# The Junior Observer

Vol. 32, No. 3 Published by The Observer, Official Catholic Newspaper of the Diocese of Rockford JuniorObserver@RockfordDiocese.org

## Q & A

**To which city did Joseph and Mary travel?**

**Who appeared to the shepherds in the field?**

Read more about it in Luke 2

*A Good News Story*

# Shepherds Visit Baby Jesus

*Catholic News Service*

One day, the Roman emperor Caesar Augustus decided to take a census of all the people living in the territories over which he ruled.

At that time, a man named Joseph was living in the town of Nazareth in Galilee, which was an area that the Romans controlled. Joseph made plans to travel to his ancestral hometown with his pregnant wife, Mary, so they could be counted. Joseph was related to King David, so he and Mary traveled to Bethlehem, the city of David, to take part in the census.

The trip was long, and Mary was very close to the end of her pregnancy. Bethlehem was so crowded with people who were there for the census that Joseph and Mary had a hard time finding somewhere to stay.

While she and Joseph were in Bethlehem, it came time for Mary to have her baby. She gave birth to her firstborn son. Mary wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

(CNS)

**Bible Trivia**

Who was not happy to learn of Jesus' birth? (Hint: Matthew 2)

Answer: King Herod

As all of this was taking place, there were shepherds working during the night in the fields around Bethlehem. They were watching over their flocks of sheep to keep them safe from wild animals.

Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared to the shepherds.

"Do not be afraid," the angel said, "for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: You will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger."

After the angel left, the shepherds decided to find the child.

"Let us go, then, to Bethlehem to see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us," they said.

The men quickly went into the city and found Mary and Joseph, as well as the baby lying in the manger.

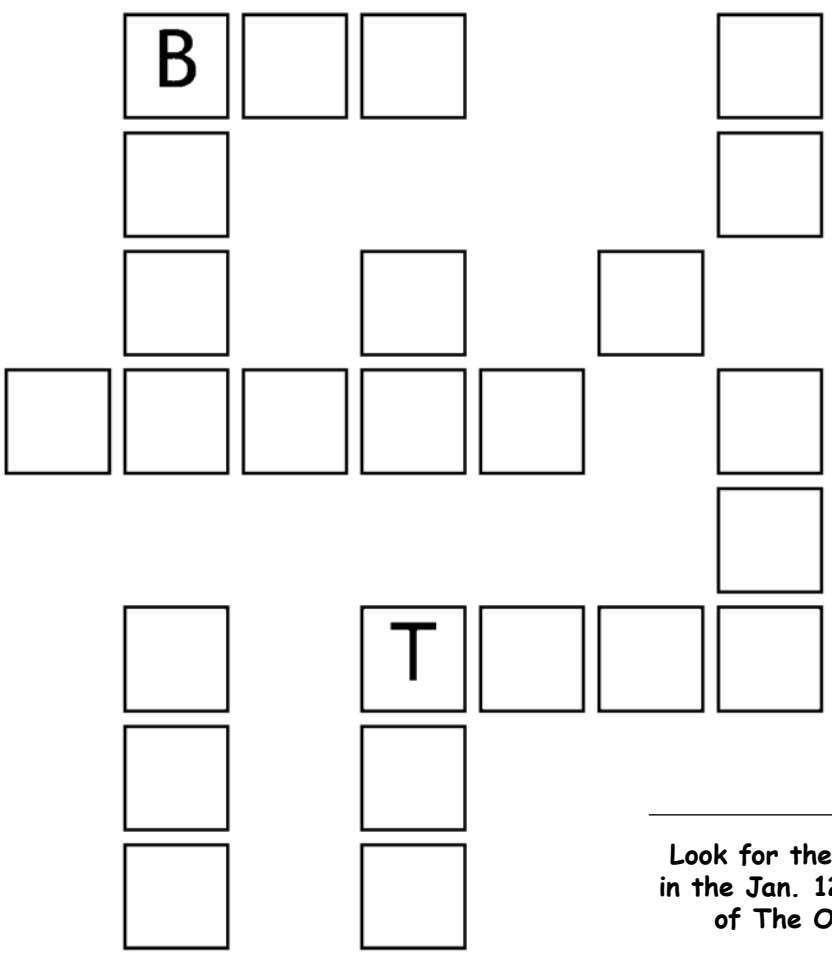
When they saw that the angel's message was indeed true, they told everyone in Bethlehem about it.

Everyone who heard the shepherds' story was amazed, and Mary reflected in her heart on all that took place.

## Puzzle

Fit this Gospel message into the empty squares:

**They saw the baby lying on a bed of hay.**




Look for the solution in the Jan. 12 edition of The Observer.

©LPi

## Read the Gospel and Color