

The Junior Observer

Vol. 31, No. 5 Published by The Observer, Official Catholic Newspaper of the Diocese of Rockford JuniorObserver@RockfordDiocese.org

A Good News Story



Who was the person the Magi were looking for?

What did King Herod want to do to the Messiah?

Read more about it in Matthew 2

The Magi Bring Gifts to Jesus

Catholic News Service

At the time of Jesus' birth in Bethlehem, there were Magi from the East who arrived in Jerusalem.

"Where is the newborn king of the Jews?" they asked. "We saw His star at its rising and have come to do Him homage."

When King Herod heard this, he was deeply concerned.

So he gathered the chief priests and the scribes and asked them what the Scriptures said about the place where the Messiah was to be born.

"In Bethlehem of Judea," they replied, "for thus it has been written through the prophet: And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; since from you shall come a ruler, who is to shepherd my people Israel."

Upon hearing this, King Herod secretly called the Magi to see him. He asked them when the star first appeared so he could figure out exactly when the Messiah had been born.



(CNS)

Then he told the Magi that Bethlehem was the city in which the Messiah was to be born and told them to go there.

"Go and search diligently for the child. When you have found Him, bring me word, that I too may go and do Him homage," King Herod told them.

The Church Year

Epiphany, which was Jan. 8, is the last day of the Christmas season. We celebrate the arrival of the Magi.

The Magi didn't know it, but King Herod was lying to them. He actually wanted to harm the Messiah, because he feared the Messiah would take away his kingly power.

After their meeting with King Herod, the Magi continued on their journey. As they headed toward Bethlehem, they once again saw the star and followed it.

As they came into Bethlehem, the star stopped over the place where Jesus was.

The Magi were overjoyed because they knew they had finally found the Messiah. They entered the house and saw Jesus with Mary, His mother.

The Magi prostrated themselves — which means to lay facedown on the ground — and paid homage to Jesus.

Then they gave Jesus very expensive gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

And before the Magi left Bethlehem, they were warned in a dream not to return to King Herod. So they left for their home country by a different route.



It's Not Too Soon to Color Your Heart for Lent

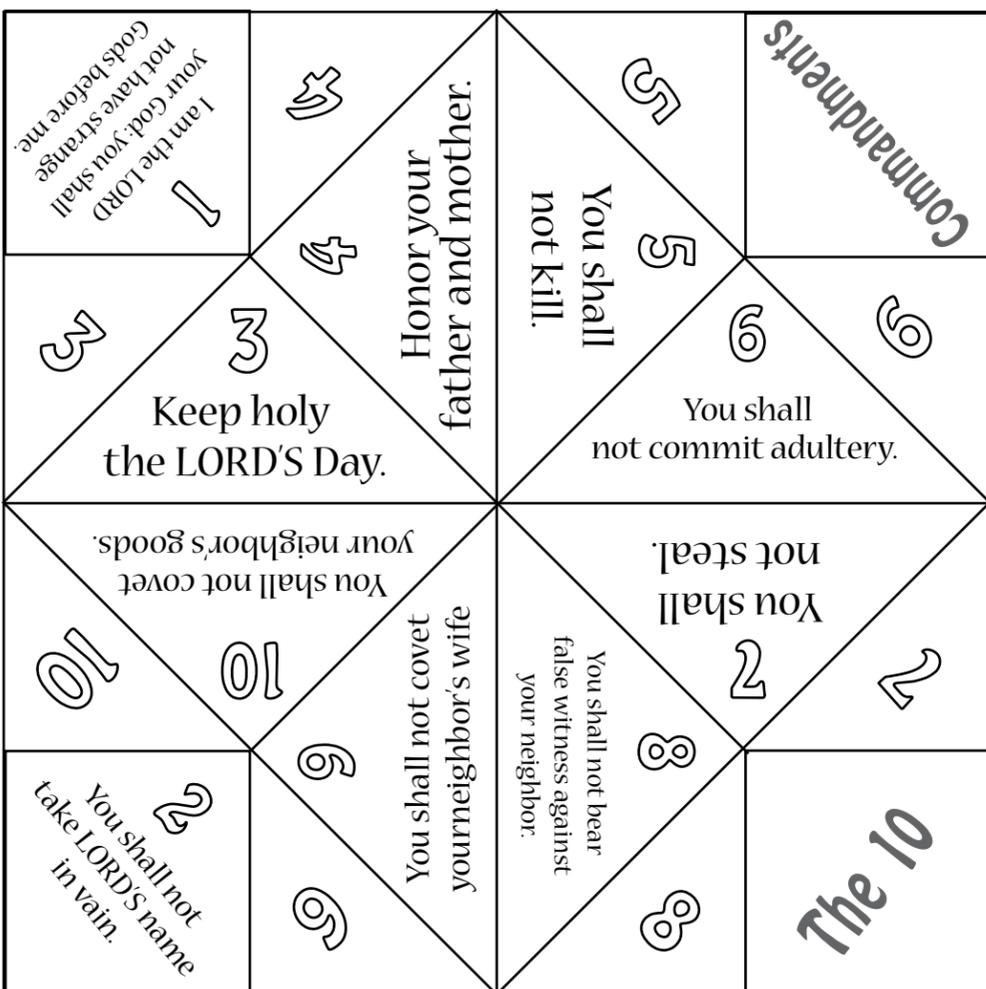
Lent doesn't begin until Ash Wednesday on March 1, but if you want to get a head start on your Lent almsgiving, you can make your Heart to Heart offering any time. Ask an adult to help you download a pair of

hearts at <http://observer.rockforddiocese.org>. They'll need to click on Junior Observer, then on the Heart to Heart artwork.

Send your decorated double-hearts and a \$2 donation for each pair to The Junior Observer,

555 Colman Center Dr., P.O. Box 7044, Rockford, IL 61125. Do not mount your hearts on other paper because it adds to mailing costs.

Send your hearts and donation by **Good Friday, April 14, 2017.**



(The Junio Observer illustration/Sharon Boehlefeld)

Finger game

Are you learning the 10 Commandments?

Cut out and fold this finger game to play with friends and family members.

Color the numbers and spaces any way you like.

Who Were the Apostles?

In the Bible, we read that many people who heard Jesus preach or who were healed by Him began to follow Him. We also read that some of His followers were called "disciples" and others were called "Apostles."

What is the difference?

Disciples were not just random followers. As Jesus traveled around Galilee, He called specific people to follow Him and learn from Him. The first people He called were Simon, Andrew, James and John.

Later, Jesus chose 12 men from among His disciples to be His best and closest assistants. In Matthew 10, we read that these men — called Apostles — were sent on missions to preach God's word.

The Apostles are listed in Matthew 10:2-4. They were Peter, Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Thomas, Matthew, James (the son of Alphaeus), Thaddeus, Simon the Cananean and Judas Iscariot.