

# Readings: St. Joseph spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

First Reading: 2 S 7:4-5, 12-14, 16

The LORD spoke to Nathan and said:

"Go, tell my servant David,  
"When your time comes and you rest with your ancestors,  
I will raise up your heir after you, sprung from your loins,  
and I will make his kingdom firm.  
It is he who shall build a house for my name.  
And I will make his royal throne firm forever.  
I will be a father to him,  
and he shall be a son to me.  
Your house and your kingdom shall endure forever before me;

your throne shall stand firm forever."

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Responsorial Psalm: Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29

R./ The son of David will live for ever.

The promises of the LORD I will sing forever;  
through all generations my mouth shall proclaim your faithfulness,  
For you have said, "My kindness is established forever";  
in heaven you have confirmed your faithfulness.

R./ The son of David will live for ever.

"I have made a covenant with my chosen one,  
I have sworn to David my servant:  
Forever will I confirm your posterity  
and establish your throne for all generations."

R./ The son of David will live for ever.

"He shall say of me, "You are my father,  
my God, the Rock, my savior."  
Forever I will maintain my kindness toward him,  
and my covenant with him stands firm."

R./ The son of David will live for ever.

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Second Reading: Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22

Brothers and sisters:

It was not through the law  
that the promise was made to Abraham and his descendants  
that he would inherit the world,  
but through the righteousness that comes from faith.

For this reason, it depends on faith,

so that it may be a gift,  
and the promise may be guaranteed to all his descendants,  
not to those who only adhere to the law  
but to those who follow the faith of Abraham,  
who is the father of all of us, as it is written,  
I have made you father of many nations.  
He is our father in the sight of God,  
in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead  
and calls into being what does not exist.  
He believed, hoping against hope,  
that he would become the father of many nations,  
according to what was said, Thus shall your descendants be.

That is why it was credited to him as righteousness.

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**Gospel: Matthew 1:16, 18-21, 24 (or Luke 2:41-51)**

Jacob was the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, and from her came Jesus who is called the Christ-the Messiah.

This is how Jesus Christ was born. Mary his mother had been given to Joseph in marriage but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit.

Then Joseph, her husband, made plans to divorce her in all secrecy. He was an upright man, and in no way did he want to discredit her.

While he was pondering over this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, descendant of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. She has conceived by the Holy Spirit, and now she will bear a son. You shall call him Jesus' for he will save his people from their sins."

When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do and he took his wife to his home.

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