

A replacement for Judas is chosen

Kids' Chronicle

Joe Sarnicola/Contributing writer

Jesus told his disciples not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait in the city for "the promise of the Father about which you heard me speak; for John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit. You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and to the ends of the earth." And then, while the disciples were watching, Jesus disappeared into a cloud and was gone.

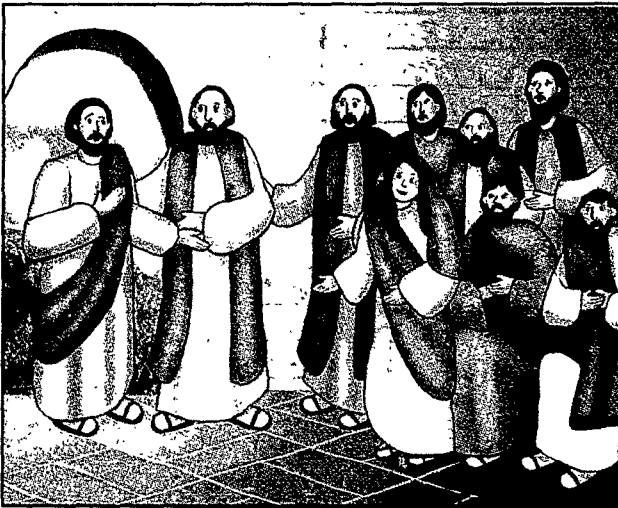
As they reflected on the miraculous sight that had just happened in front of them, the disciples went back into the city of Jerusalem to the upper room where they found Peter, John, James, Andrew and many other Christians. Even Mary, the mother of Jesus, and some other women were there. They spent many hours praying and studying the Scriptures together.

At one of their times together, there were more than 120 people pre-

sent. Peter stood up to speak to them. "My brothers," he said, "the Scripture had to be fulfilled which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand through the mouth of David, concerning Judas, who was the guide for those who arrested Jesus. He was numbered among us and was allotted a share in this ministry."

Peter reminded the Christians that Judas returned the 30 pieces of silver he had been paid to betray Jesus. However, the scribes and Pharisees who paid him did not want to put the money back into the church treasury, so they bought some land from a potter with it. This land has become known as the "Field of Blood," because it was bought with money that was paid for the death of someone.

Peter continued quoting from the Scriptures. "Let his encampment become desolate, and may no one dwell



Linda Jeanne Rivers/Catholic Courier

in it, and may another take his office." The disciples and the people who were with them decided to replace Judas, filling the the position he had held with the 12 disciples with another man. Two candidates were proposed, Barsabbas and Matthias.

The Christians also agreed that the best method of selection to use would be the casting of lots. Peter said a prayer before the lots were cast. "You, Lord, who knows the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this apostolic ministry from which Judas turned away to go to his own place." The lot fell upon Matthias.

READ MORE ABOUT IT:

Acts 1

Q&A

1. What happened to the money paid to Judas?
2. What important woman was with the disciples?

Bible Accent

According to references in John's Gospel, Judas, the Apostle who later betrayed Jesus, "kept the money bag" of the Apostles. Jesus must also have considered him a friend, because he sat next to him during the Last Supper, and probably at other meals.

We will probably never know what really caused Judas to betray Jesus, but Judas came with a large crowd of angry people and he pointed out Jesus with a kiss of friendship. Jesus was arrested and taken for trial. Judas, however, was filled with guilt after what he had done. He returned his reward money of 30 pieces of silver and went out and hanged himself.

St. Vincent of Lerins

Vincent of Lerins earned a reputation as an educated man. He may have served in the French army before he joined the abbey of Lerins, near Cannes. In his position as a priest and a monk, he spent many hours studying and writing a book against heresies that became known as the *Commonitorium*. Not everyone agreed with what he wrote, but religious scholars still study his theories today. We honor him on May 24.

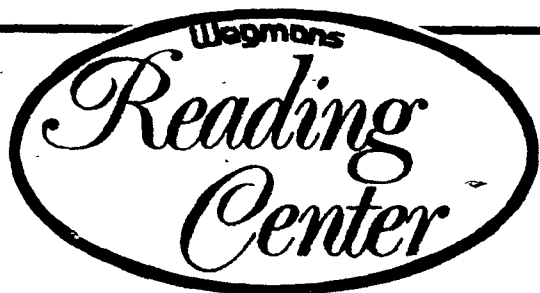
Bible Trivia

What city were the disciples in when the Holy Spirit first came down? (Acts 2) Send answer to Catholic Courier Bible Trivia, PO Box 24379, Rochester, NY 14624. Include your name, address, school and grade. All entries must be received by May 29. A winner will be selected at random from all the correct entries submitted. There were no correct responses to the last trivia question.

Puzzle

Walk down the steps by filling in the blanks with correct answers. Some hints have been provided. Answers on page 5.

1. What final commandment did Jesus give the disciples? (Matthew 28:19)
2. A poisonous snake. (Romans 3:13)
3. This plant spoke to Moses. (Exodus 3:2)
4. A heavenly messenger.
5. Name of the Promised Land. (Joshua 14:1)
6. Abraham's oldest son. (Genesis 16:11)



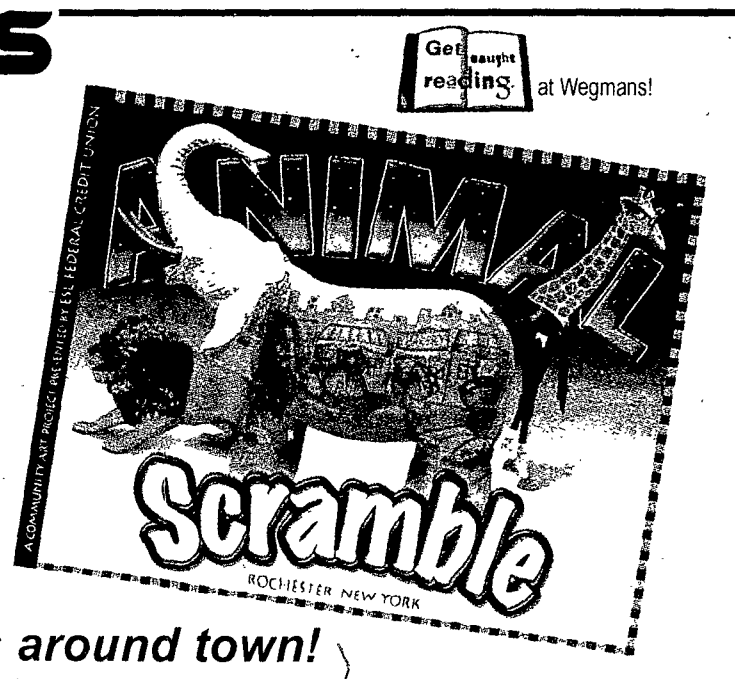
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