenly an angel appears, and says, "Joseph do not be afraid. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived. She will bear a Son and name him Jesus. These words fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah. *"Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel."*

As we approach the Christmas celebration of the Birth of our Lord and Savior, how will we share with others the Good News of His coming? How will we prepare ourselves?

God called Joseph to mission as He calls each of us. What is our response? Will we choose to reconcile with God? God's plan for us is a personal relationship with Him. Having a relationship with Christ means listening for His voice and His message of Hope in our lives. Hope dispels Fear.

Let us listen for that word from God which will banish our fears. Just as God provided for Joseph, He does the same for all of us! Let us celebrate Emmanuel which means God is with us. Let us not be afraid.