



The Weight of a Mass: A Tale of Faith

Josephine Nobisso , Szegedi Katalin (Illustrator)

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When a poor devout widow begs for a scrap of bread from a rich faithless baker, she promises to participate in the king's wedding mass as payment for the baker's generosity. The baker writes "One Mass" on a scrap of paper and places it on his scale to determine how much bread it is worth. To his and the entire town's surprise, nothing in the shop, not even the gigantic wedding cakes made for the king, outweighs the simple piece of paper representing the true worth of a mass. Luminous old-world watercolor paintings grace the interior of the book and gold foil artwork lends an air of solemnity and sacred beauty to the story.

The Weight of a Mass: A Tale of Faith Details

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Author : Josephine Nobisso , Szegedi Katalin (Illustrator)

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From Reader Review The Weight of a Mass: A Tale of Faith for online ebook

Laura says

A beautiful story, and brilliantly illustrated. It has a few places where I felt the word choice took me out of the story a little, but overall it is a compelling look at how important faith is. The faith of a mustard seed can move mountains, and the weight of just one Mass can change the world. How easy it is to forget the importance and power of the spiritual world. There is so much more in the world than just what we can see.

booklady says

mass = density x volume

Actually I don't mean *that* kind of Mass. I never was very good at Science, sadly. But I do love this book! My friend, Joy, reminded me about it. It didn't come out until 2002 by which time both of my children had already received their First Holy Communion. I think they were past the 'playing Mass' stage by then too; they used to like to dress up in their past saints' days costumes and pretend they were saying and attending Mass.

This charming book is about another time when people stopped believing in the weight -- in the value -- of a Mass. The title is a play on words, but even though the story is light-hearted and the pictures colorful, you cannot help but see the underlying gravity (pun intended) of the message. And it is a message which needs to be heard as much today as ever before.

Suitable for all ages and faiths!

Karen says

"The Weight of a Mass" by Josephine Nobisso is lyrical and lovely and based on a true story. It's aimed at children learning about the Holy Eucharist and would make a thoughtful gift the next time you are invited to a child's First Holy Communion celebration. I am definitely not trying to diminish the mystery of the Eucharist- one which I will never fully understand - but this particular book just didn't give me goosebumps like I hope for when I read spiritual writing.

Eleventh says

A lovely tale with brilliant symbolism.

I was blown over by how simply and beautifully told this was....

Lina says

Such beautiful illustrations in this story. Sometimes I don't even read the book; I just stare at the pictures. They seem to tell the story in a deeper sense.

Michael Fitzgerald says

Luxembourg

The setting of this "original fable based on a true event" is never stated outright, though there is mention of a "schilling" which might hint at Austria, but the event on which the story is based occurred in Luxembourg. One account can be read at <http://www.traditioninaction.org/religious/h053rp.Mass.html>.

The story is very appealingly told. It changes a number of details, but creates a well-composed whole that effectively instills the message of the original. What is especially gratifying - and I almost overlooked this - is that the undersides of the dustjacket flaps contain probably four pages or more worth of insights in small type. The switch from butcher's to baker's shop, for example, was made to emphasize that Christ is the Bread of Life and that in the Mass, the bread becomes His flesh. In the great tradition of Catholic art, little bits of the illustrations have clues and symbolism. I was blown away by the depth of this book. It is so simple and can be taken as just a nice story (even with the religious subject matter), but look further and you find so much more behind it.

The illustrations are glorious, showing the majesty of the cathedral, the delicious food, and the various people, both rich and poor. They are painted with warm watercolors, and a variety of perspectives are used. The book's design uses full bleeds on every spread; never any margins, so the large images draw the reader in. The colors and makeup of the images are well planned to provide space for the text, which is presented in chunks of about four sentences per page, sometimes on one page per spread; sometimes on two. It's very attractive.

The author and illustrator have done at least one other book (Take It to the Queen: A Tale of Hope) that I am eager to see - I hope it lives up to the high standard set by this one.

Kristine says

A wonderfully symbolic tale with beautiful illustrations and a beautiful message. One of my sons received this book for Christmas in 2010; sad to say I think we read it once and forgot about it. Very happy to have found it, will be sure to read it to my Sunday school classes this year.

Treasa says

A faraway kingdom has grown less and less observant of their Catholic faith to the point where their king doesn't expect anyone to attend his wedding Mass. But on the day of the wedding, an old woman begs a baker to give her a crust of bread in exchange for her offering her Mass for him that evening. The baker,

scoffingly deciding to see just how much a Mass is worth, writes "one Mass" on a piece of paper and drops it on one side of his scale. Everyone in the shop is soon amazed to see just how much a Mass is truly worth.

I love this book. Just love it. It always makes me cry. The story is beautiful, the illustrations are gorgeous. And one of the coolest parts is that it's based on a true story. A beautiful way to try to explain to children (or remind anyone) just how valuable and important the Mass is.

Stuart says

The Weight of a Mass: A Tale of Faith is a gorgeous book written by Josephine Nobisso and illustrated by Katalin Szegedi. It reads like a fairy tale, but is based on a true story that happened in Luxembourg, which can be found in the back of the book. This tale focuses on a simple request from a poor widow to a stingy baker. In exchange for her Mass intention that night, all she wants is just one stale piece of bread. To no surprise, the baker refuses, and the rest of the book is spent with the baker trying to show the worth of one Mass compared to his baked goods. I won't spoil the ending for you, but I will say that it doesn't disappoint.

In this book, your children will learn lessons on faith, generosity, and kindness. Most importantly though, they will learn that the Mass is something which has value that can never be equaled, let alone outweighed, by human means. Whether the author intended it or not, this tale is also a tale of vocation, and that can be used to at least put the idea in your young children's heads that being a priest or other religious is a beautiful vocation in life. In today's world, we tend to want our kids to be rich and successful when they grow up, but this reinforces the fact that true riches and success come from God. Let us never let our children lose sight of this fact.

I give this book 5 out of 5 stars, because I can't give it 10 out of 5 stars. The illustrations are beautiful, but the story is gorgeous! I also appreciate that she explains the allegory of each part of the story on the inside flaps. It illuminated illustrations of the story that I didn't even consider. This is a book that every Catholic family should have in their home. In fact, I'm tempted to buy a copy for every child that I have. As a bonus, if you order directly from the website, the author will autograph the book and personalize it to your child. I love that, and it's amazing to me when authors do these little personal things.

HueL says

Would this kind of story work for kids ? The illustrations are messy, figures are elongated and looks weird. What it tries to tell is simple, but wonder if it would work for non-Christian. For christians or people with religion it may work or even very touching. For people with a background in science, the story sound a bit ridiculous. Because mass is a totally different thing to us.

Angie Libert says

Although written from a Catholic perspective, the principle of faith can be universally applied. An excellent book!

Alicia Thompson says

I'm pretty skeptical about reviews for religious books directed toward children. That being said, take this with a grain of salt, my seven-year-old son rated this book 5 stars.

I requested it from the library. When I got it out to read it to him, he told me he heard it before at his Sunday school class. I was really surprised at how excited he was to read it, so I thought I'd be blown away. While I liked it, I personally wouldn't give it 5 stars. I'd give it 4. But as I repeat over and over again, children's books are for children. His opinion holds more sway than mine, hence the rating. Regardless, if you're a Catholic family, I'd give it a read.

Erin says

This is a beautiful book with an inspiring religious message gifted to my nephews from a great aunt. Unfortunately at ages 2 and 4, there is a lot of text for them to feel invested.

LydiaMae says

A beautiful story with amazing illustrations, perfect for Catholic children.

Tirzah Eleora says

Such a beautiful book! Gorgeous illustrations for this simple, yet profound little story. I only wish it were longer!
