



4th SUNDAY of ADVENT ***YEAR A – December 22, 2019***

If you listen closely for the voice of God in each of the readings today, you can hear God saying to different people, in different circumstances - "Trust Me". That's not always an easy thing to do. Our visions of reality often have distortions and many times, we don't have the whole picture at our disposal, and we're not sure what to do. We feel helpless and hopeless. It is then that you can hear God say, "Trust Me."

The prophet Isaiah in the first reading today (Isaiah 10:7-14) says to his people, "A virgin shall conceive and bear a son and his name shall be Emmanuel." How can a virgin conceive all by herself -- and God says, "Trust Me".

St. Paul, in the second reading (Romans 1:1-7) tells us that Jesus is God's Son. But he looks like a man, he talks like a man, he walks like a man, but he is God. How can that be -- and God says, "Trust Me".

In the Gospel today (Matthew 1:18-24), Joseph learns that the woman he loves, the woman he wants to marry, has gotten pregnant and he knows he is not the father of the child. He doesn't know what to do. He needs more information. He doesn't have the whole picture. He feels helpless and hopeless. The law now says Mary must die, and it is then that God says to him, "Trust Me".

Have you ever been in a situation where you're just not sure what you should do? Have you ever been in a situation where you needed more information, but it just wasn't available? Have you ever been in a situation that seems hopeless and you feel helpless? Have you ever been in a situation that scares you?

If you haven't, you will be some day. It happens to everyone. And when it happens, turn to God in prayer. When you are finished praying, listen for God's voice in the silence and you will hear him say to you, "Trust Me".

If you need a human being to talk to and there is no one around you can trust - (there's that word again) I recommend St. Joseph. There's a man who knows what trusting God is all about. He's often forgotten at Christmas time because he is overshadowed by a special child named Jesus and a special mother named Mary.

But the truth of the matter is this, if Joseph had not trusted God, Mary would have been put to death and the child she was carrying would have died too. It was the law of the land - not a good law but the law of that land. We have some pretty bad laws in our land too. Our law does not allow us to kill the mother of a child born out of wedlock, but it does allow us to kill the child.

Saint Joseph, pray for us.