

The St. Joseph Mysteries of the Rosary

1. The betrothal of Joseph and Mary – COMMITMENT

[Joseph and Mary were pledged to each other in accord with Jewish tradition. They looked forward to their life together as husband and wife.]

In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. (Luke 1:26-27)



2. The expectancy of Mary – CRISIS

[What could Joseph have thought and felt at the news that his betrothed was with child? He knew it was not his child. By Jewish law he could have had her stoned.]

When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph but before they lived together she was found to be with child through the holy Spirit. Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decided to divorce her quietly. Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her." (Matthew 1:18-20).

3. The flight into Egypt – PERIL

[Joseph loved his wife and her son. As any good husband and parent he protected them in time of danger.]

When they [the Magi] had departed, behold the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you. Herod is going to search for the child to destroy him." Joseph rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed for Egypt. He stayed there until the death of Herod. (Matthew 2:13-15)

4. The hidden years – PARENTING

[Joseph's influence on Jesus must have been significant, guiding, loving, encouraging and teaching him as a good and devoted parent.]

He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus advanced [in] wisdom and age and favor before God and man. (Luke 2:51)

5. The death of Joseph – ETERNAL REST

[We know nothing of Joseph's death. It likely happened after the finding in the Temple, the last time we see Joseph mentioned in the New Testament and the public ministry of Jesus, where he is absent. At the cross Jesus entrusted his mother to the care of John evidence that Joseph was no longer alive. It is reasonable to think that Mary and Jesus were at Joseph's side on his death. What better death could any person have?]

Precious in the eyes of the Lord is the death of his faithful ones. Psalm 116:15