

Kids' Chronicle

THURSDAY, November 10, 1994 VOLUME 11, ISSUE 45

A widow feeds Elijah

Elijah was an obedient prophet of the Lord. He lived a simple life and spent most of his time traveling in order to tell everyone about God's love.

One morning, God said to Elijah, "I want you to go to Zarephath and wait there until I speak to you again. You will meet a widow in the village who will give you food and shelter."

Elijah immediately began the long journey to Zarephath, a port city on the Mediterranean Sea, even though he knew the sun would be hot and the path dusty and dry. Elijah walked without complaining because he knew God must have something important for him to do in Zarephath. When Elijah entered the gates of the village, he saw a woman in plain, but clean clothes who was carrying firewood. He approached her and asked, "Would you please give me some water?"

The woman sat down on the wood and proceeded to draw a container of water from the well.

"Could I also have some bread?" asked Elijah.

"I do not have any bread to give you," answered the woman. "All I have left is a handful of flour and a small bottle of olive oil. I was going to use this firewood to bake bread for my son and myself. After that we will have nothing to eat, and we will probably die of starvation."

Elijah reassured the woman. "Have no fear. God has promised that you will never run out of flour or oil until the drought has passed and the rains come again. Go and bake your bread,



Illustration by Kathy Welsh

but give me the first loaf to eat."

The woman followed Elijah's instructions and, just as God promised, the flour bowl and the bottle of oil always remained full.

However, the woman's son became seriously ill and died. The woman was heartbroken.

"Prophet of the Lord," she said to Elijah. "Have you told God of all my sins so that he took my son in order to punish me?"

Elijah picked up the lifeless body of the boy, slowly carried him up the stairs, and placed him on the bed where Elijah himself slept at night. As

tears flowed down his face, Elijah prayed.

"Oh, mighty God, what has this kind woman done to deserve this? When I was thirsty, she gave me water. When I was hungry, she gave me the last food that she had. When I had no shelter, she gave me this room."

Elijah rested his head on the boy's chest and cried out, "O God, give back to this child his life for the sake of his faithful mother."

God heard the prayers of Elijah. As the prophet was praying, the boy sat up

and opened his eyes. Elijah brought him downstairs to his mother and said, "Mother, God has given your son back to you."

The woman hugged her son and said to Elijah, "Truly you are a man of God."

Elijah continued to stay with the woman until the rain returned and ended the drought. Throughout that time, the woman never ran out of flour or oil, and her son remained in good health.

Read more about it: 1 Kings 17:8-24
1. Why did Elijah go to Zarephath?
2. How did the woman survive the drought?

Bible Accent

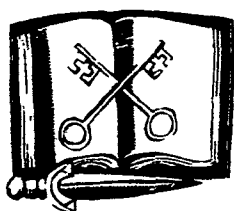
Prayer is talking to God. Moses spoke with God "as a man speaks with a friend." (Exodus 33:11) Solomon prayed for wisdom and received it. (1 Kings 3:9) Daniel prayed "three times a day" and was kept safe from the hungry lions. (Daniel 6:10) Jesus taught us "The Lord's Prayer." (Matthew 6:9-13)

Let us remember to pray every day.

St. Albert

Saint Albert was born the son of the count of Bellstadt in a German castle in the year 1206. He was named the patron saint of scientists because of his mastery of chemistry, geography, and astronomy. He is often referred to as Albert the Great for the same reason.

He became a Dominican monk and frequently studied with Thomas Aquinas. He served as a theological advisor to the pope for a year, and later wrote famous religious papers such as *Summa Theologie* and *Summa de Creaturis*. We honor Saint Albert on November 15.



Puzzle

Unscramble the following words then unscramble the circled letters for this issue's key word. Answers on page 2.

WORD	HINT
1. theropp	Elijah was one
2. maad	The first man
3. fyotr	Number of days in lent
4. snoatielvre	Last book of the Bible
5. armk	One of the Gospels
6. ile	Samuel's teacher

Kids' Club

You can win a \$50 savings bond by writing an essay (100 words or less) answering this question:

God answered Elijah's prayer. What prayers has God answered for you?

Send your essay — including name, home address, telephone number, school and grade — to Catholic Courier, 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, N.Y. 14624. Deadline for entries is November 2, 1994. The winner will be notified by phone and receive the savings bond by mail. In addition, the winner's essay will be published in an upcoming issue of *Kids' Chronicle*.

Last month's winner was Michael Schillace, an eighth-grade student at Auburn's Blessed Trinity School. In response to the question "What would life be like if there were no wars?" he wrote:

If there were no wars we wouldn't be completely at peace, but would have a much better life than today. The Catholic Church would be more of a community. Our leaders would be able to use all the money that goes to war on important things such as the poor. All of the nations would work together to make the world a better place. If all of God's children put their minds to making our world better than we have we surely could do a great job and maybe achieve peace.

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