

Kids' Chronicle

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Jesus turns water into wine

By JOE SARNICOLA

Jesus and his disciples had been invited to a wedding in Cana, a small town which was only a few miles from Nazareth. Mary, the mother of Jesus was also there for the celebration. The bride had spent the morning with her attendants in preparation for the ceremony. After bathing in perfumed oil, she wrapped herself in a long gown of soft, white fabric adorned with colorful embroidery. A necklace of shiny red and green stones, and bracelets of silver accented the gown. A long veil concealed the bride's face. The groom was dressed in robes of purple and white and wore a garland for a headpiece.

The house was full of music and the excited voices of happy people. A table with meat, fresh fruit and vegetables, breads, and wine was prepared for the wedding party and the guests. The celebration continued into the evening.

The servants told the bride's father that the supply of wine was almost used up. He became very upset. When he saw his friend, Mary, he asked her advice. "I do not wish to insult my guests, but I am almost out of wine. What should I do?"

Mary answered, "I will talk to my son. Maybe he can help." Mary made her way through the crowded room until she found Jesus sitting and laughing with his disciples. She whispered into his ear. "Our host has run out of wine. He is a gracious man, there must be something you can do for him."

Jesus shook his head and said, "It is too soon for me to do such things."

Mary ignored Jesus' refusal and said to the servants, "Follow the instructions my son gives you."



Illustration by Kathy Welsh

When the servants looked at Jesus, he said to them, "Fill your empty barrels with water from the well. Then dip in your cup and bring a sample to the man responsible for serving the food and drink."

The servants did as Jesus had said and brought a pitcher of the liquid to the banquet master. He tasted it and immediately found the bride's father. "Sir," he said, "In any other wedding I have done, the host has served the best wine first and later the cheaper wine. Your first wine was superb, yet this is the finest wine I have ever tasted."

Only the servants who had drawn the water knew that the guest named Jesus had somehow transformed the water

into wine. They explained to the banquet master and the bride's father what had happened. As the word spread, the wedding became even more joyous, because plain water had been changed into wine at the command of Jesus. This was the first miracle Jesus had performed and his disciples knew that He could not do such a thing unless he was truly the son of God.

Read more about it: John 2

Q&A

1. What did Jesus say when Mary asked him for help?
2. What happened to the water in the barrels?



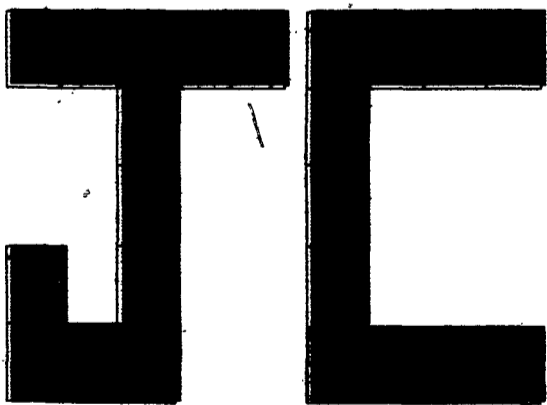
Bible Accent

Wine during Jesus' time was made from grapes picked in late August and early September. The men would crush the grapes in a vat with their bare feet while singing happy work songs. They produced a smooth, delicious wine.

Wine was used as a beverage at mealtimes and at social occasions, especially weddings. Jesus shared wine with his disciples at what is now called "the Last Supper."

Wine was even used in small amounts for minor stomach ailments. Bible teaching promotes the drinking of wine in moderation only, never to drunkenness.

Crossword Puzzle



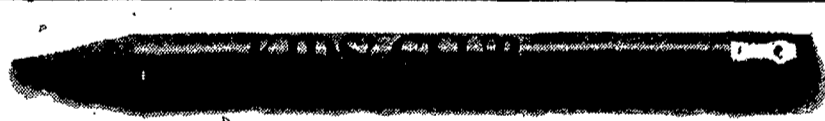
Across

1. _ _ _ _ Christ
3. Was once named Saul (Acts 13)
5. Samuel's teacher (1 Samuel 3)
6. Eighth book of the old testament

Down

2. Ten commandments mountain (Exodus 19)
3. The Rock (Matthew 16)
4. " _ _ still." (Mark 4:39)

Answers can be found on page 12.



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

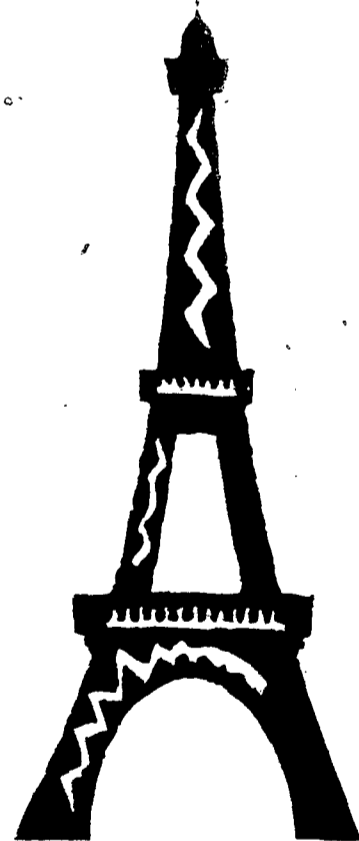
What New Year's resolutions have you made towards becoming a better Christian?

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 January 26, 1995. 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 Jennifer Monna, a fourth-grade student at Sacred Heart Cathedral School. In response to the question, "Why do you think Jesus was born in a stable and not a palace?" she wrote:

God wanted to show the people that Jesus was to be a special king, not the kind that sits on a throne and orders people around. He was to be kind, generous, loving, and forgiving, and teach the people to be his followers.

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St. Genevieve

Saint Genevieve knew from the time she was seven years old that she wanted to be a servant of God, so she asked the Bishop of Auxerre to bless her. Eight years later her parents died and she went to live with relatives in Paris. Genevieve fasted and prayed every day and often had visions from the Lord. At first the people of Paris resented the young girl who prophesied, but through the influence of the bishop, Genevieve eventually became loved by the Parisians. It is said that her prayers protected Paris from was and natural disasters, and miracles have been attributed to her intercession. We honor her on January 3.