

The Junior Observer

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An Old Testament Story

King Josiah Revives the Covenant with God

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Catholic Courier

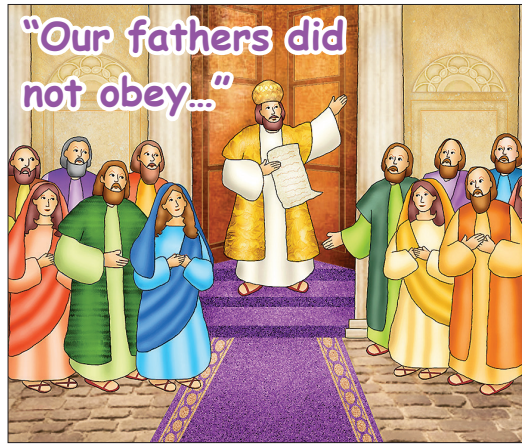
After King Solomon of Israel died, the kingdom was divided in two. The southern kingdom of Israel, which included the city of Jerusalem, became known as Judah.

Over the years that followed, there were some good kings of Judah who did what was right in God's eyes, and there were many bad kings who did what was evil and led the people into sin.

Manasseh was one of the evil kings. During his 55-year reign, he did not follow God. He built altars to false gods, even in God's Temple, and he did many other evil things that angered God.

When Manasseh's son, Amon, became king, he was no better. During his two-year rule, walked in all of his father's evil ways.

When Amon died, his son Josiah, who was 8, succeeded him as king. Josiah ruled for 31 years, and he walked in the ways of his ancestor, King David, and did what was right in God's eyes.



(Illustration/Linda Jeanne Rivers)

Bible Trivia

What command did Josiah issue to all the people? (Hint: 2 Kings 23:21)

Answer: Observe the Passover.

When King Josiah was 18, he sent the scribe Shaphan to the Temple. He wanted the high priest Hilkiah to calculate the valuables collected from the people and to have the workers make needed repairs.

When Hilkiah was fulfilling the king's command, he made a discovery.

"I have found the book of the law in the Temple of the Lord," he told Shaphan.

Shaphan brought the book of the law to Josiah and read it to him.

After hearing the book's contents, Josiah tore his garments.

"Go, consult the Lord for me, for the people, for all Judah, about the stipulations of this book that has been found, for the anger of the Lord has been set furiously ablaze against us, because our fathers did not obey the stipulations of this book, nor fulfill our written obligations," the king said to Hilkiah.

Josiah then summoned all the elders of Judah and Jerusalem and went up to the Temple with them and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

Josiah had the entire book of the law read out to them. He then made a covenant before God that all the people would follow Him and observe His ordinances, statutes and decrees with their whole hearts and souls.

Q&A

Who found the book of the law in the Temple?

Who had the book of the law read to the people?

Read more about it in 2 Kings 21, 22 & 23

Montini Students Celebrate Church's Birthday

MCHENRY—To celebrate the birthday of the Church — Pentecost — seventh-grade students at Montini Middle School threw a birthday party just ahead of the May 19 feast day. The festivities included reading from the Acts of the Apostles, wearing "Holy Spirit" party hats, and playing Pentecost Bingo, Holy Spirit Hopscotch and a variety of card games with languages from around the world.



(Photo provided/Casey Porch)

Montini Challenge Supports Children Through CASA

MCHENRY—In McHenry County, Court Appointed Special Advocates advocate in court for abused and neglected children through the CASA organization. To support the organization and help these advocates defend other children their age, Montini Middle Schools' eighth-grade students challenged the Montini Catholic Schools community to raise \$1300 in donations. To achieve their goal, the grades came together for activities, including phone calls to the community to obtain sponsors and some good-natured pie throwing. At the school's end-of-the-year assembly, the class of 2025 presented the donations to CASA.



(Photo provided/Casey Porch)

Coloring Contest Honorees Receive Gifts

DIOCESE—Shortly after the three winners and two honorees of the Diocesan Appeal Coloring Contest were chosen on May 15, prizes and gifts from the Office of Charitable Giving and *The Observer* were mailed to the young artists.

Clara Harp, winner of the ages 4-6 group; Francesca Jelinek, winner of the ages 7-9 group; and Madonna Szewczykowski, winner of the ages 10 and up group each received a gift bag with a coloring book, a children's book about a saint, holy cards, a scapular, a Culver's gift card and more from the Charitable Giving Office. *The Observer* also gave each winner lanyards featuring their artwork.

Two three-year-olds, Jake Zeiss and Teddy Juns, whose entries did not fall under any of the age groups, were also honored with gifts from the Charitable Giving Office and a "Littlest Observer" certificate from *The Observer*.

Note: No photos available for Francesca Jelinek, Jake Zeiss and Teddy Juns.



(Photo courtesy Brett and Beth Harp)

Clara Harp
(Ages 4-6 winner)



(Photo courtesy Madonna Szewczykowski)

Madonna Szewczykowski
(Ages 10+ winner)