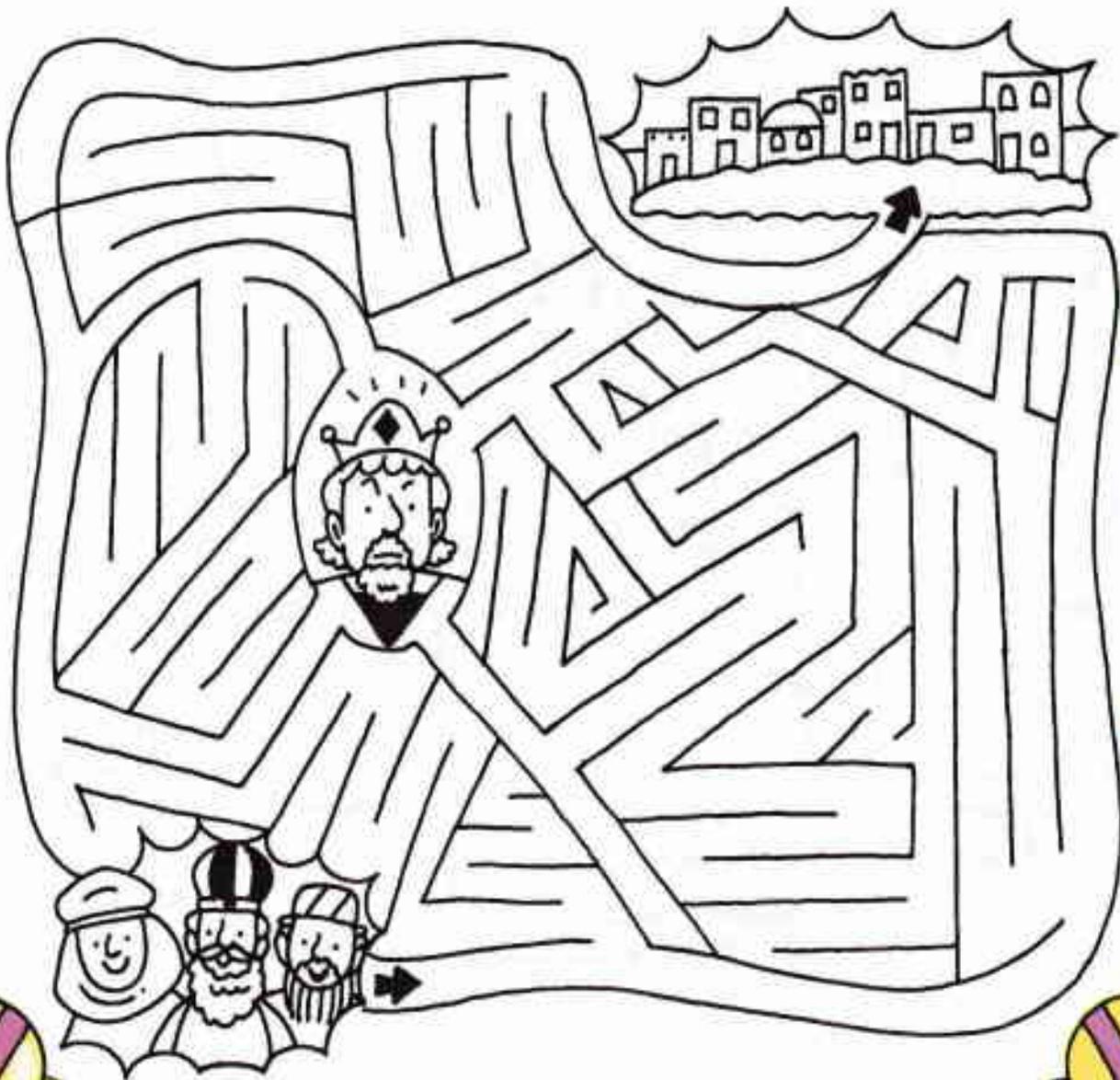




January 6, 2019 Epiphany of the Lord

After they had visited Jesus, the magi were told in a dream not to go back to King Herod. King Herod wanted to harm Jesus. Choose the path that will take the magi home. Do your best to avoid the king.





The magi opened their treasures and offered him
gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.
Matthew 2:11

CATHOLIC CORNER

THEY OPENED THEIR TREASURES

Today is the feast of the Epiphany. The word *epiphany* means “a sudden realization” or “a revelation.” What was revealed that we celebrate on this feast? What did the magi suddenly realize? Matthew is the only Gospel writer who tells us the story of the magi (also sometimes called the Three Kings or Three Wise Men), and he simply writes that magi from the East came searching for the “newborn king of the Jews” (Matthew 2:1–12).

They were probably astrologers, astronomers, or philosophers rather than kings. So how did we come to sing a Christmas carol about three kings? Why do we think that there were three? Some people say it was because of the number of gifts—one for each of the magi. Legend tells us that their names were Melchior, Caspar, and Balthazar. Where did we learn this?

A Latin work called *Excerpta et Collectanea* (“Excerpts and Collection”), attributed to the eighth-century historian St. Bede, offers some interesting details. The carol “We Three Kings of Orient Are” includes parts of Bede’s story. Together the men represented the continents of Europe, Asia, and Africa. Today pilgrims honor the Three Kings at the famous shrine in Cologne, Germany, known as the City of the Three Kings. You can see pictures of this shrine on the Internet. This is how St. Bede named and described them.

Melchior was an old man, with white hair and long beard.

He offered gold to Jesus as a sign that Jesus was a king.

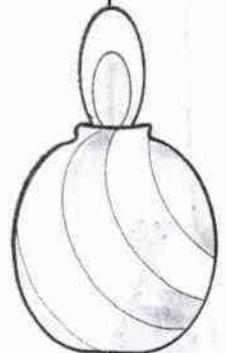
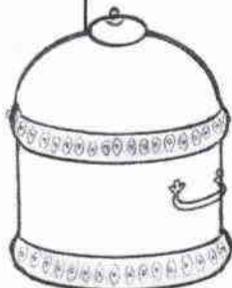
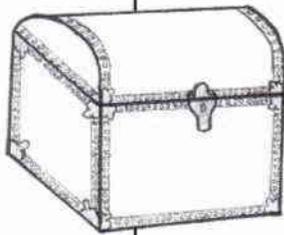
Caspar was a young, beardless man with a ruddy complexion.

He offered Jesus a gift of incense, a sign that Jesus was divine.

Balthazar was a heavy-bearded man of black complexion.

His offering of myrrh prefigured the death of Jesus, the “Son of Man.”

Draw a picture of each king next to the gift he brought by following the descriptions of St. Bede.



After Jesus was born, wise men from far away
wanted to come worship him.
God put a special star in the sky that led them to Jesus.
Can you find these shapes in this picture?



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