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A Good News Story

Magi Mistrust Herod, Angel Warns Joseph

Catholic News Service

After his parents, Joseph and Mary, had traveled for a long time for the census, Jesus was born in Bethlehem. After the birth of Jesus, the Magi from the east came to Jerusalem. They knew no one in the area, so they began asking, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage."

Eventually this news reached Herod, the king. He was very angry. He summoned the chief priests and the scribes and asked them where this king of the Jews, the Messiah, was going to be born.

"In Bethlehem of Judea," they said, "for thus it has been written through the prophet: ... 'Since from you (Bethlehem), shall come a



Q&A

Which prophet spoke about the "voice in the desert?"

What happened after Jesus was baptized?

Read more in Luke 3

ruler, who is to shepherd my people Israel."

After hearing this message, Herod sent for the Magi so he could speak to them personally. He wanted to know when they had first seen the special star they spoke of. Then he told them to go to Bethlehem and said, "Go and

search diligently for the child. When you have found him, bring me word, that I too may go and do him homage."

The Magi left the king's palace and immediately set off for Bethlehem. They followed the star and they found Jesus under its light. They rejoiced and bowed when

they found Mary was holding him. They presented him with gifts worthy of a king: gold, frankincense and myrrh. But later they were warned in a dream not to return to Herod. Instead they left for home by a different route.

After the Magi had left, an angel appeared to Joseph in a dream. He said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you. Herod is going to search for the child to destroy him."

Joseph woke up in the middle of the night and they left for Egypt under the cover of the darkness. They did not return until they heard that Herod was dead.

This fulfilled the prophecy made by Hosea, which said, "Out of Egypt I called my son."



(Photos provided)

Rosary Balloons Sign of Promise Made to Jesus Through Mary

Students and faculty at St. Thomas School in Crystal Lake celebrated their personal consecration to Jesus through Mary by releasing balloons in the shape of a rosary. The school spent 33 days reflecting and preparing their hearts to consecrate themselves to a sacred purpose.

Have a Merry Christmas!

Students Pray for Special Intentions Every Week

Students in fifth- through eighth-grades at St. Mary School in Sycamore participate in weekly adoration as part of their faith formation. For fifth- and sixth-grade students, praying for the priests of the parish that they are assigned is part of their weekly responsibility. They also pray for funds to complete the new addition to the school.



Puzzler: Old or New?

Circle "O" for the Old Testament books and "N" for the New Testament books listed below.

Try it first without using your Bible.

- 1. Joshua O N
- 2. Joel O N
- 3. Jude O N
- 4. Philippians O N
- 5. Ezekiel O N
- 6. John O N
- 7. Romans O N

See answers on page 22.