

# The Junior Observer

Vol. 35, No. 11 Published by The Observer, Official Catholic Newspaper of the Diocese of Rockford JuniorObserver@RockfordDiocese.org

An Old Testament Story

## Israelites Worship a Golden Calf

### Q&A

**What did God say He'd give Moses on Mount Sinai?**

**What did the people do when Moses was gone?**

Read more about it in Exodus 24, 31 and 32

Catholic News Service

**D**uring the Israelites' time in the desert, God summoned Moses to come up Mount Sinai.

"While you are there, I will give you the stone tablets on which I have written the commandments intended for their instruction," God said, referring to the Israelites.

Moses went up the mountain for 40 days and 40 nights. When Moses was delayed in returning, the Israelites gathered around his brother, Aaron.

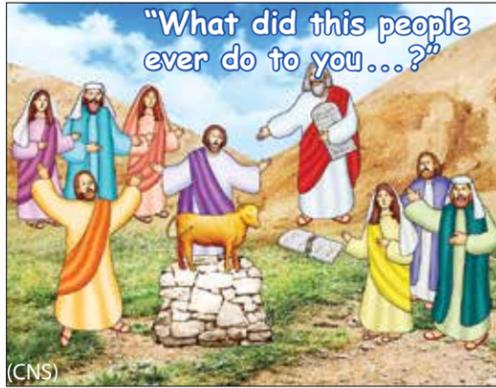
"Come, make us a god who will go before us; as for that man Moses who brought us out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has happened to him," they said.

Aaron asked the people for gold jewelry, and he fashioned the gold into a molten calf.

"These are your gods, Israel, who brought you up from the land of Egypt," the people cried out.

Aaron built an altar in front of the calf and declared a feast of the Lord the following day.

The next day, the Israelites sacrificed burnt offerings and brought communion sacrifices. Then they sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to revel.



### Bible Trivia

What did Moses do when his facial skin became radiant after seeing God? (Hint: Exodus 34:35)

**Answer:** Covered his face with a veil.

God saw all that was going on in the Israelite's camp.

"Go down at once because your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt, have acted corruptly," He told Moses.

Moses came down the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant in his hands. As he drew near the camp, he saw the calf and the dancing. Moses was so angry that he threw the tablets down and broke them on the base of the mountain.

"What did this people ever do to you that you should lead them into so grave a sin?" Moses asked Aaron,

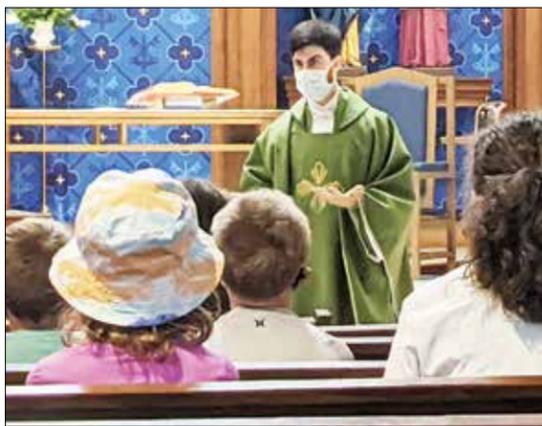
who explained what had happened.

The next day, Moses returned to God.

"Ah, this people has indeed committed a grave sin in making a god of gold for themselves! If you would only forgive their sin! If you will not, then strike me out of the book that you have written," Moses said.

"Him only who has sinned against me will I strike out of my book," God answered.

God said that when it came time for Him to punish, He would punish those who had sinned.



Father Charles Warren gives a homily during a Totus Tuus camp in Geneva.



Father Charles Warren stands with muddy participants of Totus Tuus camp at St. Peter.

## St. Peter Hosts Camp

GENEVA—From June 13 through June 18, St. Peter Parish here hosted a weeklong Totus Tuus day camp for students entering first through sixth grades.

An evening camp was held for those entering seventh through 12th grade.

Instead of being led by diocesan seminarians and young adults, a team of parish college and high school students "shared their energy, enthusiasm and love for Jesus Christ and their Catholic faith" with over 100 campers throughout the week, organizers said.

Totus Tuus served as Father Charles Warren's last event while parochial vicar at St. Peter before beginning his new assignment at Marian Central Catholic High School in Woodstock. It was also one of the first outings for newly ordained Father John McFadden, who is a new parochial vicar at



(Photos provided)

Father John McFadden shouts as he gets drenched by a Totus Tuus camper at St. Peter Parish in Geneva.

St. Peter.

Totus Tuus brings fun into summer camp along with teaching about God's love and the Catholic faith.

The camp included daily Mass and confession.