

June 24, 2018: The Birth of John the Baptist; Vacation Bible School

Dear Parishioners,

Today we celebrate the solemnity of the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist. This event is so important in Salvation History that the Church calls it to mind every day of the year. Each morning, our clergy, professed religious, and laity who pray the Liturgy of the Hours put voice to the joyful Canticle of Zechariah (the acclamation which immediately follows the Gospel passage we heard today).

*Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; he has come to his people and set them free.
He has raised up for us a mighty savior, born of the house of his servant David.
Through his holy prophets, he promised of old that he would save us from our enemies,
from the hands of all who hate us.
He promised to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant.
This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham: to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.
You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to
prepare his way, to give his people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins.
In the tender compassion of our God, the dawn from on high shall break upon us, to shine on those
who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.*

What is it about the birth of John the Baptist that the Church feels the need to emphasize? John not only announces the arrival of Christ but also serves as a proto-apostle and prototype for our own responsibility to “go before the Lord to prepare his way.” John’s life is punctuated by going to great measures to help people prepare their hearts for the coming of God’s kingdom. Even as we pursue our own relationship with God, we must also find ways to “give [God’s] people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins.”

As a parish, we have just such an opportunity this coming week. Monday morning 94 children will converge on our campus to hear the message that Christ comes to rescue us. For some of these children, it will be the first time they’ve ever heard that Good News, for others it will be the first time they comprehend its meaning. This massive undertaking is the result of many hours of planning, and many willing hours of service given by dedicated volunteers. But the life-long impact it will have on the life of these children makes the effort worthwhile!

As the week progresses, pray for the volunteers and participants. Perhaps you know someone who isn’t yet enrolled; encourage them to visit our website and sign up (even now, it’s not too late). Most importantly, ask Jesus what your role is in preparing the way of the Lord.

Saint John the Baptist: Pray for us!



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