

# Jesus is persecuted and crucified

Joe Sarnicola/Contributing writer

Jesus was sitting at a table with his 12 Apostles. He did not appear to be the happy man that he usually was. Jesus broke a loaf of bread after blessing it and said, "This is my body, which will be given for you; do this in memory of me." Then he held up a cup of wine and offered a prayer of thanksgiving and said, "Take this and share it among yourselves. This cup is the new covenant in my blood which will be shed for you." Jesus passed the cup around, and each of his friends sipped from it.

Jesus became very serious and looked around the table at his Apostles. "And yet behold, the hand of one who is to betray me is with me on the table." The men immediately began to protest against which one of them might do such a thing to Jesus.

Peter said, "Lord, I am prepared to go to prison and die with you."

Jesus looked directly at him and said, "I tell you, Peter, before the cock crows this day, you will deny three times that you know me." When the meal was finished Jesus went to the Mount of Olives to pray, as he often did at night, and his Apostles followed him. Before finding a quiet place away from his friends



Illustration by Linda Jeanne Rivers

where he could be alone, Jesus said to them, "Pray that you may not undergo the test."

When Jesus was alone, he knelt down and prayed. "Father, if you are willing, take this cup away from me; still not my will but yours be done."

The shouting of angry men broke the silence of the prayerful night and their torches flickered against their faces as the crowd came closer to Jesus. Judas, one of the disciples of Je-



sus, was with them. He greeted Jesus with a kiss. "Judas, you are betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?" Jesus asked. Then the soldiers arrested Jesus and brought him before the high priest.

After being questioned by the priest, Jesus was brought before Pilate, the Roman. Pilate did not find Jesus guilty of any crime, but the Jewish leaders insisted he be sentenced. Pilate conceded, and Jesus was whipped and forced to carry a cross to Golgotha, where he was crucified. Before he died, Jesus cried out, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

READ MORE ABOUT IT:  
Luke 22

## Q&A

1. What did Jesus say about the bread he broke?
2. What was Jesus doing when he was arrested?

## Bible Account

The hill on which Jesus was crucified was called Golgotha or Calvary. Calvary comes from Calvaria, the Latin word for skull. The hill was so named because many criminals were executed there. The actual location has never been determined. Some scholars suggest it was outside of Jerusalem while others describe it as being far away from Jerusalem.

In the fourth century after the death of Christ, the site of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre was declared to be on Calvary. Archaeological evidence suggests this may not be accurate because it is within the ancient city walls of Jerusalem. It is possibly indicated by the ancient Jewish tradition that the rock on the side of Jerusalem which was used to roll away the stone from the tomb was the same as the skull.

## St. Lucy

St. Lucy was born near Syracuse, Sicily, in 281. She became a nun in 302. She was very kind and generous. She was persecuted for her faith and was martyred in 304. She is the patron saint of the blind and is often depicted holding a mirror and a lamp.

Lucy was a model student, obedient, academic, and possessing great common sense, and good will for everyone she met. She was very kind and well liked. She was a very good student and was a very good friend. She was a very good student and was a very good friend. She was a very good student and was a very good friend.

### Bible Trivia

What do we call the family of Jesus? Send answer to: Catholic Courier Bible Trivia, P.O. Box 100, Rochester, NY 14603. Include your name, address, telephone number, and e-mail address. All entries will be received by April 1. A winner will be selected at random from all entries and will receive a prize. The winner of the last trivia question was the three persons of the Holy Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

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## PUZZLE

Circle the word in parentheses that will make the sentences true. Bible references have been given as hints.  
Answers on page 13.

1. Adam lived in a garden in (Jordan, Eden). *Genesis 2*
2. God called to (Abraham, Moses) from a burning bush. *Exodus 3*
3. Joshua conquered the city of (Jericho, Jerusalem). *Joshua 6*
4. (Saul, Solomon) was the first king of Israel. *1 Samuel 10*
5. Jesus was baptized by (Philip, John) in the river. *Matthew 3*
6. (Jeremiah, Judas) betrayed Jesus to the chief priests. *Mark 14*
7. (Simon, Andrew) is better known by the name Peter. *Luke 5*
8. Jesus performed a miracle at a (wedding, funeral) in Cana. *John 2*