

The Junior Observer

Vol. 33, No. 4 Published by The Observer, Official Catholic Newspaper of the Diocese of Rockford JuniorObserver@RockfordDiocese.org

Q&A

Where did Joseph and Mary travel?

Who told the shepherds about the infant's birth?

Read more about it in Luke 2

A Good News Story

Jesus is Born in Bethlehem

Catholic News Service

One day, the Roman Emperor Caesar Augustus wanted to count the people who lived in the lands he ruled. All those living in those lands needed to return to their ancestral hometowns to be counted.

A man named Joseph was living in the town of Nazareth in Galilee. A relative of King David, Joseph took his pregnant wife, Mary, and traveled to Bethlehem in Judea to take part in the census.

When the couple reached Bethlehem, the time came for Mary to have her baby. She gave birth to a son, whom she wrapped in swaddling clothes. She laid him in a manger, because there had been no room for Joseph and Mary to stay at an inn.

During this time, there were shepherds who were living in the fields around Bethlehem. They were keeping watch over their flocks at night when an



Bible Trivia

How old was Jesus when his parents named him? (Hint: Luke 2:21)

Answer: Eight days

angel from God appeared in their midst.

The glory of God shone so brightly around the angel and the shepherds that the men became frightened.

“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 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.”

Suddenly, the lone angel was joined by a multitude of other angels who were all praising God.

“Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom His favor rests,” they said.

After the angels returned to heaven, the shepherds looked at each other excitedly.

“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 shepherds went into the city and found Joseph and Mary, and they saw the infant lying in the manger, just as the angel had told them.

When they saw this, the shepherds went out into the city to tell everyone about the angel’s message. Then they glorified and praised God.

Puzzle

Using the hints provided from Matthew 2, put a T next to the sentences that are true and an F next to the ones that are false regarding the Magi’s search for Jesus.

1. ___ The Magi gave Jesus gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. (verse 11)
2. ___ The Magi were from the west. (verse 1)
3. ___ King Herod asked the elders of the city where the Messiah would be born. (verse 4)
4. ___ The Magi followed the moon in order to find Jesus’ birthplace. (verse 2)
5. ___ The Magi were warned in a dream not to return to King Herod. (verse 12)

Answers: 1.T, 2.F, 3.F, 4.F, 5.T



Gospel for the Third Week of Advent

Mary Visits Elizabeth

Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled.”

— Luke 1:39-45