

Peter calls Jesus the Messiah

Joe Sarnicola/Contributing writer

Jesus called his 12 disciples together. He gave them the power to cast out demons and to heal the sick, and he told them to preach about the kingdom of God. The disciples obeyed Jesus, and everywhere they went they proclaimed the good news and healed sick people.

Herod began to hear rumors of mighty and miraculous deeds being

Kids' Chronicle

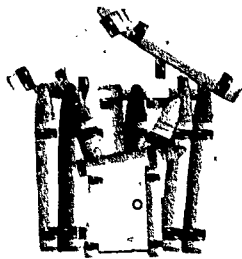
performed in his country. Some people thought John the Baptist had come back from the grave, others thought Elijah or another ancient prophet was among the people.

When the disciples returned from their missionary travels, they found Jesus praying alone in a quiet place



Illustration by Linda Jeanne Rivers

Kids' Club



You can win a \$50 savings bond by writing an essay (100 or fewer words) in response to **Jesus often prayed alone or with his disciples. Why is prayer so important?**

Send your essay — including name, home address, telephone number, school & grade — to Catholic Courier, P.O. Box 24379, Rochester, NY 14624.

Deadline for entries is June 16. The winner, whose essay will be published in an upcoming issue of Kids' Chronicle, will be notified by phone.

Last month's winner was Nicholas Bender, a third-grader at Good Shepherd School in Henrietta. In response to **What are some of the duties lay ministers and volunteers perform in our parishes?** he wrote, "One of our parish employees is Mrs. Brunner. She is our church secretary and she helps with the parish bulletin. She is a big help in getting the church news out to our parish community. Mr. and Mrs. Leicht bring music to our church. Mr. Leicht plays the piano while Mrs. Leicht conducts the choir. Mrs. Reed is a minister too. She helps Fr. Doug organize and run our parish. She helps oversee lots of the church groups such as the Knights of Columbus, Rosary and Altar Society, Martha and Mary's, and Children's Liturgy. ... She is a big help in our parish. Ushers volunteer each week to collect the money and help count it. They hold the doors open for people. They help people find a seat in the church."

"Eucharistic ministers help give out the eucharist and say, 'The Body of Christ, or the Blood of Christ.'"

"Altar servers do lots of things like lighting the candles, carrying the cross at the beginning of Mass, bringing the bowl of water and towel so that Fr. Doug can wash his hands before he prepares the bread and wine. We also hold the books of prayers so that it is easier for him to read. I am an altar server and it is an important job. My church depends on me to do a good job. ... It helps me be one of God's good shepherds."

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as he would often do during the day. Jesus knew that stories about him and the disciples were spreading through Jerusalem and the regions.

"Who do the crowds say that I am?" Jesus asked his friends. He heard the same names that Herod was hearing: Elijah, John the Baptist or one of the other prophets. Jesus asked them, "Who do you say that I am?" Peter answered, "The Messiah of God."

Jesus warned his disciples not to repeat that news to anyone else. "The Son of Man must suffer greatly and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised."

Jesus would say things that the disciples could not understand. They hoped he would explain what he was talking about. But Jesus only told them, "If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. Whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. What profit is there for one to gain the whole world yet lose or forfeit himself?"

READ MORE ABOUT IT:

Luke 9

Q&A

1. What was Jesus doing when the disciples found him?
2. Who did Peter say Jesus was?

Bible Accent

The Holy Trinity can be difficult to understand. There is only one God, but he has shown himself to us as three persons.

God the Father has always existed and created the heavens and the Earth for us to live on. He loved us so much he sent his son to Earth to die for our sins.

Jesus is the second person of the Trinity. When he was on Earth, he was human, but also divine. He told us the greatest commandment is for us to love each other, following the example of love he showed us. He died on the cross, rose from the grave and went to live with God in heaven. He promised to send the Holy Spirit, which would fill us with God's power and love.

The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity. The Spirit enables the church, and us as Christians, to proclaim Jesus' message to the world.

Martyrs of Uganda

In 1879, Catholic missionaries were sent to remote villages of Central Africa. Father Joseph Mkasa scolded a chief, Mwanga, for killing a missionary and the people who were with him. The chief then had Father Mkasa killed.

When Mwanga learned that some of his servants were receiving religious instruction, he had all the young men appear before him. He ordered the Christians to step aside. Those who did so were killed.

We honor these brave men as Martyrs of Uganda on June 3.

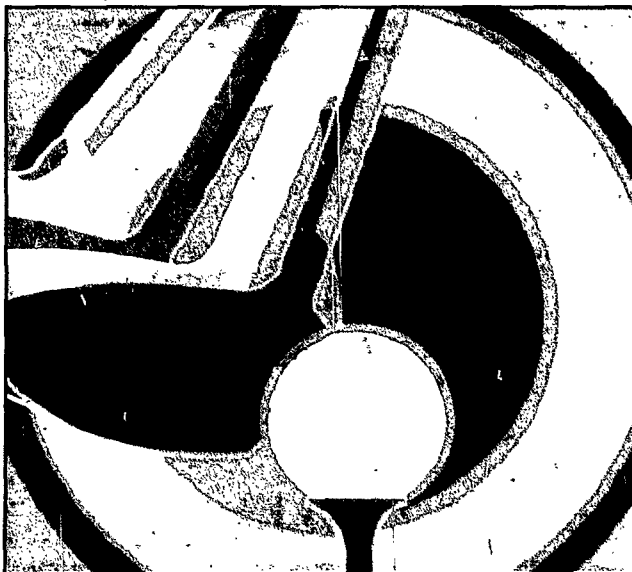
Puzzle

Fill in the blanks with the numbers that correctly answer the questions. Each is used only once. Bible verses have been provided as hints.

Answers on page B19.

List: one two three four
five six seven

1. The _____ priests bearing ram's horns. (Joshua 6)
2. I saw _____ angels. (Revelation 7)
3. On _____ tablets of stone. (Deuteronomy 4)
4. "After _____ days I will be raised up." (Matthew 27)
5. A voice of _____ crying in the wilderness. (Matthew 3)
6. _____ days you may do labor. (Exodus 20)
7. _____ loaves and two fish. (Mark 6)



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