

# Kids' Chronicle

## Jesus is presented in the temple

BY JOE SARNICOLA

According to the laws of Moses, the firstborn son of Israelite families must be dedicated to the Lord. In obedience of these laws, Joseph and Mary brought Jesus to the temple for the rite of purification.

At the same time in the temple there was a man named Simeon. Simeon was faithful to the Lord and God had promised him he would see the messiah before he died.

When Simeon saw Jesus, he immediately rejoiced and asked, "May I hold your child? God has revealed to me that he is special. He is a child of God."

Mary looked at Joseph. They knew that Simeon was a good man who often had revelations from God. Mary handed Jesus to him. Simeon laughed and cried with joy as he tenderly held the baby Jesus.

"Oh, God, you are so good," Simeon said. "As you told me, I would see him, your promised one. Here I hold him in my arms. He who will bring light to the Jews and the Gentiles. A God in the hands of an old man. When I die, my life will be complete."

Jesus and Mary could feel the love of God in the voice of Simeon. The memory of the astrologers from the East who followed the star in the sky was still with them. And of the shepherds who saw angels in the sky. And of the angels Joseph had seen. They knew Jesus was a special child, but still Simeon's words made them wonder what great things God had in store for Jesus.

Simeon hugged Jesus and placed him back in Mary's arms. He put his hands on Joseph's shoulders.

"Hear me, carpenter," Simeon said. "This is no ordinary boy. God has chosen him to save the people of Israel."

Then Simeon placed his hands on Mary's head.

"Young mother," he said, "at times your heart will be broken. This boy has

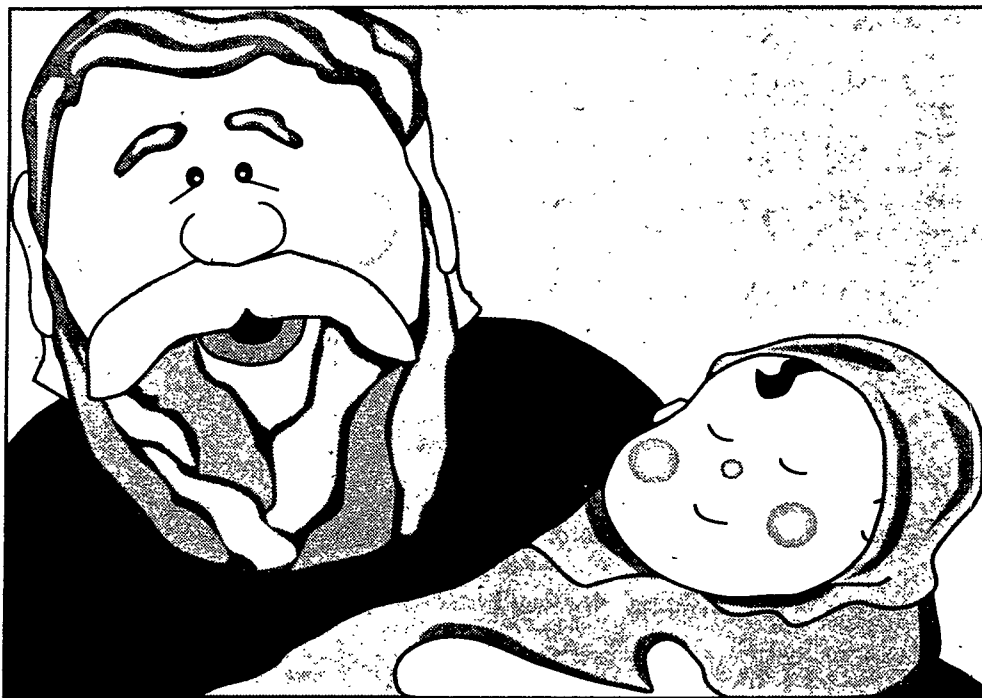


Illustration by Zoe Woodruff

a high calling. Many will be jealous. But he will see into their souls and speak about what he sees."

Simeon left so that Mary and Joseph could bring Jesus into the temple for his dedication. But they did not walk very far before an old widow who spent most of the day in the temple praying and fasting saw them. When she saw Jesus, she rejoiced.

"It is him!" she cried out. "It is him. The Messiah has come."

And she ran into the streets proclaiming what she had seen.

Joseph put his arms around Mary and

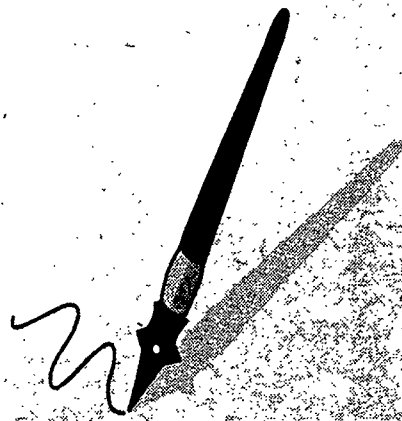
pulled her closer to him. Mary looked up and said, "Truly this is a miraculous child, Joseph."

Joseph nodded reverently in agreement. They walked into the temple together.

### Q&A

READ MORE ABOUT IT: Luke 2

1. Why did Mary and Joseph bring Jesus to the temple?
2. What promise did God make to Simeon?



### Bible Accent

Because the writers of the New Testament books and letters wanted their messages to be understood by as many people as possible, they wrote in Koine Greek. Koine Greek was the common language spoken by people. Many of the Roman orders and proclamations were written in Koine for the same reason.

As they wrote, the New Testament writers tried to use many references to the Hebrew Scriptures of the Old Testament, as most of the people were familiar with them. The writers wanted to teach about the things Jesus said and did, while building on what the people already knew.

Many English words we use today — such as chorus, alphabet and helicopter — come from Greek. Jesus' title, Christ, is actually a Greek word that means "anointed."

### St. Titus

Titus became a Christian because of the preaching of the apostle Paul, whom he later accompanied on some of his mission work. Paul often gave Titus the job of settling arguments among the Christians of Corinth and other early church communities.

Titus became the bishop of Crete and Paul sent him a letter advising him how to be a good bishop. The Letter to Titus is part of the New Testament. We remember Titus on Jan. 26.

### Puzzle

In the chart below, find and circle the names of some of the important people in the life of Jesus. Words may run in any direction. Answers can be found on Page 8.

M	O	N	H	O	J	M	A
P	I	V	P	T	D	A	A
I	O	P	E	T	E	R	R
L	S	L	S	W	H	Y	M
A	F	D	O	R	E	H	S
T	T	J	J	A	M	E	S
E	E	A	I	O	U	Y	N
C	S	A	D	U	J	O	E

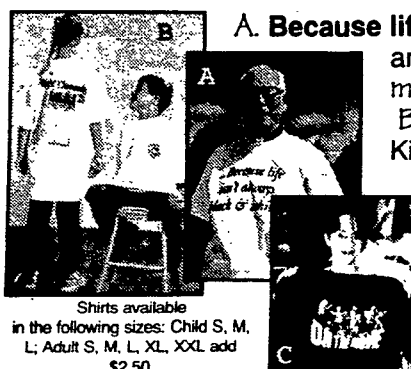
### Bible Trivia

How many chapters are there in the Letter to Titus?

Send Answer to: Catholic Courier Bible Trivia, P.O. Box 24379, Rochester, N.Y. 14624. Please include your name, address and school name.

All entries must be received by Feb. 13, 1997. A winner will be selected at random from all the correct entries submitted.

Last month's winner was Matt King, a student at Mother of Sorrows School, Rochester. He correctly identified St. Elizabeth as the mother of John the Baptist.



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