

# Jesus talks about the bread of life

Joe Sarnicola/Contributing writer

Whenever a crowd gathered around Jesus, he tried to create an opportunity to teach the people about the kingdom of God. On this day, many people searched for Jesus in boats until they found him in Capernaum.

They asked him, "What sign can you do, that we may see and believe in you? What can you do? Our ancestors ate manna in the desert."

"I am the bread of life. Your ancestors are the manna in the desert, but they died; this is the bread that comes down from heaven so that one may eat it and not die." A wave of murmuring moved through the crowd. The men and women wondered what Jesus meant. Was he a new manna sent by God? How would they eat this living bread Jesus talked about? There were others who were angered by what Jesus said. The Jewish leaders felt that he was trying to mock the laws of Moses.

One of them stood up. He pointed angrily at Jesus and said to the people, "How can this man give us his

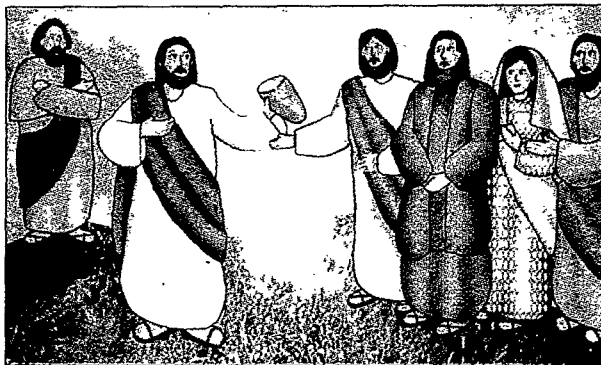
flesh to eat?"

Jesus motioned for the people to quiet down and listen to him. He was not angry at his accuser. He smiled and said calmly, "Amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you."

The disciples and close followers who were with Jesus also had questions among themselves. One of them said to Jesus, "This saying is hard; who can accept it?"

Jesus said, "Does this shock you? What if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before?" The disciples were embarrassed because Jesus knew they, too, had been complaining. They looked away from each other, and not one of them could look Jesus in the eyes.

"It is the spirit that gives life, while the flesh is of no avail." Then Jesus became more serious. "But there are some of you who do not believe."



Linda Jeanne Rivers/Catholic Courier

## Kids' Chronicle

When Jesus said this, some of his followers, the ones who did not believe, left and no longer traveled with him. Then Jesus said to his 12 closest disciples, "Do you also want to leave?"

Peter answered, "Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."

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John 6

## Q&A

1. What food did Jesus compare himself to?
2. How did Peter answer the question Jesus asked him?

## Bible Accent

The prayer that we say together at Mass every Sunday is called "The Lord's Prayer" because Jesus gave it to us. It is often referred to as the "Our Father" because those are the first two words of the prayer.

The prayer opens with a statement of belief that God is in heaven and that his name is holy. Next we ask that God's promised kingdom would come down to Earth, and that God's will would be obeyed on Earth as it is in heaven. When we ask God for our "daily bread," a reference to the manna sent to the ancient Israelites in the desert, we are asking him to meet all of our spiritual needs. We ask God to forgive our sins at the same time we promise to forgive people who have hurt us. We tell God we are weak by ourselves, and we ask him to keep us from temptation and to deliver us from any evil.

If we make this our prayer every day, we show God that we want to follow all of his commandments.

## Kids' Club

You can win a \$50 savings bond by writing an essay (100 or fewer words) in response to **If you had to help your religion-education teacher prepare a lesson for class, what Bible story would you choose, and why?** 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 Aug. 21. The winner will be notified by phone. The winner's essay will be published in an upcoming issue of Kids' Chronicle.

Last month's winner was Libby Attridge, a fourth-grader at Good Shepherd School. In response to **Who is one person you consider a good teacher of our faith today in your community?** she wrote, "One person who really teaches me about my faith is my mom. She sometimes reads me stories from the Bible that could be important in my life. I have 5 brothers and sisters and my mom always makes sure our faith goes first. We have usually always attend Mass. We go to Holy Thursday, Good Friday, All Saints Day and important Masses. My mom really teaches me about my faith."

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## Puzzle

Match the words with the correct definitions.

Answers on page 13

- |                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| 1. Baptism _____   | a. a student or follower                |
| 2. Eucharist _____ | b. belief in what God has told us       |
| 3. Faith _____     | c. 44 days of reverence before Easter   |
| 4. Lent _____      | d. sacrament of cleansing               |
| 5. Pentecost _____ | e. the body and blood of Christ at Mass |
| 6. Proverb _____   | f. a wise saying                        |
| 7. Disciple _____  | g. the day the Holy Spirit came down    |



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# Do

19th Sunday (Aug. 10): (R: Kings 19:4-8; 5:2.

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