

Kids' Chronicle

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BY JOE SARNICOLA

A savior is born

Caesar Augustus gave an order that a census should be taken of the whole world. Every man would have to return with his family to the city where he was born, to be counted.

Joseph, a young carpenter, loaded his belongings onto his mule and set off with his new wife for Bethlehem, where he had been born. It would be a long and difficult journey.

One night, when Joseph was sleeping, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, your wife will soon bear a son conceived by the holy spirit. His name will be Jesus, and he will save his people from their sins."

When he woke up, Joseph told Mary about his dream, and they promised to obey the words of the angel.

By the time Joseph reached Bethlehem, Mary was ready to have her son. Joseph tied the mule to a post in front of an inn and went inside. The innkeeper, a tall muscular man, spoke before Joseph could say anything.

"I have no more rooms to rent. I am full because of the census. All of the inns are full."

"But, sir," pleaded Joseph, "My wife is due to bear a child at any time. We must have a safe place to stay. I have some money, and I will work for food, if necessary."

"Put away your money," the innkeeper said with compassion. "You may stay in the barn in one of the stalls. It will be warm and dry, and the chickens and goats will provide eggs and milk for your baby."

"May God reward you for your kindness," said Joseph. He ran out to tell Mary the good news.

Not far away in a field shepherds were keeping night watch over their



Illustration by Kathy Welsh

sheep. Suddenly the sky was filled with light and an angel appeared. The shepherds knelt down, shivering with fright.

"Do not be afraid," said the angel. "I bring you good tidings. A joyful event will be shared with all people. Today, in Bethlehem, the city of David, a savior is born, who is Christ the Lord. This is how you will know him, he will be wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger."

Immediately, a multitude of angels appeared. They praised God and sang, "Glory to God in the highest." Then they vanished as quickly as they had appeared.

The shepherds headed for Bethlehem to see the newborn savior. They

found him just as the angel had said. They told everyone of their vision and glorified God.

Mary listened to the words of the shepherds and prayed to God with a thankful heart. She knew her child would be very special indeed.

Q&A

READ MORE ABOUT IT: Luke 2:1-20.

1. Why did Joseph go to Bethlehem?
2. Who spoke to Joseph in his dream?

Bible Trivia

What is a manger?

Send answers to: *Catholic Courier Bible Trivia*, 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, N.Y. 14624. Please include your name and school name with your entry.

All entries must be received by Jan. 13, 1994. A winner will be selected at random from all the correct entries submitted. The winner will be notified by mail and receive a gift courtesy of Trants.

Last month's winner was Dalia L. Falú of Rochester's St. Charles Borromeo School who correctly identified Peter as the brother of Saint Andrew.

Bible Accent

The word "angel" comes from *angelos*, the Greek word for messenger.

In the Bible, angels often appear as messengers. It was an angel who told Joseph that Mary's son would be the savior of the world.

Sometimes angels perform other tasks, like the angel who rolled the stone away from Jesus' tomb.

The psalmist said the angels watch over us, to keep us out of danger. In the *Book of Revelations*, John saw angels in heaven praising God and singing.

Some scholars believe there are nine types of angels: seraphim, cherubim, thrones, dominions, principalities, powers, virtues, archangels, and angels.

Angels are popular subjects in religious paintings, often in the form of men or women with wings. What do you think angels look like?

Thomas Becket



Thomas Becket was born in London in 1118 and was educated in London and Paris. As a young man, he was appointed archdeacon of Canterbury. Several months later, King Henry II named Thomas as his chief advisor. The two men became close friends.

When the Archbishop of Canterbury died, Thomas succeeded him, becoming the chief official of the church in England. He was afraid this would create conflict with his role as the king's advisor.

And it did. Thomas refused to agree to policies that would give the king power over the church. Thomas was outspoken about the sanctity of the church, and had to hide in France for his own safety.

On December 29, 1170, four of the king's knights murdered Thomas Becket. Three years later he was declared a saint and martyr. We remember him on the anniversary of his death.

Bible verse puzzle

Using the codebreaker key, solve the mystery Bible Verse.

A=1 B=2 C=3, etc.

"1-12-12 13-1-14-11-9-14-4 23-9-12-12 19-5-5

"-----"

7-15-4'-19 19-1-12-22-1-20-9-15-14."

"-----"

12-21-11-5 C:F

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