

# CHRISTMAS BEHIND THE SCENES

More Than Pageantry

## JOSEPH

*“Now this is how Jesus the Messiah was born. His mother, Mary, was engaged to be married to Joseph. But while she was still a virgin, she became pregnant by the Holy Spirit. Joseph, her fiancé, being a just man, decided to break the engagement quietly, so as not to disgrace her publicly.*

*“As he considered this, he fell asleep, and an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. ‘Joseph, son of David,’ the angel said, ‘do not be afraid to go ahead with your marriage to Mary. For the child within her has been conceived by the Holy Spirit. And she will have a Son, and you are to name Him Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.’”*

*“All of this happened to fulfill the Lord's message through His prophet: ‘Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a Son, and He will be called Immanuel (meaning, God is with us).’ When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord commanded. He brought Mary home to be his wife, but she remained a virgin until her Son was born. And Joseph named Him Jesus.” Matthew 1:18-25*

## MARY

*“And because Joseph was a descendant of King David, he had to go to Bethlehem in Judea, David's ancient home. He traveled there from the village of Nazareth in Galilee. He took with him Mary, his fiancée, who was obviously pregnant by this time.*

*“And while they were there, the time came for her baby to be born. She gave birth to her first child, a Son. She wrapped Him snugly in strips of cloth and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the village inn.” Luke 2:5-7*

## INNKEEPER

*“...because there was no room for them in the village inn.” Luke 2:7*

## THE “FIRST” VISITORS

*“They [wise men] entered the house where the child and His mother, Mary, were, and they fell down before Him and worshiped Him. Then they opened their treasure chests and gave Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.” Matthew 2:11*

*“The [Shepherds] ran to the village and found Mary and Joseph. And there was the baby, lying in the manger. Then the shepherds told everyone what had happened and what the angel had said to them about this child. All who heard the shepherds' story were astonished... The shepherds went back to their fields and flocks, glorifying and praising God....” Luke 2:16-20*

**God knows your feelings  
and his answer is  
Jesus!**

Next Sunday:

**“What time is Christmas?”**

**Pastor Saro Khachikian**