SUNDAY GOSPEL ACTIVITIES

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

MATTHEW 1:18-24
This week we celebrate the Fourth Sunday of Advent. In today's Gospel from Matthew we learn about Joseph, and his story of how he came to be the husband of Mary and the father Jesus grew up with on earth. We learn that Joseph was troubled when he learned that Mary was expecting a baby - but an Angel appeared to him - as had happened to Mary - and told him "Do not be afraid!" Mary was carrying the promised child - and they were to name him Jesus! How overwhelmed Joseph must have been - to be chosen to be the earthly father of the Savior. But like Mary, he says "Yes"! The message of this Gospel is to be a people of Hope and Joy! God will answer our prayers. He provides for us a personal encounter with Jesus every time we receive the Eucharist at Mass! Do not be Afraid! God is with us! Advent is a time to prepare our hearts and homes for the joy of Christmas Day. We anticipate God's fulfilled promise in the birth of the Messiah. Are you getting ready to receive Jesus?

FOR MORE FUN

★ As Catholics, Christmas day is the FIRST of the 12 days of Christmas. The Christmas season ends on the feast of the Epiphany. We have been celebrating the four weeks of Advent - a time to prepare for Christ birth - but soon the joyful fun begins! Find something different and special to do this year for Christmas - a gift to Jesus from you. Be kind, write someone a note - spread his love and forgiveness!

★ Make time this week to Pray a Rosary with your Family - the Joyful Mysteries is perfect for this time of year. Visit www.familyrosary.org for more information on the Rosary!