

Kids' Chronicle

The passion of our Lord

BY JOE SARNICOLA

Outside a temple room with no windows, a guard stood armed and alert. Inside, several priests huddled close together, watching a hooded visitor carefully. One of the chief priests emptied a bag of coins, which clicked as they piled up in a shiny heap in front of the nervous man.

The priest spoke in a harsh whisper. "Thirty pieces of silver. The price we agreed to. Now where is the man called Jesus?"

On the day of the celebration of the Feast of Passover, Jesus and his disciples were having supper in a prepared room. While the men were eating, Jesus said, "One of you will be my betrayer."

The disciples stopped eating and looked at Jesus, then at each other. They all firmly denied such a claim.

"I would not do such a thing."

"Not I."

"I would never betray you."

"The man who dips bread when I do," Jesus replied, "is the man."

"Am I the one?" Judas asked.

"What have you to say?" Jesus replied.

Judas looked away. The other disciples did not know understand what Jesus was telling them.

Jesus took a loaf of bread, pulled off a piece, and passed it to his friends.

"This is my body, which is broken for you," he said. "Take it. Eat it."

Then Jesus filled their cups with wine, saying, "This is my blood. It will be shed as a sign of God's promise and for the forgiveness of sins. Drink it. Remember that I have done this with you."

After singing a hymn of thanksgiving, Jesus led his disciples into the night.

When they arrived at the Mount of Olives, Jesus said, "The prophet Zechariah prophesied that the shepherd will be

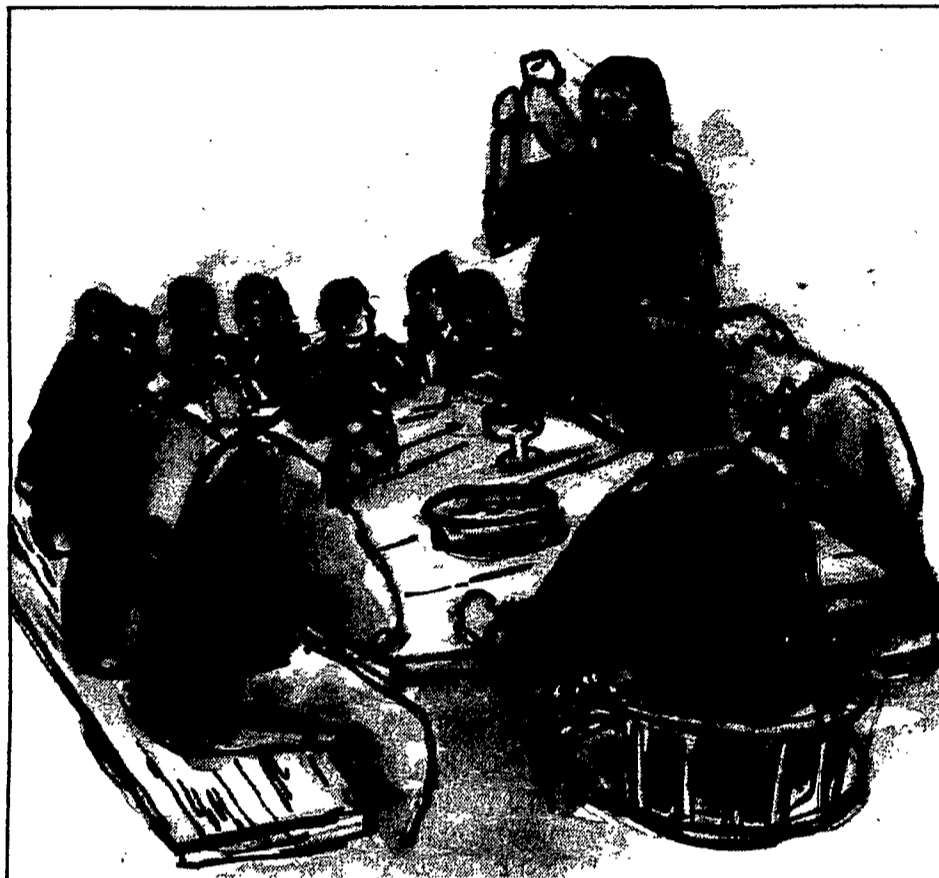


Illustration by Amy Sundstrom

attacked and the sheep will run in terror. You are my sheep."

"I will always stand by your side," Peter promised.

Jesus put his hand on Peter's shoulder and looked into his eyes.

"Peter," he said, "tonight you will say not once, but three times that you do not know who I am. Now come with me to Gethsemane and pray with me."

Later in the evening, as Jesus was praying, a crowd of angry people carrying torches, led by Judas, came up to Jesus and his friends. As he had agreed, Judas identified Jesus when he kissed him. Jesus was immediately arrested and brought before the high priest. The disciples ran away before they could be captured by the soldiers.

The high priest asked Jesus, "Is it true you claim to be the Messiah?"

Jesus answered, "You will see the Son of Man sitting next to God in Heaven."

The priest yelled in outrage, "You are a

blasphemer. We need no other witnesses."

He ordered Jesus brought before Pilate, the Roman governor for sentencing. Pilate saw nothing that proved to him that Jesus had committed any crime, but the Jewish people wanted him sentenced to death. Pilate gave in to their wishes.

Jesus was nailed to a wooden cross and hanged on the hill of Golgotha with two criminals. When Jesus died, an earthquake shook the land.

Jesus was buried in the tomb of a man named Joseph. The tomb was sealed and guarded by two Roman soldiers.

READ MORE ABOUT IT: Matthew 26 & 27.

Q&A

Q: 1. What was the price Judas was paid for betraying Jesus?

2. What did the disciples do when Jesus was arrested?

Puzzle

Number the following events in the order they are described in to the Gospel of Matthew. Answers on page 4.

___ Jesus is born.

___ Jesus says he will suffer.

___ The sermon on the mount.

___ Jesus teaches about prayer.

___ An angel appears to Joseph.

___ John the Baptist dies.

___ The Last Supper.

___ Jesus calls Peter and Andrew.

___ Mary visits Jesus' tomb.

___ Jesus is baptized.

Bible Accent

The Greeks and Romans of the first century would burn the deceased bodies of their family members after the funeral. The Jews followed an older tradition of burial.



A typical grave was a shallow hole in the ground which was covered by dirt or rocks. There were not usually any tombstones or other markers to identify the person in the grave. The richer members of the Jewish society would have caves dug into the soft limestone that was common in the area.

A round stone would be used to seal the cave after the burial. This stone could be rolled out of the way to bury more than one member of a family in the same cave. Jesus was buried in such a tomb, which belonged to the family of Joseph of Arimathea. Roman soldiers the tomb and stood guard, to prevent Jesus' body from being stolen. According to Matthew 28, an angel rolled the stone away from the grave.

Saint Margaret

Margaret Middleton Clitherow was raised a Protestant, but later converted to Catholicism. She started a small school for the children of her village. In order to protect the priests from the religious persecution of the mid-16th century, Margaret built a secret room in the basement of her school. Masses were held there, and the Catholic community remained strong in their faith.

Eventually, the room was discovered by the authorities. Margaret was brought before the judges. She would not renounce her faith, nor would she plead guilty to any wrongdoing. She was sentenced to a slow, painful death. We remember her on March 29.



Bible Trivia

According to Mark 15, what was Joseph of Arimathea's position in the Jewish community?

Send Answer to: *Catholic Courier Bible Trivia*, 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, N.Y. 14624. Please include your name, address and school name.

All entries must be received by April 11, 1996. A winner will be selected at random from all the correct entries submitted.

Last month's winner was **Chi Chi Schickel** a student at Ithaca's Immaculate Conception School. She correctly explained that "exodus" means leaving or departing — as the Israelites did when they left Egypt.



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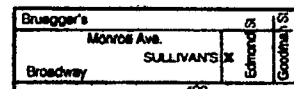
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