

Jesus celebrates the Passover meal

Joe Sarnicola/Contributing writer

One of the disciples said to Jesus, "Where do you want us to go and prepare for you to eat the Passover?" The disciples wanted to know the answer to this question because it was the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, and Jesus had not told them of his plans for the celebration. This feast commemorated the freedom of the Israelites when they had been slaves in Egypt.

Jesus put his hands on the shoulders of two of his friends and told them, "Go into the city and a man will meet you, carrying a jar of water. Follow him. Then he will show you a large upper room furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there." The two men left immediately. When they reached the city, they found a man carrying water, just as Jesus had said they would, and he brought them to the place where a room had been set up to serve them a meal.

By the time Jesus arrived with the rest of the disciples, it was night. The men enjoyed the meal and they talked about the miracles God had performed for their ancestors in ancient Israel. Then Jesus became



Linda Jeanne Rivers/Catholic Courier

very serious and said, "One of you will betray me." The disciples became upset, and they all promised they would never do anything against Jesus. But Jesus said, "The Son of Man goes as it is written of him. But it would be better for that man if he had never been born." The disciples wondered what Jesus



meant by betrayal.

While his disciples were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread and prayed over it. Then he gave a piece of the bread to each of his friends. "Take it," he said to them, "this is my body." The disciples ate the bread. Then he prayed over a cup of wine and shared that with his friends as well. "This is my blood of the Covenant, which will be shed for many. I shall not drink again of the fruit of the vine until the day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."

When Jesus and his disciples finished their supper, they sang a hymn together. Then they went to the Mount of Olives, a high hill outside of Jerusalem.

READ MORE ABOUT IT:

Mark 14

Q&A

1. What feast was being celebrated?
2. What did Jesus say about the bread and the wine?

Bible Accent

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* tells us the saints are "examples of holiness."

The church has guidelines for canonization, the process of declaring someone a saint. One or more Catholics can approach their local bishop with the name of someone they feel should become a saint. The bishop investigates the life of the candidate by talking to witnesses or reading information by or about the person. A report is then sent to the Vatican where the merits of the life of the candidate are debated. Miracles attributed to the candidate are verified, if possible. If the pope approves the information, he decrees sainthood upon the person. This process may take a very long time.

St. Ephraem

Ephraem was born approximately 300 years after the life of Jesus. He lived in Syria while it was still under the occupation of the Romans. After being baptized, Ephraem served under Jacob, the Bishop of Nisibis.

After surviving three attacks on his homeland by the Persians, the city was given to the Persians as part of a peace agreement. When the Christians left the city, Ephraem made a home for himself in a cave. He applied himself to prayer, contemplation and writing based on his studies. He wrote many hymns which were sung by the local Christians.

During a time of famine, Ephraem gave up his life of solitude to distribute food, supplies and money to people in need. We remember him on June 9.

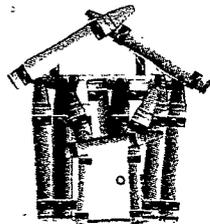
Puzzle

Circle the word or name that will make the statements true.

The chapter numbers from the Book of Exodus have been provided as hints. Answers on page 10.

1. The daughter of (Pharaoh, Fairy) found a baby in a basket. (2)
2. A burning (fig tree, bush) spoke to Moses. (3)
3. God turned Moses' staff into a (sword, snake). (4)
4. (David, Aaron) would speak for Moses. (4)
5. God sent (plagues, blessings) on Egypt. (6-11)
6. God established (Passover, Liberation) for the Israelites. (12)
7. Water flowed out of a (tree, rock). (17)
8. God gave Moses 10 (burdens, commandments). (20)

Kids' Club



You can win a \$50 savings bond by writing an essay (100 or fewer words) in response to **Why do you think God sometimes wants us to make our own sacrifices, such as when we fast during Lent or donate our time and money to others?**

Send your essay — including name, home address, telephone number, school and grade — to *Catholic Courier*, P.O. Box 24379, Rochester, NY 14624. Deadline for entries is June 19. The winner's essay will be published in an upcoming issue of *Kids' Chronicle*.

Last month's winner was Devin Fredericks, a fifth-grader at Archangel School. In response to **What can we learn from stories of early Christians**

in the Acts of the Apostles? he wrote, "The Christians in the Acts of Apostles acted with one heart and mind. They did everything in common, not by themselves. They paid respect to each other. No one was needy. Sometimes they sold property to donate the money to the poor. You can see how much the people believed that Jesus worked through the Apostles after Pentecost. They took out the sick to the street just so the Apostles' shadow could fall on them. The people from other towns brought people to be healed and devils cast out. With their sharing, kindness and faithfulness, they made a good church."

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