

The Junior Observer

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A Good News Story

Joseph Protects Jesus By Fleeing to Egypt

Q&A

Who was searching for the Messiah?

Where did Joseph take Mary and Jesus?

Read more about it in Matthew 2

Catholic News Service

After the baby Jesus was born in Bethlehem, Magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem.

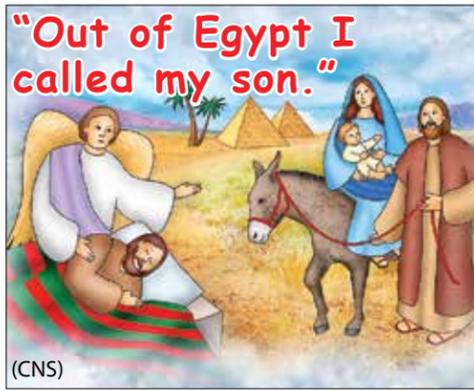
“Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage,” they said as they searched for Jesus.

When King Herod heard about the Magi’s search, he became concerned. He asked the chief priests and the scribes where the Messiah was to be born.

“In Bethlehem of Judea,” they said, “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.’”

Herod secretly called the Magi to him and found out the date they had first seen the star appear. He also told them they could find the Messiah in Bethlehem.

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



Bible Trivia

In which region of Israel is Bethlehem located? (Hint: Matthew 2:1)

Answer: A Judea

do him homage,” the king said.

The Magi again set out on their journey. They followed the star to where it stopped, which was over the house in Bethlehem where Mary, Joseph and Jesus were staying.

The Magi were overjoyed at seeing the star. When they entered the house, they saw Jesus with Mary. They prostrated themselves and did Jesus homage, and they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

When the Magi left Jesus, Mary and Joseph, they returned home by another route, because they were warned in a dream not to return to King Herod.

After the Magi left, an angel of the Lord came to Joseph in a dream.

“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,” the angel warned.

Joseph rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed for Egypt. He stayed there until the death of Herod, so what God had said through the prophets might be fulfilled, “Out of Egypt I called my son.”



(Photo provided/Robbin Clifton)

Sterling St. Mary First-Graders Receive Surprise During Fundraiser

STERLING—Students in kindergarten through fifth grade at St. Mary School participated in the United Way of Whiteside County’s PT Penguin fundraiser. The first-grade class, taught by Mady Ferris, collected \$108.80. Each student received a surprise treat of a candy bar from Mardi Ybarra, United Way’s program coordinator.

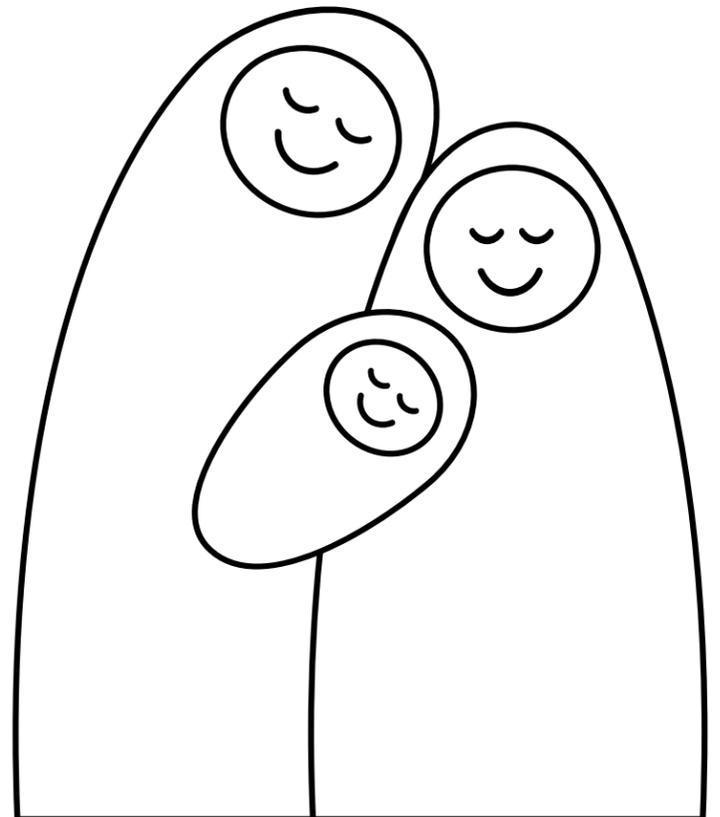
A Christmas Message for Children from Pope Francis

“When you wake up in the morning, remember your friend, who is Jesus, with a prayer ... The Christmas that I wish for you is this: while you are setting up the crib, imagine that you are saying to Jesus: come into my life and I will always listen to you.”

—Message from Pope Francis’ meeting with children in the Catholic Action Children’s program Dec. 19.



(CNS photo/ Paul Haring) Pope Francis greets a young girl during a meeting with children at the Vatican Dec. 19.



(Observer illustration/ Megan Peterson)

A Humble Holy Family

We used this Holy Family design on one of our Christmas cards, and we loved how simple and cute it was. You can find examples of this design on our Forever Family page in the Dec. 10 issue of *The Observer*.

We used scraps of wrapping paper to put together our Holy Family, but you can color our example here, or print a larger copy for tracing and coloring from our template on www.pinterest.com/TheObserverRkfd/