

KAIROS

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A CATHOLIC MAGAZINE FOR CHILDREN



WITHIN

The Miraculous Staircase

A Prayer and Saints who championed peace

PEACE
BE WITH YOU!



Jesus Youth

A Missionary Movement at the Service of the Church

The Miraculous Staircase (Loretto Chapel), Santa Fe, USA

In the year of 1878, an architect from France designed a beautiful chapel for the Sisters of Loretto, with a choir loft at the top. Sadly, he died before completing the project and when the chapel was nearly built, it was discovered that there was no staircase to reach the choir loft.

The sisters consulted with many carpenters but no one could give them an appropriate solution because of the lack of space to build a staircase inside.

So, the Sisters of Loretto started a novena to St. Joseph since he was the patron saint of carpenters. On the ninth day of the novena, a man with a donkey and a toolbox knocked on the door, looking for work. Upon discovering that he was a carpenter, the sisters invited him in to help solve their problem. He had one condition though. He wanted to work privately until the work was finished. The sisters agreed and the carpenter began his work. Days, weeks, and months went by, and the sisters would hear the carpenter working in the chapel. Finally, one day the sisters realised there wasn't any noise coming from the chapel. When they went there, they found a beautiful, spiral staircase with 33 steps.

Delighted with the staircase, they went looking for the carpenter but couldn't find him anywhere. They even went to the lumberyard to find out if the carpenter had got his wood from there. But they were surprised to

discover that the wood used in the staircase did not grow in any of those parts.

To this day, everyone believes that our beloved St. Joseph came and built this staircase. Not only that, but this spiral staircase stands without any support and was made without any nails.

I visited the Loretto chapel and was amazed at the beautiful staircase. I felt a little calm there in my mind. I hope you go one day to visit this chapel, too .



- JOANNA JOHN » 11 YRS » DALLAS, USA