Three Kings Search Activity

Introduction
Read the introduction of the “Visit of the Magi” from St. Matthew’s Gospel (Matthew 2:1-2). Discuss how the light helps guide our way. Discuss how Jesus is the greatest light – the “Light of the World.”

Items Needed
Baby Jesus from a manger

Directions
To start the game, put all of students’ / group members’ names in a jar, and pull one name to start the game. This student / group member will be the first of the Kings. He/She must leave the room. Pick another student to hide the Baby Jesus somewhere in the classroom. After Baby Jesus is hidden, the first of the Kings returns to the room, and searches using directions given by the student who hid the Baby Jesus. The directions are as follows: The star is NOT BRIGHT if the King is far away, BRIGHT if somewhat closer, and VERY BRIGHT if very close. When the first of the Kings finds Baby Jesus, the student who hid Baby Jesus is the next of the Kings. This is a fun game which all students can participate and feel what is was like to be one of the Kings who was following the Star of Bethlehem.
St. Nicholas Activity

A fun activity to celebrate St. Nicholas Day (December 6) is to have each student bring in a pair of shoes the day before. Line the shoes up along the wall outside your classroom. Then, on St. Nicholas Day, the students coming to school will find their shoes filled with small treats!

St. Thérèse of Lisieux, patroness of the Missions and missionaries, wrote about this tradition in her home in France in her book, *Story of a Soul*:

“I knew that when we reached home after Midnight Mass I should find my shoes in the chimney-corner, filled with presents, just as when I was a little child... Papa, too, liked to watch my enjoyment and hear my cries of delight at each fresh surprise that came from the magic shoes, and his pleasure added to mine.”

Ideas for treats:

- Chocolate gold coins to represent the gold St. Nicholas left in the stockings
- Candy canes to symbolize the crozier that a Bishop (like St. Nicholas) carried
- A new penny
- Treats like cookies or candies
- Orange/tangerine
- World Mission Rosary (you can order from MCA Online)
- MCA Prayer Card (also available from MCA Online)