

# Simeon, Anna tell of Jesus' future

Joe Sarnicola/Contributing writer

When their son was eight days old, Joseph and Mary gave him the name Jesus. Before the baby had been born, an angel of the Lord appeared to Mary and said, "You shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

So they brought him to the temple in Jerusalem to present him to the Lord.

Living in Jerusalem at the time was a man named Simeon. He was a holy man, faithful to God. Simeon had a vision that he would see the Messiah before he died.

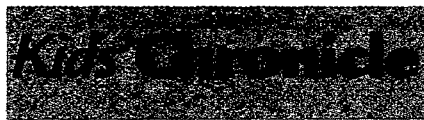
When he saw the baby Jesus in front of him with his parents, Simeon held Jesus in his arms and prayed over him. "Now, Master," he said, "you may let your servant go in peace according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in sight of all the peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel."

Joseph and Mary looked at each other in amazement. They did not expect to hear such wonderful things said about their son, even though they knew he was very special. Simeon gave Jesus back to his mother, and then he said to Mary, "Behold this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted, and you yourself a sword will pierce, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed."

As if what had already happened did not astound Mary and Joseph, there was an old prophetess, Anna, who never left the temple, but spent



Illustration by Linda Jeanne Rivers



every day fasting and praying. She, too, knew that a wonderful child was in the temple and praised God for the great things he would do.

After Joseph and Mary had followed all of the laws that pertained to the dedication of their son, they were able to leave Bethlehem and return to their home in Nazareth in Galilee. Over the course of his youth, Jesus grew strong, was filled with wisdom and God looked upon him

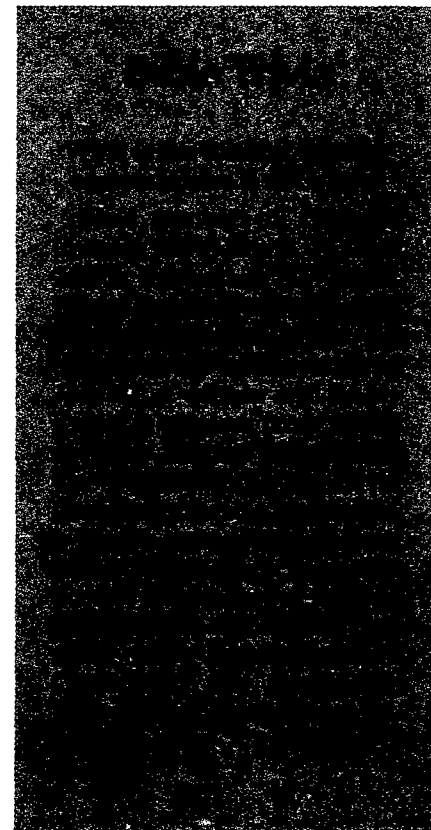
with favor. Every year his parents brought him to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover. And Jesus continued to become wiser, and he received favor from God and men.

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Luke 2

## Q&A

1. Why did Joseph and Mary bring Jesus to the temple?
2. Where did Joseph and Mary go when they left Bethlehem?



## Bible Accent

We take our cars, buses and planes for granted, but in the time of the Bible, traveling was difficult.

The most common method of going from one place to another was walking. People would not carry any more than they needed for the trip. For those who had them, donkeys could be used for riding or for helping to carry food and supplies. Eventually, camels and horses were used as well. Kings and other members of royalty and some high-ranking soldiers rode in chariots or carriages pulled by horses. Some people were able to afford a litter, which was a seat covered by a curtain and supported by poles for carrying. Men or horses had to carry the litter.

During the time of the Roman occupation, the Romans built or improved many of the main routes of travel. Merchant and fishing boats were a common sight on the three main rivers: the Nile, the Tigris and the Euphrates.

## St. Vincent Pallotti

Vincent Pallotti was born into a wealthy Italian family in 1795. He struggled in school at first, but he persisted and was ordained as a priest when he was 23 years old. He continued his studies and received his doctoral degree in theology. He later left a teaching position at the University of Rome to become an active pastor.

He became passionate about conversion and social justice, and the clergy and lay workers who worked with him eventually became organized into the Society of Catholic Apostolate. In a letter to a young professor, Vincent wrote, "Be holy in the world, in your social relationships, in your work, and your leisure... Holiness is simply to do God's will, always and everywhere."

Vincent established schools for several trades, including tailors, shoemakers and farmers. We honor Vincent on Jan. 22.



## Puzzle

Can you match these biblical children and young people with the events that happened to them?

Answers on page 13.

- |  |     |           |
|--|-----|-----------|
| 1. I was the first son of Adam and Eve.      | ___ | a. Samson |
| 2. My brother's sold me into slavery.        | ___ | b. Samuel |
| 3. I was a Jew raised by Pharaoh's daughter. | ___ | c. Cain   |
| 4. I became a very strong man.               | ___ | d. David  |
| 5. God called me while I was sleeping.       | ___ | e. Jesus  |
| 6. I defeated Goliath.                       | ___ | f. Joseph |
| 7. My first crib was a manger.               | ___ | g. Moses  |



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