The Junior Observer

A Good News Story

Shepherds Learn of Jesus' Birth

Catholic News Service

When Mary was near the end of her pregnancy, Caesar Augustus issued a decree that everyone in the Roman Empire had to be counted in a census.

Since Joseph, Mary's husband, was of the house of King David, he and Mary had to travel from Nazareth in Galilee to Bethlehem in Judea to be enrolled.

While Joseph and Mary were in Bethlehem, it came time for Mary to have her baby.

She gave birth to her firstborn son, and she wrapped Him in swaddling clothes. She laid Him in a manger, because there was no room to stay at the inn.

At the same time as the census, there were shepherds living in the fields around Bethlehem who were keeping watch over their flocks at night.

Suddenly, an angel of God appeared to them, and God's glory shone all around them.

The shepherds were surprised and struck with great fear. The angel sought to calm them.

"Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people," the angel said. "For today in the city of David a savior has been born

"A savior has been born for you."

(CNS)

Bible Trivia
What is another name for Bethlehem? (Hint: Luke 2:4)

Answer: The city of David.

for you who is Christ and Lord."

The angel also told the shepherds how to recognize the Savior.

"And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger," the angel said.

After the angel finished speaking, suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel. They were praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to those on whom His favor rests."

When the angels left, the shepherds were excited to find the Savior who had been born.

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

When they came into the city, they found Mary and Joseph, as well as the infant lying in the manger.

Upon seeing them, the shepherds made known the message that the angel had told them about the child. All who heard it were amazed.

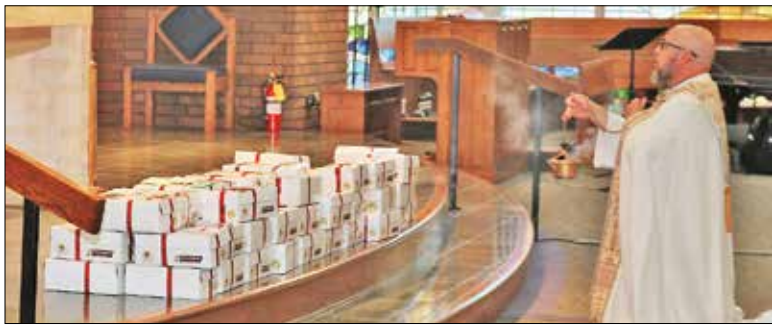Then the shepherds returned to the fields, glorifying and praising God.

Q&A

Where did Mary place the infant?

Who told the shepherds about the infant's birth?

Read more about it in Luke 2

Box of Joy Program a Blessing for Elgin Students, Recipients

ELGIN—Families of St. Thomas More School and the parish's religious education classes put together donation boxes for Cross Catholic Outreach's Boxes of Joy program. The boxes included toys, clothing, school supplies and hygiene items. Students then brought the boxes to the altar during adoration, and the donations were blessed by pastor Father Ryan Browning while the students prayed for the future recipients.

(Photos provided/ Sonja Keane)

St. Wendelin Catechetical Students Get Crafty Making Christmas Cards

SHANNON—Students in catechesis classes at St. Wendelin Parish created over 130 handmade Christmas cards for three area nursing homes. While drawing and coloring, the students prayed that the residents would be able to find peace, comfort and joy during the Christmas season.

(Photo provided/ Barb Lessman)