



# Discover your own Loreto treasure

*Prague Loreto permanent exposition worksheet for younger schoolchildren of 7 - 11 years of age.*

*I am called a capuchin monkey because my fur is similar to the garments of Capuchin brethren. Their convent (the house where they live) is on the opposite side, across the square, and they have been looking after Loreto for nearly four hundred years.*

Hi, I am a white-faced capuchin, a curious monkey. I would like to welcome you to Loreto! You may wonder how could I possibly get here. So I will tell about it. Do you know the Christmas story about Baby Jesus being born in Bethlehem?

Well, then you will perhaps also know that three....., came to see Baby Jesus to worship him and to give him their gifts, their treasures. And I came with them. I was indeed very curious what they are bringing to Baby Jesus. An Italian sculptor working here noticed me and created my likeness.

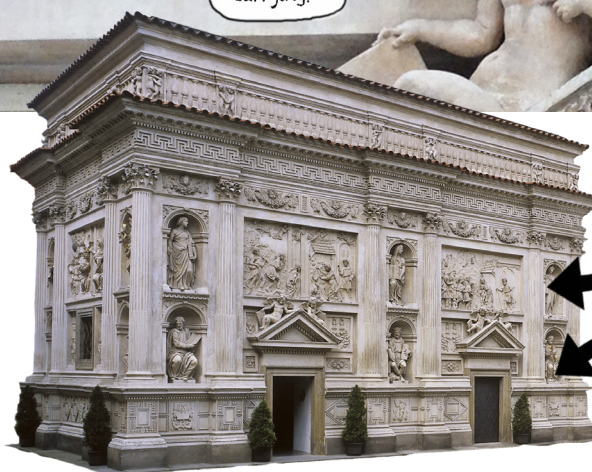
*Will you be able to find me?*



*I actually did not tell you the main thing*  
**What is Loreto?**

When you look around the courtyard of the site of pilgrimage, you will immediately see a beautiful small building. It looks like a decorative casket. What is important, however, is hidden inside:

The container conceals  
**A PRECIOUS HOLY HOUSE!**



the female figures at the top are the **SIBYLS**

the male figures at the bottom are the **PROPHETS**



There are many reliefs on Loreto façade - reliefs are three-dimensional pictures showing the life of small Jesus and the Virgin Mary. The Sibyls and the prophets foretold the birth of the Messiah.



Inside Loreto is a statue of the Virgin Mary - the mother of Baby Jesus. This is because LORETO IS THE HOUSE OF THE VIRGIN MARY. It was once located in the city of Nazareth in the distant land of Palestine. After many years the house was in danger of being destroyed.

*One legend says that the house was moved and hence saved by angels - just as it is shown in the painting at the entrance to Loreto*



Another story says that people took the house apart and then transported all the individual stones to Europe where they built the house again. Today it is located in Italy on a rock above the sea, in a small town of Loreto. Here in Prague we have its copy. How could the stones of the precious building be possibly transported in those days?

*Circle one of the following options:*



The Virgin Mary and Baby Jesus have ..... on their heads. They are usually made of precious materials: gold, silver and precious stones. There are several of them in the Loreto treasure. There is always a big one for the Virgin Mary and a smaller one for Baby Jesus. You will see them upstairs in the treasury.

*The house was built in a laurel grove. The laurel tree, Laurus Nobilis, gave Loreto its name.*

### THE THREE MAGI PRESENTED BABY JESUS WITH THREE GIFTS. WILL YOU HELP ME TO FIND THEM IN LORETO?

SEARCH FOR THREE CHESTS, LIKE THOSE IN THE PICTURE, UNLOCK THEM AND DRAW AND WRITE DOWN WHAT YOU SAW INSIDE INTO THE WHITE BOX. CLUE WILL HELP YOU TO FIND THE NEXT CHEST.



**F**.....

IS A GIFT FOR BABY JESUS - THE SON OF GOD. You will find the chest in ..... The Archangel Gabriel visited the Virgin Mary here and told her that she will conceive and will give birth to a son. And for God so **LOVED** the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

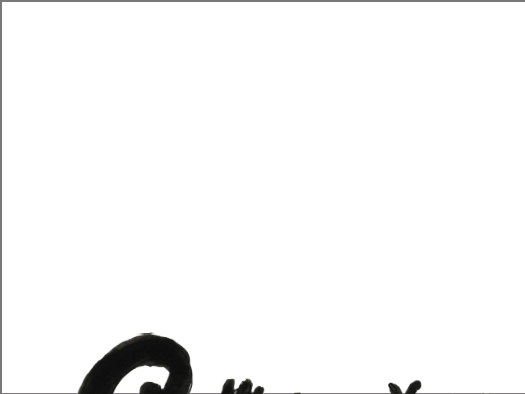




G . . .

IS A GIFT FOR BABY JESUS - THE KING. You will find the chest in .....

The precious gold things were brought here as gifts by people as an expression of gratitude. The prayed and BELIEVED, that God will help them and their prayers were answered.



You will find a CLUE on the floor, under Amos the prophet who has a dog.

When you finish viewing the church and all chapels around the Loreto Holy House, go upstairs, to the 1st floor. Here you will find

### THE TREASURY

which is a place where you will be able to see the real LORETO TREASURE. It consists of precious gifts brought here by people to express gratitude to God - to Baby Jesus and to the Virgin Mary. Gifts like these are known as votive.

*Find the most precious work of art of the treasure - the Diamond monstrance.*

*It is made of gilded silver and embellished with 6222 diamonds!*



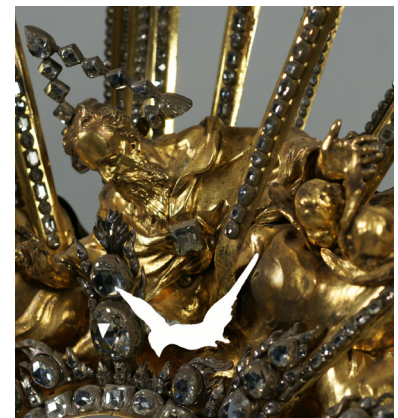
*The monstrance is also called The Sun of Prague.*

*Can you see why?*

*Find the figure of God the Father, the bearded old man at the top*



*The precious diamonds were donated as gifts to the Virgin Mary by the Countess of Kolowrat. Will you be able to find her picture? Find five differences between the photograph and the painting.*



God sends the Holy Ghost to the World in the form of a white animal. It is ..... Will you be able to find it?



Did you hear the **LORETO BELLS**? They are also a gift presented once by a merchant from Prague. His daughter was very ill and he was very worried about her. He was begging God and the Virgin Mary for her to get well again. His daughter had a dream. She was dreaming about Loreto. She saw its tower and angels around it, playing a beautiful melody on the bells. When she recovered, her father had..... bells made in faraway Amsterdam to show his gratitude. And these bells play for us to this day.



*Who is playing?*

*Every hour an automatic machine of the clock plays a song - this sound is produced by external hammers, which means they hit the bell on the outside.*



*But the bells can also be played by a real person. In the tower is a small booth with a keyboard by means of which the musician controls the clappers of the bells.*

Recently, we discovered a crypt in the Loreto church where nobody set foot in for over 200 years. When we entered, we were all surprised and excited about the beautiful paintings decorating its walls. Enter the model with me and you will see for yourself!

*Find the picture of a boy making soap bubbles, he is a kind of baroque "bubble blower". Look, what is the boy leaning against? What could it possibly mean?*



He is leaning against ..... that is the symbol of death.



**THE PICTURES YOU FOUND IN THE CHESTS ARE SYMBOLS OF THREE DIVINE VIRTUES: HOPE, LOVE AND FAITH. THEY ARE GREAT GIFTS OF OUR LIVES.**

When you leave Loreto, do not forget that it is as important to give presents as to receive them. That is why we should always think of others, love them and be kind. This way we will place and keep our own treasure in heaven.



**M . . . .**

**IS A GIFT FOR BABY JESUS WHO DEFEATED DEATH.** You will find the chest in ..... Here lie the bodies of the deceased Loreto donors. Jesus Christ was resurrected from the dead and so we too may **HOPE** for eternal life. He who believes in him, even if he dies, will live forever.



You will find a CLUE beneath the window next to the portrait of Countess of Kolowrat.

