

Kids' Chronicle

Jesus' miracle feeds thousands

BY JOE SARNICOLA

Jesus was surrounded by a crowd of people, as was often the case when he traveled. As he was wondering whether he should stop and preach or continue on his journey, one of his disciples tapped him on the shoulder.

Jesus stopped, and his friend whispered in his ear.

"My Lord, I have just been told that John the Baptist is dead."

Jesus was heartbroken by the news. John the Baptist was his cousin and his friend. More than that, John was "a voice crying in the wilderness," as foretold by the prophets. His message was to repent and be baptized because the Messiah is coming. Jesus was that Messiah. After Jesus had been baptized by John, the Holy Spirit descended as a dove and rested on his shoulder.

Jesus wanted to be alone with his grief.

By hiding behind his friends, he was able to slip out of the crowd and away from all the people. He borrowed a boat and rowed to a place where no one could find him. Or so he thought.

The people found him. But he knew they were not aware of his grief. They wanted only to hear him preach or to be healed. So Jesus felt compassion for the people. He rowed back to the shore and healed anyone who came to him. When the sky started to darken with the setting of the sun, one of his disciples came up and said, "It is



Illustration by Linda Jeanne Rivers

already late; dismiss the crowds so they can go and buy food for themselves."

But Jesus replied, "There is no need for them to go away; give them some food yourselves."

Another one of the disciples said, "Five loaves and two fish are all we have here."

Jesus nodded and said, "Bring them here to me." Jesus stood up and told all of the people to sit down. He held the baskets that contained the bread and the fish, looked up to heaven and said a prayer of blessing and thanksgiving over them. Then he began breaking up the bread and fish and giving them to his disciples to feed the people. Everyone there, 5,000 men plus the women and children who were with them, had enough to eat.

After the people had gone, the disciples filled 12 large baskets with the scraps and leftovers.

READ MORE ABOUT IT:
Matthew 14

Q&A

1. What sad news did Jesus receive?
2. What did Jesus do before he fed the people?

Bible Accent

Bread was one of the most important foods in the biblical lands.

Grain (usually barley or sometimes wheat) was ground into a coarse or fine consistency and mixed with water, salt and leaven, which made the bread rise. After the dough was shaped to the proper size in a bowl, it was allowed to rise and then was baked. Sometimes the bread was made without any ingredient to make it rise.

Biblical references to bread often symbolize the needs of all mankind. "One does not live by bread alone, but by every word of God" (Matthew 4:4). The Israelites celebrated a Feast of Unleavened Bread. Jesus said, "I am the Bread of Life" (John 6:35). When Jesus ate his last meal with his disciples, the night before he died on the cross, he said the bread was "my body, which will be given for you" (Luke 22:19). We remember this great sacrifice Jesus made for us every time we partake of the Eucharist.

St. Bartholomea

St. Bartholomea was born near the Italian Alps in the early 1800s. Although her father was an alcoholic with little education, her mother set an example as a good Christian woman. Bartholomea attended a school taught by nuns, and she was encouraged by her teachers and her mother to strive toward being a faithful follower of the teachings of the church. She realized the value of the education she had received. She studied until she earned a teaching certificate of her own. She founded a religious guild of St. Aloysius, in order to be able to effectively teach young people. Eventually, she combined her work with that of Catherine Gerosa, who was a nurse. Bartholomea accomplished these achievements before her death at the young age of 26. We remember her on July 26.

Puzzle

Find the food words that are hidden in the puzzle box. They may run in any direction. Answers on page 8.

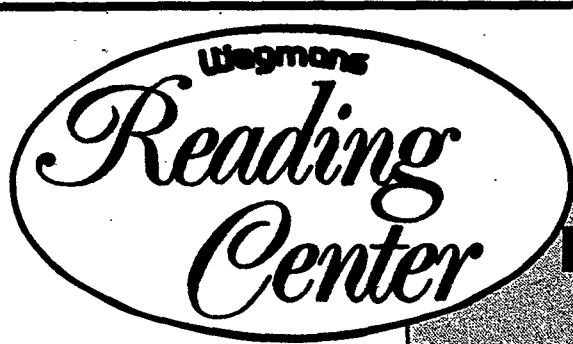
figs, fish, grapes, wheat, bread, eggs, milk, corn, meat, salt

S	K	A	S	A	L	T
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F	M	C	A	O	A	O
L	I	E	R	A	E	R
J	R	S	G	O	M	N
B	E	W	H	E	A	T

Bible Trivia

Jesus performed his first miracle at a wedding. What did he do? (John 2) Send answer to: Catholic Courier Bible Trivia, PO Box 24379, Rochester, NY 14624. Please include your name, address, school and grade. All entries must be received by Aug. 1, 2002. A winner will be selected at random from all the correct entries submitted. The winners of the last trivia question were sisters Amanda and Melissa Widzinski, who jointly submitted a

response. Amanda will be a seventh-grader at Gates-Chili Middle School in the fall, and Melissa will be a freshman at Gates-Chili High School. The sisters answered the question "Referring to Zechariah, chapter 1, what are the names of the prophet's father and grandfather?" They correctly responded that Zechariah's father was named Berechiah, and his grandfather was named Iddo.



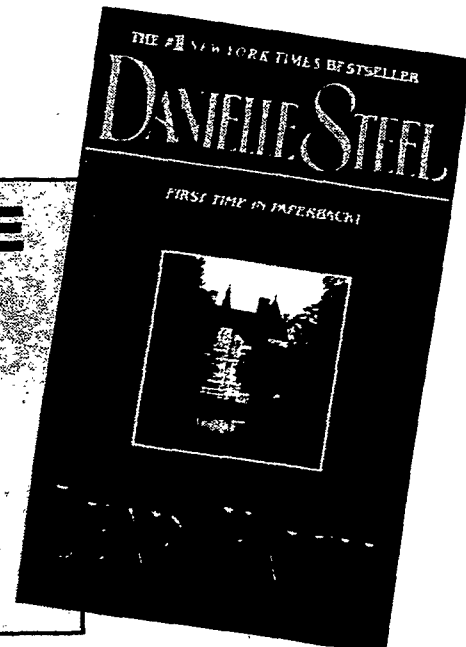
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