

# Kids' Chronicle

## King David prays to God

BY JOE SARNICOLA

The people of Israel and their leaders gathered around David in Hebron. Representatives from the 12 tribes stood in front of the crowd and said to him, "We stand before you as if we were your own flesh and blood: When Saul was king of our country, it was still you who took charge and kept us safe and together as a nation. And we remember that the prophet told you that you would be the shepherd and commander of Israel. Saul is dead. We want you to be our new king."

The tribal elders came forward with oils and anointed David in front of the people and prayed that God would make David a great king and Israel a great nation devoted to the Lord.

When Hiram, the king of Tyre, heard that David had been named king of Israel, he sent his workers with gifts of building materials and they built a new palace for David to live in.

But when the Philistines, the enemies of Israel, heard that David was the new king, they wanted to attack him. David's spies reported that the Philistines were preparing for war, so David went to the Lord for guidance.

"My God," he prayed, "in such a short time after I have been made king, my en-

emies are in search of my life. What should I do to protect my kingdom and my people?"

The Lord answered David in a vision. "Have no fear of the Philistines. I will deliver them into your hands."

David sent his best soldiers to do battle with the

Philistines and they were victorious against them.

After the battle, David said, "This place shall be known as Baal-perazim, because the Lord has scattered our enemies."

But then there were reports that the Philistines had gathered in great number in the valley of Rephaim. Again, David went to the Lord. And the Lord answered, "Do not attack your enemies head on. Instead circle around from behind them. When the wind rustles the trees with a sound like soldiers marching, at-



Illustration by Linda Jeanne Rivers

tack without delay. Then I will give you victory."

David obeyed the Lord and his soldiers drove the Philistines back from Gibeon all the way to Gezer.

David was 30 when he became king of Israel, and he ruled for 40 years over Israel and Judah. And the Lord was with him.

READ MORE ABOUT IT;  
2 Samuel 5

## Q&A

1. Who had been king of Israel before David?
2. What did David do before going to battle?

## Bible Accent

Sunday, Nov. 22, is the celebration of the feast of Christ the King. The last Sunday in ordinary time, it is also the Sunday before the first Sunday of Advent.

When Jesus was on Earth, the only time he was treated by the people as a real king was when he entered Jerusalem on a donkey and people placed palms on the road in front of him. We now celebrate that time as Palm Sunday.

When Jesus was crucified a sign above his head proclaimed, "This is the King of the Jews." Paul writes in his letter to the Colossians, "The father brought us into the kingdom of his beloved son."

As the Christmas season approaches, let us remember the love Jesus, our king, has for us.

## Ss. Elizabeth & Zechariah

Ss. Elizabeth and Zechariah were the parents of St. John the Baptist.

According to the Gospel of Luke, St. Zechariah, who was a priest, was in the temple burning incense when an angel appeared before him. The angel told him not to be afraid because he had good news for him: His wife, St. Elizabeth, would soon have her first child, a son.

St. Zechariah thought they were too old to have children. Because of his doubt, the angel made him speechless until the boy was born, at which time St. Zechariah said, "His name will be John."

St. Elizabeth was related to Mary, who would soon be the mother of Jesus. We honor Ss. Elizabeth and Zechariah on Nov. 5.



## Kids' Club

You can win a \$50 savings bond by writing an essay (100 or fewer words) answering this question: **King David prayed to God for guidance. What kinds of things do you pray to God for help or guidance with?**

Send your essay - including name, home address, telephone number, school and grade - to Catholic Courier,

P.O. Box 24379, Rochester, N.Y. 14624. Deadline for entries is Nov. 19, 1998. 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 **Cristina Dinella**, a second-grade student at Munn Elementary School in Spencerport. In response to the question **Why do you think Moses was a good choice as the person to lead the Israelites out of Egypt?** she wrote:

I think that Moses was a good leader because he had a strong faith in God and knowledge of God. Moses used his faith and knowledge to help others.

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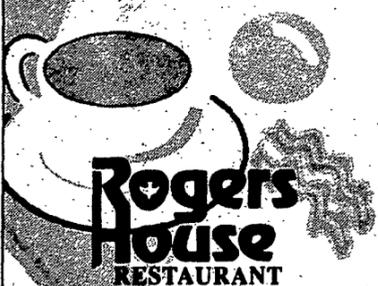
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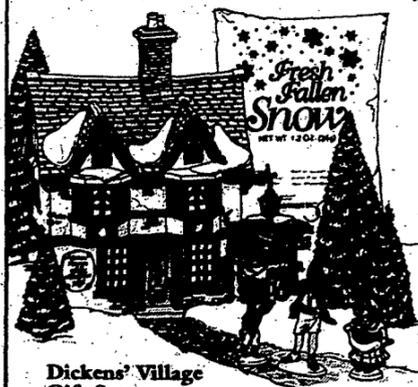
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## Celebrate Friends & Family

The tradition of friends and families gathering together for a Christmas feast served as inspiration for the Dickens' Village® Gift Set, "Seton Morris Spice Merchant." Starting Nov. 5th, this exclusive limited edition gift set (a \$90 value) is available for \$65. And be sure to ask about our free "Holiday Guide for Celebration and Inspiration," which is filled with tips from recipes to wrappings.

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