

# The Junior Observer

Vol. 29, No. 6

Published by The Observer, Official Catholic Newspaper of the Diocese of Rockford

JuniorObserver@RockfordDiocese.org

A Bible Story

## God Tests Abraham's Faith

Catholic News Service

**T**he Lord wanted to test Abraham's faith. "Abraham!" he called.

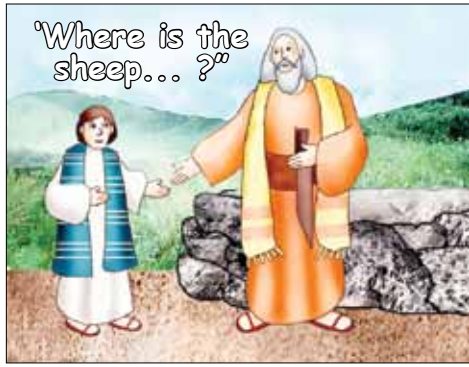
"Ready!" was Abraham's answer.

"Take your son Isaac, your only one, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him up as a holocaust on a height that I will point out to you."

Abraham always tried to please the Lord, but sometimes the things he was asked to do seemed impossible, and this was one of those impossible tasks.

The next morning Abraham loaded his donkeys with supplies and firewood, and he headed out with two of his servants and Isaac to the place the Lord had indicated.

After a three-day journey, Abraham could see his destination. He



(CNS)

said to his servants, "Both of you stay here with the donkey while the boy and I go on over yonder. We will worship and then come back to you."

The servants made a camp as Abraham, carrying a burning torch, a length of rope and a knife, went toward the spot where he would make an altar.

Isaac went with his father, carrying firewood for the holocaust offering. "Father?" he asked.

"Yes, son?"

### Q&A

What sacrifice did God ask Abraham to make?

What promise did God's messenger make to Abraham because of his faith?

Read more about it in *Genesis 22*.

"Here are the fire and the wood, but where is the sheep for the holocaust?"

Abraham took a deep breath and answered his son. "God Himself will provide the sheep for the holocaust."

When Abraham reached the altar site, he built the altar and stacked the firewood on it. He tied Isaac up with the rope and put him on top of the altar. With tears in his eyes and the knife in his hand, Abraham prepared to offer his son

as the holocaust.

Then a loud, commanding voice from one of God's messengers called out from heaven. "Abraham! Abraham!"

"Yes, Lord?" answered Abraham.

"Do not lay your hand on the boy. Do not do the least thing to him. I know now how devoted you are to God, since you did not withhold from me your own beloved son."

Abraham wiped his eyes and threw down the knife. As soon as he did, he saw a ram that was entangled by its horn in the thick brush. This he offered as the holocaust to God.

Then God's messenger spoke again. "I will bless you abundantly and make your descendants as countless as the stars of the sky and the sands of the seashore."

## Rockford Musicians Rock the Hymns

BY LYNNE CONNER  
For the Junior Observer

**H**ave you ever dreamed of making a CD like Taylor Swift or One Direction?

Well, some students from St. Rita, St. James and St. Edward schools in Rockford made this dream come true.

Led by their music teacher, Jeremy Toledo, the group called Missalette, recently released their first album of the same name.

Some of the songs on Missalette include: "All That We Have," "Hail Mary: Gentle Woman" and "They'll Know We Are Christians."

There is something different

about the songs on Missalette, though; these hymns rock!

"One of the biggest debates that we have in our music classes is: Can church hymns rock?" Toledo said. "So, in 2010 we did a concert of 'rocked out' church hymns and the Missalette album sort of grew out of that," he said.

Toledo and the choir recorded a two song demo CD. With the backing of Father John Evans and St. Rita Parish, they released the Missalette album this past December.

The Missalette group includes students from Boylan Central Catholic High School and fifth through eighth grade students from the three Rockford parish schools.

"Being a part of Missalette is not just about singing, it's about giving praise to God," said Melanie Garbacz an eighth grader from St.



Garbacz

### Missalette in Concert

**What:** The Missalette group will perform their "Hymns that Rock" live at a concert March 15 at Rockford University.

**Cost:** \$10 per tickets.

**Info:** 815/226-4000.

Missalette CDs are available to buy at The Vineyard in Rockford.

Rita School.

"I think that singing these songs in a fun, upbeat way makes people want to listen and participate more in the Mass," she added.

St. James School seventh grader Francis Cichock joined Missalette as a way to "give back" to his church. "I like being a part of the choir because it gives me the chance to help

out our church by singing at Mass," he said. "Maybe my example will encourage other kids to see how they can help out at their parishes."



Cichock



The Missalette



## There's Still Time to Send Your Hearts for Lent

If you want to be a friend of the poor during Lent, taking part in Heart to Heart is the perfect way.

If you don't have a pair of hearts to decorate, ask an adult to help you download a picture at

<http://observer.rockforddiocese.org>. They'll need to click on Junior Observer, then on the Heart to Heart artwork.

Send your decorated double-hearts and a \$2 donation for each pair to The Junior Observer,

555 Colman Center Dr., P.O. Box 7044, Rockford, IL 61125. Do not mount your hearts on other paper because it adds to mailing costs.

The deadline to send your hearts and donation is **Good Friday, April 3, 2015**.