**Presentation for the Fourth Week of Advent by Bishop Callahan**

**“Joseph, Son of David…You are to Give Him the Name Jesus”**

Discussion Questions

1. What stood out for you in the presentation? Why?
2. As was discussed, through the Biblical prophecies of the Old Testament we know that the Savior would be a “Son of David” – from the Royal line of King David. This lineage is traced in Scripture through the line of Joseph. St. Joseph named Jesus, and also gave Him the title “Son of David.” How are you growing in your understanding of the importance of St. Joseph in God’s plan?
3. Read the two passages from Scripture below. What are the similarities and what are the differences between the two annunciations?

* **The Annunciation to the Blessed Virgin Mary announcing the birth of Jesus:**

*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 Ma**ry. And coming to her, he said, “Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you.”*

*But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.* *Then the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.* *Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a Son, and you shall name Him Jesus**. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give Him the throne of David His father,* *and He will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of His Kingdom there will be no end.”*

*But Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?”*

*And the angel said to her in reply, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the Child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God.* *And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren;* *for nothing will be impossible for God.”*

*Mary said, “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her. (Luke 1:26-38)*

* **The Annunciation to Saint Joseph announcing the birth of Jesus:**

*Now this is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. When His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found 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 quietl**y. Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lordappeared 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.*

*She will bear a Son and you are to name Him Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins.”*

*All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: “Behold, the virgin shall be with Child and bear a Son, and they shall name Him Emmanuel,” which means “God is with us.”*

*When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home.* *He had no relations with her until she bore a Son, and he named him Jesus.(Matthew 1:18-25)*

1. Scripture does not record any words spoken by St. Joseph but the example of his life speaks volumes. Write down a few words that describe Joseph’s loving response to God’s plan.
2. Since he is Head of the Holy Family and Pillar of Families, what are some ways you can invite St. Joseph to be with your family in your joys and in your struggles?