

Our Lady and the Magi

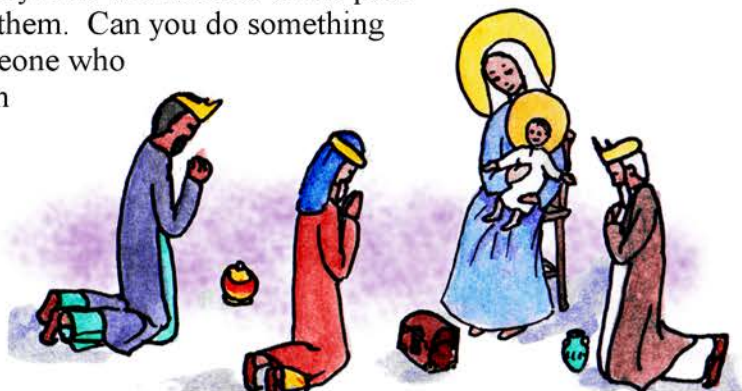
On January 1st we celebrate the feast of Mary, the Mother of God. Do you know why Mary is so special? She always says yes to God. When God asked her to be the mother of His Son she said yes, even though she knew she would have to suffer a lot. She accepted Jesus' death on the cross because God willed it.

Mary was the way that God chose to come into the world. He could have come as a grown-up king with great power, but He chose instead to come into the world the way everyone else does, being born of a mother. Mary was the perfect woman- He had made her for Himself- so she deserves to be greatly honoured as God's mother.

On January 3rd this year we celebrate the feast of the Epiphany, when the wise men, or magi, came from far away to worship the new baby King Jesus. They travelled for many days and were guided by a star that God put in the sky for them. Finally they came to the house in Bethlehem where Mary and Jesus were staying.

Even though Mary was just a poor young mother and Jesus was a poor helpless baby, the great men fell on their knees before them and worshipped Jesus, offering their expensive treasures of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

God loves the poor so much he made Himself a poor baby. He is honoured every time we are kind to the poor and pray for them. Can you do something kind for someone who is poorer than you, or say a prayer for them today?



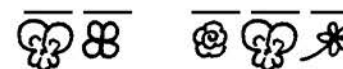
Answer to puzzle on front: the Mother of God. Answers to Cross-Word: Across: 4.myrrh 6.to 8.East 9.star 11.find 14.secretly 15.king 16.gold 18.Bethlehem Down: 1.frankincense 2.Jesus 3.at 4.Mary 5.Herod 7.ovenjoyed 10.they 12.as 13.it's 17.lie

The Kids' Bulletin

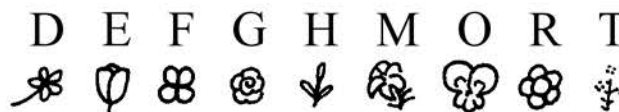
January 1 and
Epiphany Sunday January 3rd, 2021



Mary,

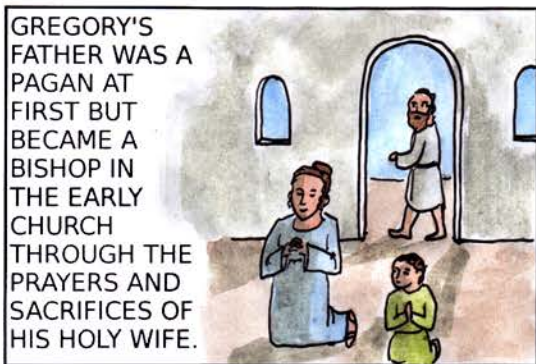


Under what title do we honour Our Lady on January 1st?
Use the code to find out!

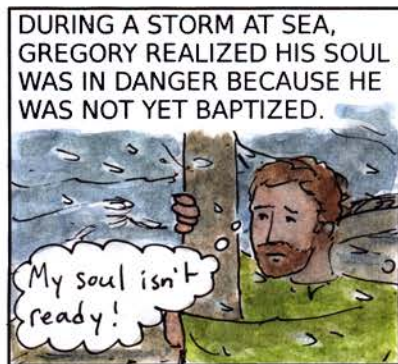


Saint Gregory Nazianzen

January 2

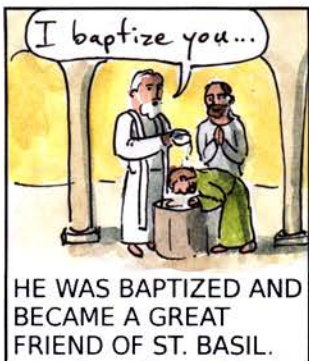


GREGORY'S FATHER WAS A PAGAN AT FIRST BUT BECAME A BISHOP IN THE EARLY CHURCH THROUGH THE PRAYERS AND SACRIFICES OF HIS HOLY WIFE.



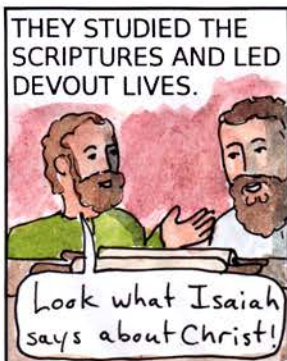
DURING A STORM AT SEA, GREGORY REALIZED HIS SOUL WAS IN DANGER BECAUSE HE WAS NOT YET BAPTIZED.

My soul isn't ready!



I baptize you...

HE WAS BAPTIZED AND BECAME A GREAT FRIEND OF ST. BASIL.



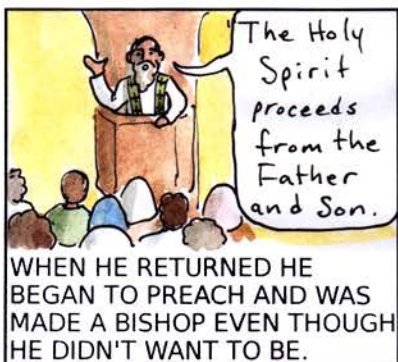
THEY STUDIED THE SCRIPTURES AND LED DEVOUT LIVES.

Look what Isaiah says about Christ!



I need to pray about this...

WHEN HIS FATHER FORCED HIM TO BE ORDAINED, GREGORY RAN AWAY TO THE DESERT FOR A WHILE.



The Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father and Son.

WHEN HE RETURNED HE BEGAN TO PREACH AND WAS MADE A BISHOP EVEN THOUGH HE DIDN'T WANT TO BE.



HE PREACHED SO WELL THAT HERETICS CAME BACK TO THE FAITH. HOWEVER, HE WAS PERSECUTED TOO. FINALLY HE GAVE UP HIS DIOCESE AND BECAME A HERMIT.

SAINT GREGORY LIVED A LIFE OF SACRIFICE AND PENANCE, AND THOUGHT NOTHING OF ALL WORLDLY RICHES AND PLEASURES. HE WROTE AND TAUGHT ABOUT THE FAITH SO ELOQUENTLY THAT MANY WERE BROUGHT BACK TO THE FAITH. BECAUSE OF ALL HE DID TO TEACH THE FAITH HE IS CALLED A DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH.

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EPIPHANY CROSS-WORD

Fill in the blanks in the story to find the words for the puzzle!

Around the time that _____ (2d) was born, some wise men from the _____ (8a) saw in the sky a special _____ (9a) at _____ (13d) rising, and followed it to _____ (11a) the newborn Saviour. First they came to Jerusalem where _____ (10d) went to ask _____ (15a) Herod if he knew where the new King would be born.

_____ (12d) Herod did not know, he called the priests and scribes, who told them that the Baby would be born in _____ (18a). Then Herod told a _____ (17d) and said that he wanted to go and honour the Baby King too, and told the men to return once they had found him and tell him where the Baby was. The men were _____ (7d) when they found Jesus with his mother _____ (4d), and they did him homage, giving their gifts of _____ (16a), _____ (1d)

and _____ (4a). But _____ (3d) night an angel appeared _____ (6a) them and told them to _____ (14a) go home by another road, since King _____ (5d) wanted to kill Baby Jesus.

