



3D NATIVITY COLORING KIT

Create your own nativity at home or at school

Including
NEW
figures!



INTRODUCTION

During Advent and Christmas, many Christian families display a Nativity set, or crèche. Nativities throughout the world often look very different, featuring unique artistic and cultural traditions. Nevertheless, they all tell the story of the Incarnation, when the eternal Son of God became man in Jesus of Nazareth, who was born of the Virgin Mary to redeem the world.

This resource includes:

- ◆ *A 12-character nativity scene for you to color, cut out, assemble, and display*
- ◆ *A description of the nativity figures with verses from Scripture for you to contemplate*
- ◆ *A simple order for the Blessing of the Nativity Scene*

**Each character page has directions for coloring and assembly.
To complete the nativity set, you will need the following supplies:**

- ◆ *A printed version of the 3D Nativity Coloring Kit*
- ◆ *Your favorite medium for coloring (crayons, colored pencils, markers, etc)*
- ◆ *Your preferred adhesive for crafts (staples recommended, but glue, tape, or rubber cement work as well)*
- ◆ *Scissors*

Enjoy coloring and crafting your own nativity scene and let it be a reminder to thank God this Christmas for the gift of his Son, Jesus.

O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

BLESSING OF A CHRISTMAS MANGER OR NATIVITY SCENE

In its present form the custom of displaying figures depicting the birth of Jesus Christ owes its origin to St. Francis of Assisi, who made the Christmas crèche or manger for Christmas Eve of 1223.

The blessing of the Christmas manger or nativity scene may take place on the Vigil of Christmas or at another suitable time. When the manger is set up in the home, it is appropriate that it be blessed by a parent or another family member.

All make the sign of the Cross as the leader says:

Our help is in the name of the Lord.

R/. Who made heaven and earth.

One of those present or the leader reads a text of sacred Scripture, for example:

Listen to the words of the holy Gospel according to Luke:

2:1-7

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that the whole world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. So all went to be enrolled, each to his own town. And Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

The Gospel of the Lord.

R/. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

The leader prays with hands joined:

God of every nation and people,
from the very beginning of creation
you have made manifest your love:
when our need for a Savior was great
you sent your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary.
To our lives he brings joy and peace,
justice, mercy, and love.

Lord,
bless all who look upon this manger;
may it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus,
and raise our thoughts to him,
who is God-with-us and Savior of all,
and who lives and reigns forever and ever.

R/. Amen.

The leader says:

Let us bless the Lord.

All respond, making the sign of the Cross:

R/. Thanks be to God.

The prayer may conclude with the singing of an Advent hymn such as *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* or a Christmas carol, depending on when the blessing is prayed.



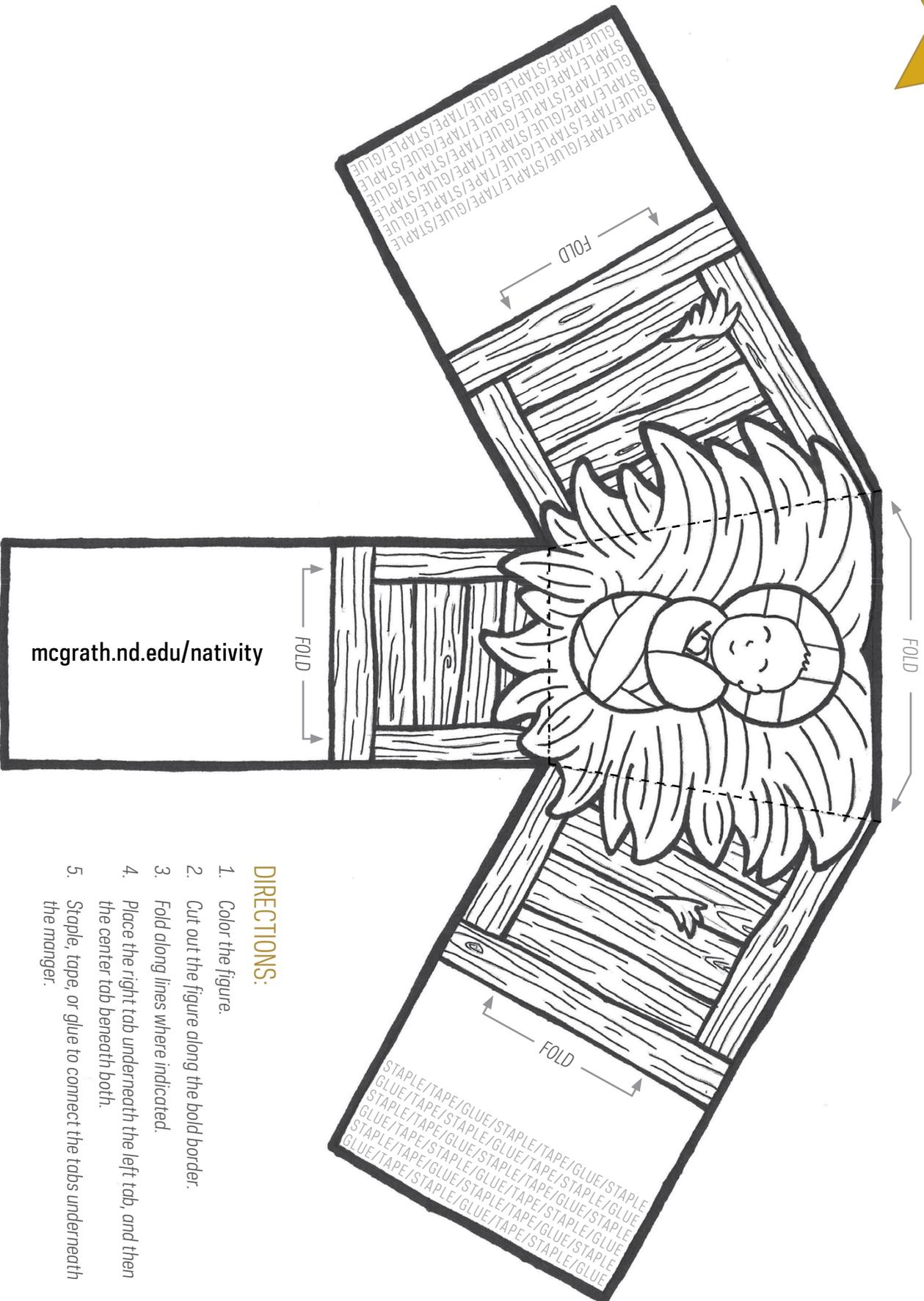
Jesus

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life."

JOHN 3:16

Jesus

Jesus is the Son of God, who chose to come into this world as a tiny, helpless baby to show us how much God loves us and to save us from our sins.



DIRECTIONS:

1. Color the figure.
2. Cut out the figure along the bold border.
3. Fold along lines where indicated.
4. Place the right tab underneath the left tab, and then the center tab beneath both.
5. Staple, tape, or glue to connect the tabs underneath the manger.



Mary

"Mary said, 'Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.'"

LUKE 2:38A



Joseph

"When Joseph awoke, he did as the Lord commanded him."

MATTHEW 1:24A



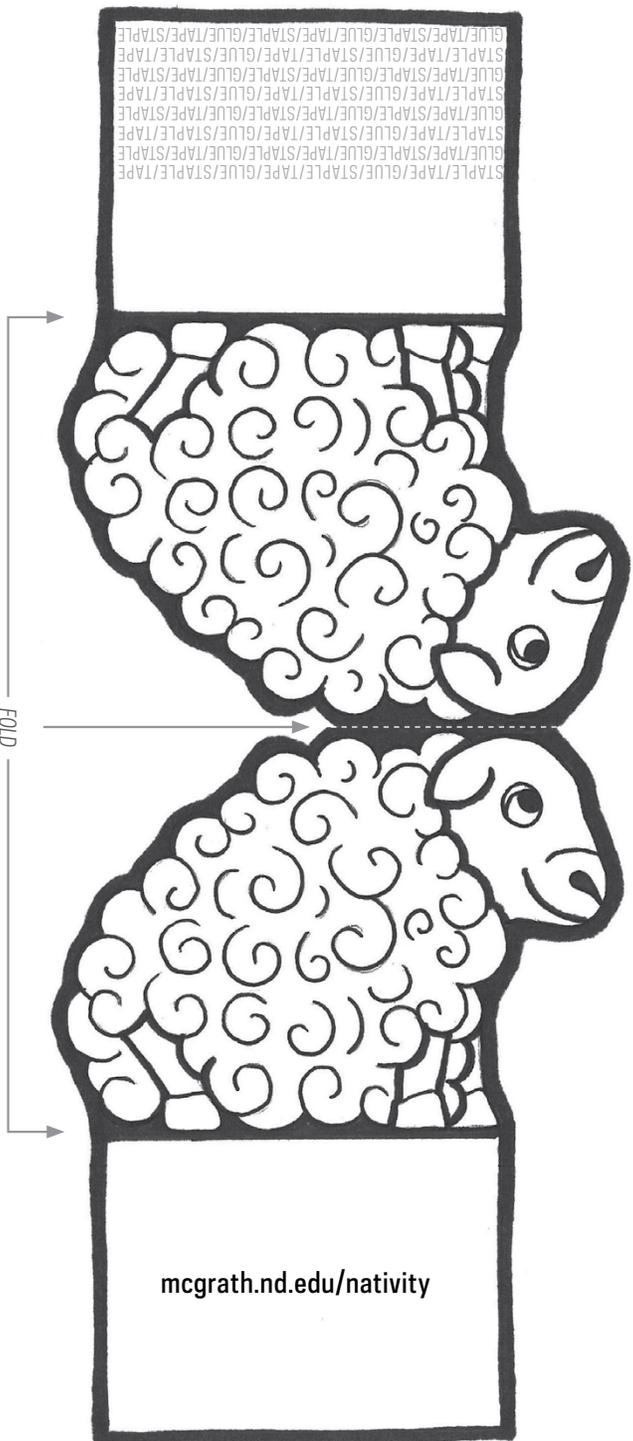
Lamb

"We are God's people, the sheep of his flock."

PSALM 100:3

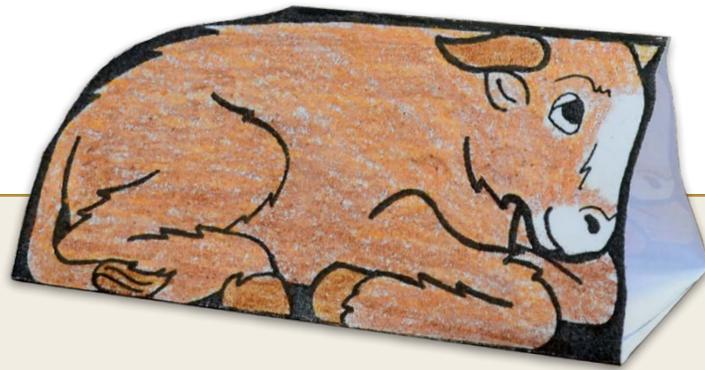
Lamb

A lamb is a symbol for Jesus, the "Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world" (John 2:29b), but it is also a symbol for Jesus' followers. We are called to follow Jesus, our Good Shepherd, who lays down his life in order to save us, his sheep (see John 10:10-18).



DIRECTIONS:

1. Color the figure.
2. Cut out the figure along the bold border.
3. Fold along lines where indicated.
4. Stack the white tabs beneath the lamb to form a tent shape.
5. Staple, tape, or glue to connect the tabs underneath the figure.



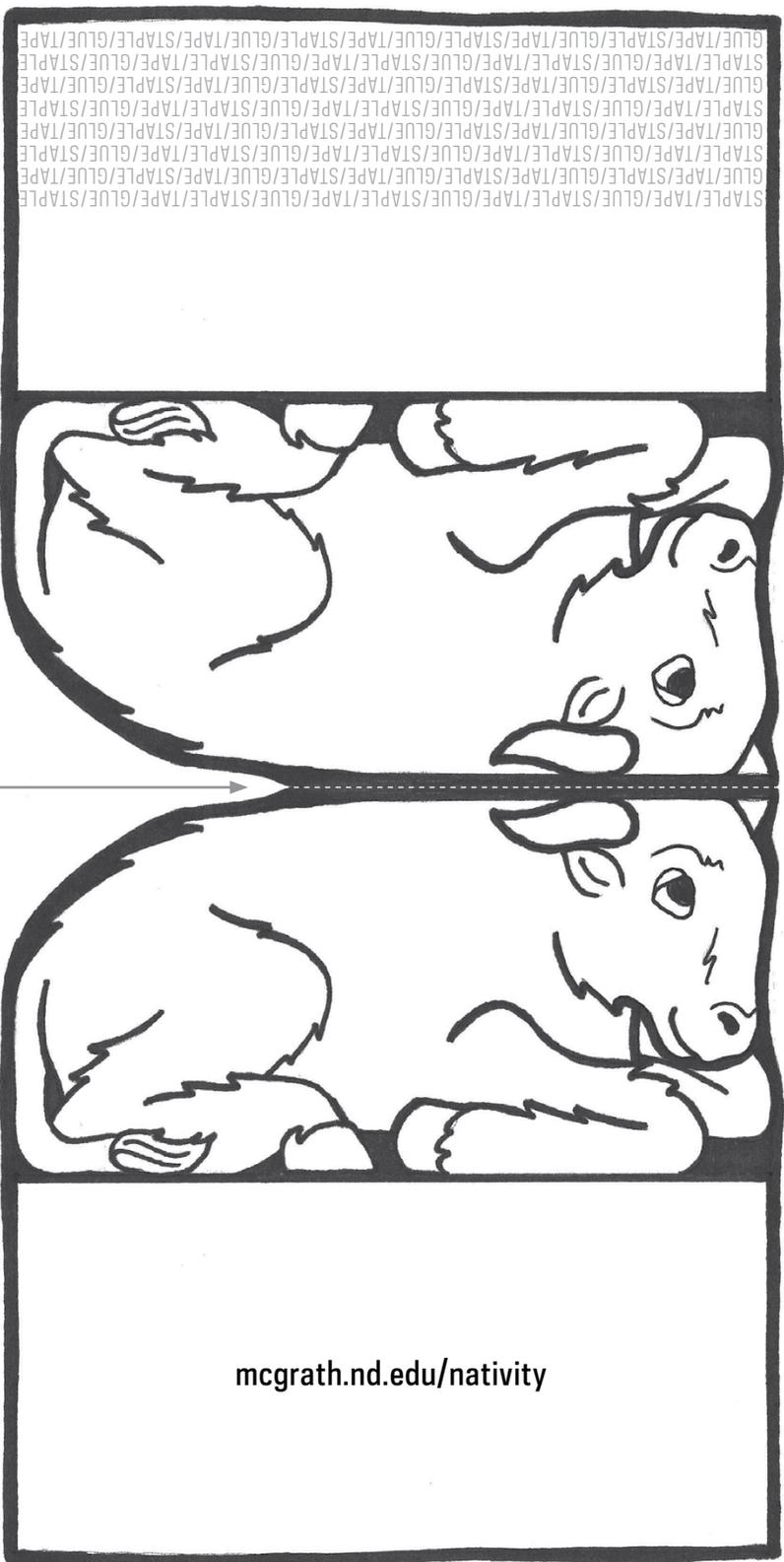
Ox

"The ox knows its owner, and the
donkey its master's crib."

ISAIAH 1:3A



An ox is known for its strength in carrying heavy burdens. Jesus was born to carry the weight of the world's sin in his Cross, and he calls his disciples to follow his example by carrying their own crosses. Yet we trust that he will always help us, for he said, "Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28-29)



DIRECTIONS:

1. Color the figure.
2. Cut out the figure along the bold border.
3. Fold along lines where indicated.
4. Stack the white tabs beneath the ox to form a tent shape.
5. Staple, tape, or glue to connect the tabs underneath the figure.



Children

“Jesus said, ‘let the children come to me,
and do not prevent them; for the kingdom
of heaven belongs to such as these.’”

MATTHEW 19:14



Jesus loved children when he walked this earth, and he loves children still, because they remind people of all ages to trust in God and depend on him completely. We may not be able to offer Jesus gold, frankincense, and myrrh like the Magi did, but we can offer him other gifts this Christmas. We can be kind and patient. We can forgive those who hurt our feelings. We can do little acts of service for others with great love. What gift will you offer Jesus?

DIRECTIONS:

1. Color the figure. *Remember to draw in your gift for baby Jesus!
2. Cut out the figure along the bold border.
3. Roll the figure into a cone shape, with the white tab on the inside of the cone.
4. Staple, tape, or glue to connect the tab to the back of the cone.





Angels

"The angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people.'"

LUKE 2:10



The word angel means "messenger." These heavenly beings appear to the shepherds on Christmas night to bring the message that the Son of God, the Prince of Peace, Emmanuel, God-with-us, has been born, and this Good News of salvation is for all people, for the entire world.

DIRECTIONS:

1. Color the figure.
2. Cut out the figure along the bold border.
3. Roll the figure into a cone shape, with the white tab on the inside of the cone.
4. Staple, tape, or glue to connect the tab to the back of the cone.





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Shepherds

“The shepherds went in haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known the message that had been told them about this child.”

LUKE 2:16-17



Star

“And behold, the star that [the magi] had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was.”

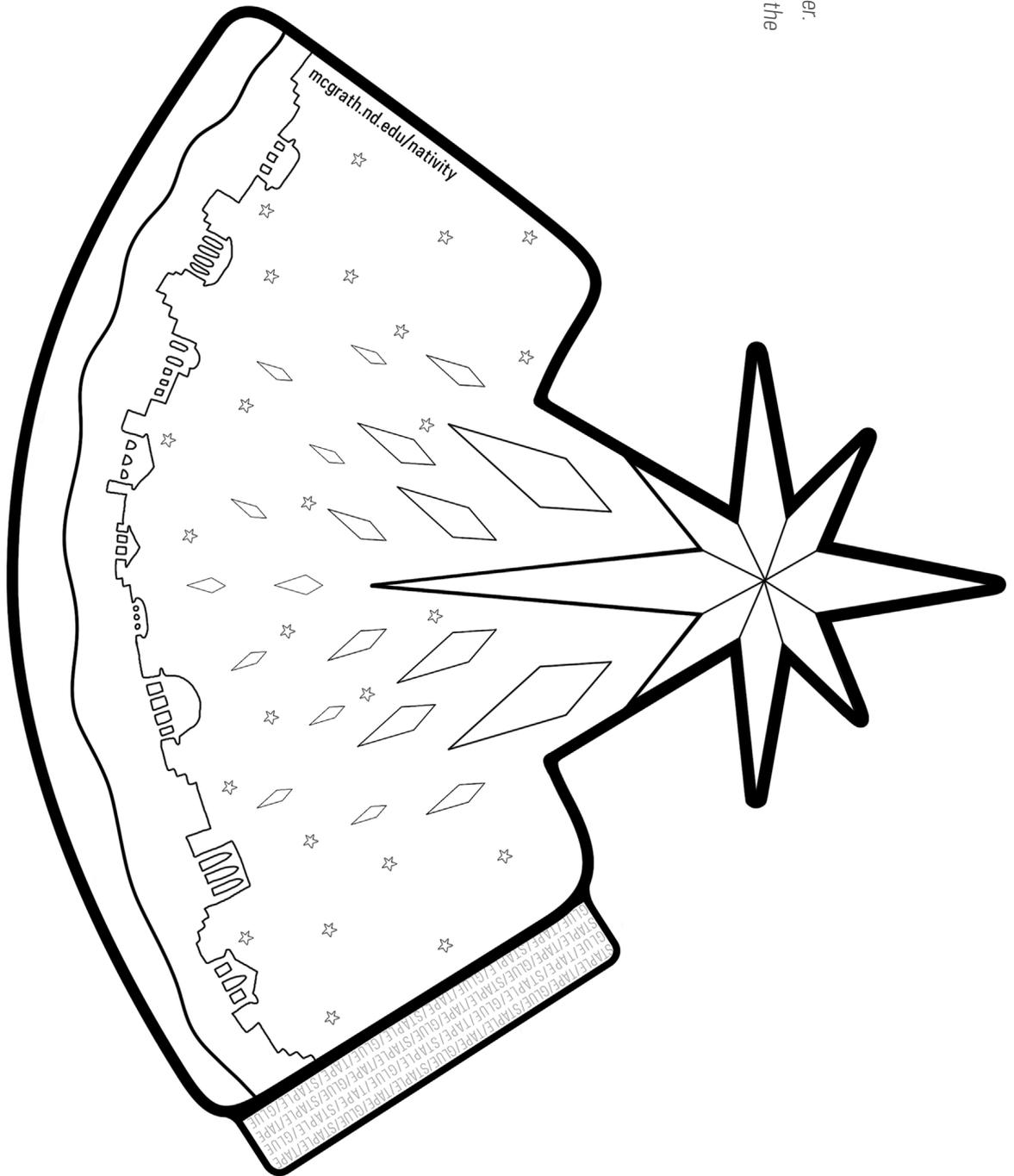
(MATTHEW 2:9B)



In the ancient world, people believed that a new star appeared when a great ruler was born. Jesus Christ is "the one Morning Star who never sets," who always goes before us and guides us home to God. All we need to do is follow him as the magi followed the star.

DIRECTIONS:

1. Color the figure.
2. Cut out the figure along the bold border.
3. Roll the figure into a cone shape, with the white tab on the inside of the cone.
4. Staple, tape, or glue to connect the tab to the back of the cone.





Magi

“The magi were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage.”

(MATTHEW 2:11A)



The Bible does not tell us how many magi visited Jesus, or what their names were. The Latin (Roman Catholic) tradition of art and sculpture usually shows three magi, and documents from around the seventh century record their names as Gaspar (or Caspar), Melchior, and Balthasar.

DIRECTIONS:

1. Color the figure.
2. Cut out the figure along the bold border.
3. Roll the figure into a cone shape, with the white tab on the inside of the cone.
4. Staple, tape, or glue to connect the tab to the back of the cone.

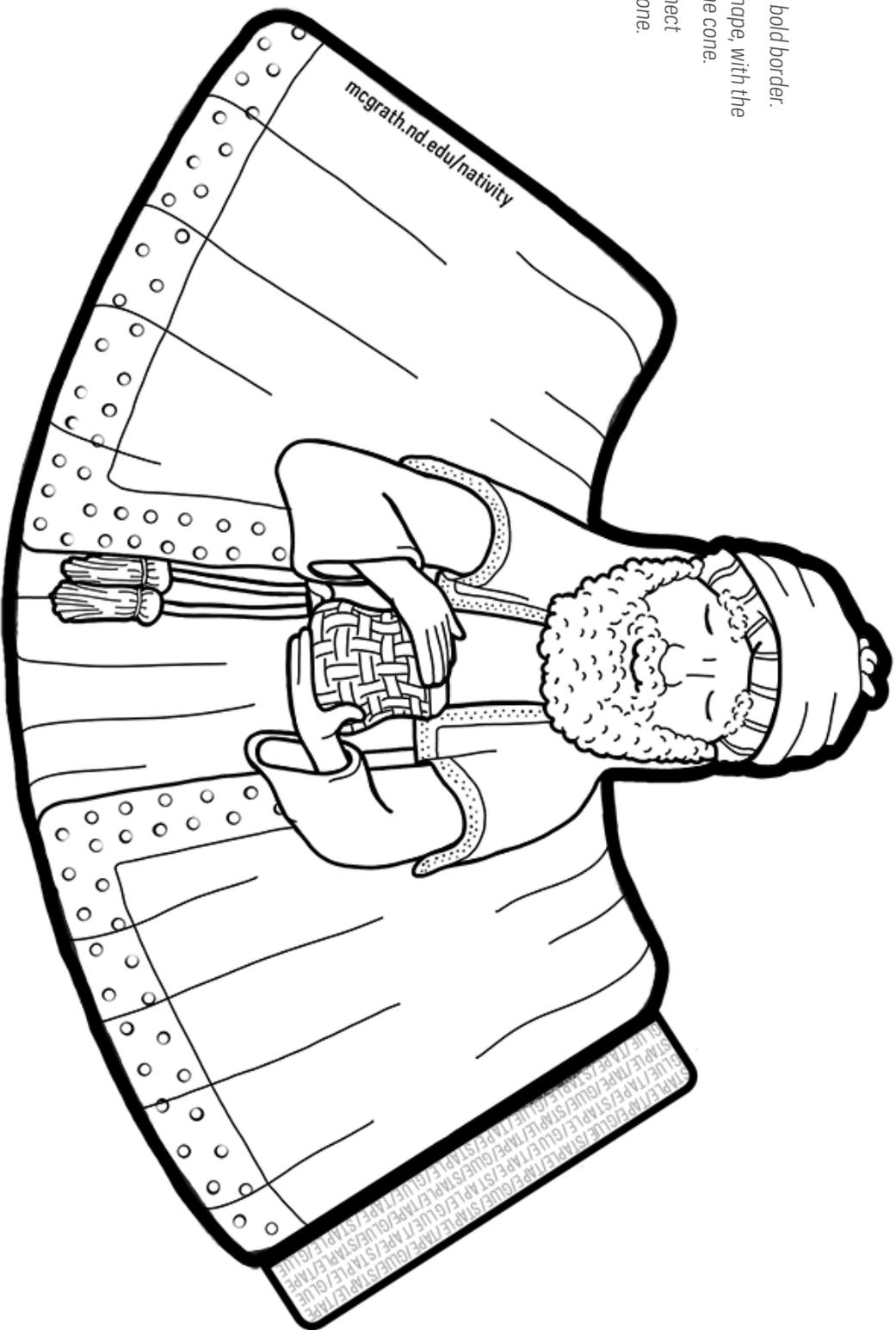




We remember the visit of the magi on the feast of Epiphany, celebrated by many Christians on January 6. You can bless your home with a piece of chalk on Epiphany, writing 20 + C + M + B + 21 on the frame above your front door. This stands for the first two numbers of the year, the initials of the words "Christus mansionem benedicat" ("May Christ bless the house"), which are also the initials of the magi's names, and the last two numbers of the year.

DIRECTIONS:

1. Color the figure.
2. Cut out the figure along the bold border.
3. Roll the figure into a cone shape, with the white tab on the inside of the cone.
4. Staple, tape, or glue to connect the tab to the back of the cone.

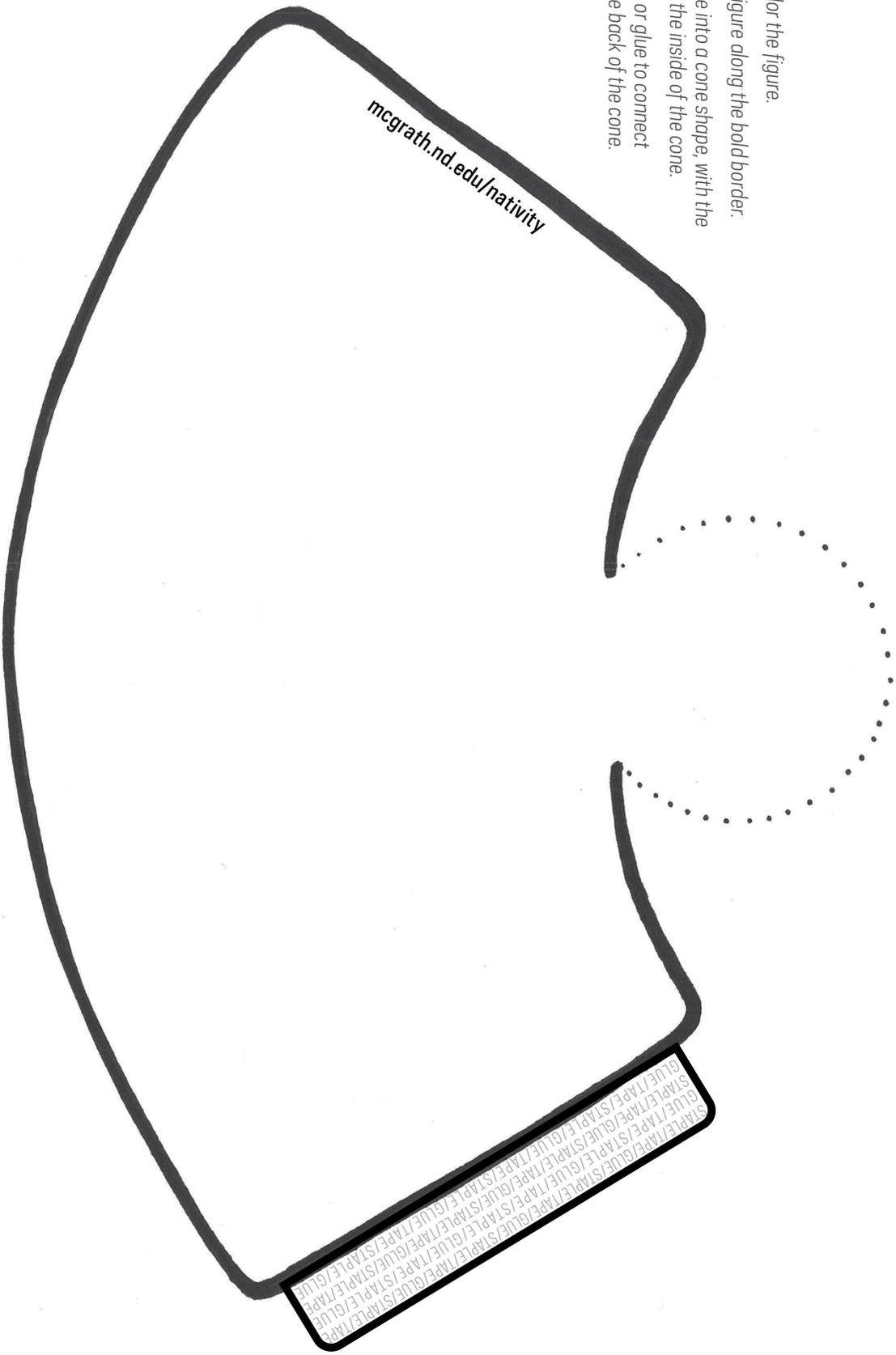




Who else was present at the birth of Jesus? Draw your own character here!

DIRECTIONS:

1. Draw and color the figure.
2. Cut out the figure along the bold border.
3. Roll the figure into a cone shape, with the white tab on the inside of the cone.
4. Staple, tape, or glue to connect the tab to the back of the cone.



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