

The Magi visit the newborn Jesus

Joe Sarnicola/Contributing writer

Joseph, the earthly father of Jesus, had returned to Bethlehem, also called the City of David, for the census that had been ordered by King Herod. Because so many other travelers had returned to the city, the inns were full, and Joseph and his family had to stay in a stable, where Jesus was born. His parents used a manger, which was normally filled with food for the animals, as his crib.

While Joseph was trying as hard as he could to make his family safe and comfortable, King Herod received three visitors in his palace in Jerusalem. They were astrologers, called Magi or wise men, who had traveled in a caravan from their home in the East. They asked one of the palace attendants, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage."

When this message was given to King Herod, he became very angry.

Since he had not recently had a son who would succeed him as the next king, he wanted to know who the astrologers were talking about. He summoned all of the scribes and the chief priests and demanded that they find out where this child might be.

One priest quoted from the Scriptures. "In Bethlehem of Judea, since from there shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel."



Illustration by Linda Jeanne Rivers

After hearing from his advisers, Herod dismissed them and sent word to the astrologers that he wanted to meet with them. He told them he wanted to talk about the newborn king. "Go and search diligently for the child," he said. "When you have found him, bring me word, that I too may go and do him homage."

The astrologers bowed and left



the king's chamber. As they set out to look for the child, the star that they had been following sparkled in the sky like a celestial diamond. The rays of light that radiated from it pointed the travelers to the inn in Bethlehem. The men were filled with joy that they had found the child who they knew would one day be the King of the Jews. They offered him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. An angel warned them in a dream not to go back to see Herod, so they returned home by a different route.

READ MORE ABOUT IT:
Matthew 2

Q&A

1. What did the astrologers ask Herod?
2. What did the astrologers give to Jesus?

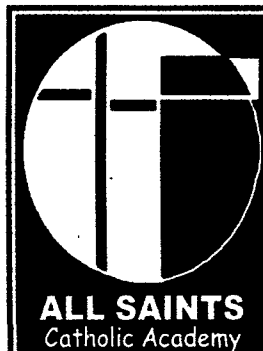
Puzzle

Answer each question by writing the correct number in the space provided. Answers on page 5.

1. How many Gospels are there? _____
2. How many persons are in the Trinity? _____
3. How many disciples did Jesus have? _____
4. How many sacraments are there in the church? _____
5. How many commandments did God give Moses? _____
6. How many testaments make up the Bible? _____
7. How many days are there in Lent? _____

Bible Trivia

What holiday does the church consider more important than Christmas? Send answer to: Catholic Courier Bible Trivia, P.O. Box 24379, Rochester, NY 14624. Please include your name, address, school and grade. All entries must be received by Jan. 3, 2003. A winner will be selected at random from all the correct entries submitted. The winner to the last trivia question is Meredith DiDuro, a third-grader at St. Francis De-Sales/St. Stephen School in Geneva. In answer to Which of the Gospels opens with the genealogy of Jesus? she responded: "The Gospel of Matthew opens with the genealogy of Jesus."



*One in Faith, One in Knowledge,
One in Community*

All Saints Catholic Academy will hold an Open House on Wednesday, January 8, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. Students from grades 5 through 8 are invited to attend. Please call 429-6010 for information.

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