



OUR LADY of GOOD COUNSEL CATHOLIC CHURCH

Father Matt's Musings

December 19, 2019

The Christmas story is one of the most beloved and familiar of all the Bible passages. Yet, it is only found in the gospels of Matthew and Luke. In fact, our Nativity scenes are a combination of the two gospel stories. For example, the Magi are found only in Matthew, and the prominence of the shepherds comes to us from Luke. In Luke's gospel, the angel Gabriel visits Mary. In Matthew's gospel, it is Joseph who receives the angel in a dream.

Both Mary and Joseph teach us about Christmas. Mary cannot hold in her joy as she sings her hymn of praise (Magnificat) at the news of Jesus' coming. She also cannot keep the news to herself as she visits her relative Elizabeth as the two celebrate together their joy at the unexpected news of the coming of John the Baptist and Jesus. Joseph, on the other hand, teaches us about quiet fidelity and responsibility. Joseph awakes from his sleep and takes Mary into his home and cares for both Mary and Jesus. There is no recorded word spoken by Joseph in the Scriptures. He is a man of quiet action.

Christmas needs to be celebrated with Mary. Music, family and friends and the celebration of our redemption in Christ are the Christmas message. With Mary, we are called to give birth to Christ in our lives by our generous living. With Joseph, we also celebrate the need to quietly, dutifully and faithfully continue the work of accepting God's invitation to be a part of His kingdom of peace and justice, mercy and love and generosity and compassion. May our celebrations next week be festive and grateful for a God who loves us to the point of sharing our flesh. May our commitment also be to living the values of God's kingdom on a daily basis with fidelity, urgency and in loving action.

Live Jesus!

Fr. Matt

frhillyard@olgcva.org

www.olgcva.org

All through love, nothing through force or fear.

You're receiving this email because you have expressed an interest in the OLGC Catholic Community.

Please add frhillyard@olgcva.org to your address book so we'll be sure to land in your inbox!

If you know someone who would like to be added to the list have them email

communications@olgcva.org.

See what's happening on our social sites.

