

June 24, 2018 The Nativity of Saint John the Baptist

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, June 23

5:00 p.m. +**Msgr. Michael Kseniak**
By Jim and Eileen Mattison

Sunday, June 24

8:00 a.m. +**Joseph C. Tran**
By Family

10:30 a.m. + **Marion Schmitt**
By Irma Marquart

Monday, June 25

8:45 a.m. **In Honor of our Lady of Peace**
By Bob and Debbie Smolar

Tuesday, June 26

8:45 a.m. +**Mary Young**
By Bill and Mary Theroux

Wednesday, June 27

8:45 a.m. **Parishioners of Saint Theodore Church**

Thursday, June 28 **NO MASS**

Friday, June 29

8:45 a.m. +**Paul J. Boccolini III**
By Mom, Dad and Ejvind

Saturday, June 30

5:00 p.m. +**Ronald Semonche**
By Family

Sunday, July 1

8:00 a.m. +**Joseph C. Tran**
By Family

10:30 a.m. +**Dolores A. Perez**
By Joan L. Mandel

Saint John the Baptist's Story

Saint John the Baptist is one of the few saints who has two feast days: his birth, June 24 and his death, August 29.



Today we celebrate his birth, which Saint Luke narrates in his Gospel. There Saint Luke draws a parallel between the births of Jesus and John, pointing out the important role in the history of salvation that Saint John the Baptist would play. Jesus called John the greatest of all those who had preceded him: "I tell you, among

those born of women, no one is greater than John. . . ." But John would have agreed completely with what Jesus added: "[Y]et the least in the kingdom of God is greater than he" (Luke 7:28).

John spent his time in the desert, an ascetic. He began to announce the coming of the Kingdom, and to call everyone to a fundamental reformation of life. His

purpose was to prepare the way for Jesus. His baptism, he said, was for repentance. But one would come who would baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire. John was not worthy even to untie his sandals. His attitude toward Jesus was: "He must increase; I must decrease" (John 3:30).

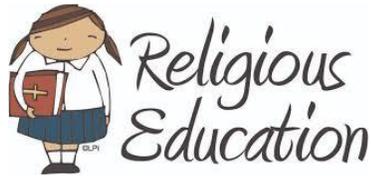
John was humbled to find among the crowd of sinners who came to be baptized the one whom he already knew to be the Messiah. "I need to be baptized by you" (Matthew 3:14b). But Jesus insisted, "Allow it now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness" (Matthew 3:15b). Jesus, true and humble human as well as eternal God, was eager to do what was required of any good Jew. Jesus thus publicly entered the community of those awaiting the Messiah. But making himself part of that community, he made it truly messianic.

The greatness of John, his pivotal place in the history of salvation, is seen in the great emphasis Luke gives to the announcement of his birth and the event itself—both made prominently parallel to the same occurrences in the life of Jesus. John attracted countless people to the banks of the Jordan, and it occurred to some people that he might be the Messiah. But he constantly deferred to Jesus, even to sending away some of his followers to become the first disciples of Jesus.

Perhaps John's idea of the coming of the Kingdom of God was not being perfectly fulfilled in the public ministry of Jesus. For whatever reason, when he was in prison he sent his disciples to ask Jesus if he was the Messiah. Jesus' answer showed that the Messiah was to be a figure like that of the Suffering Servant in Isaiah. John himself would share in the pattern of messianic suffering, losing his life to the revenge of Herodias.

Reflection

John challenges us Christians to the fundamental attitude of Christianity—total dependence on the Father, in Christ. Except for the Mother of God, no one had a higher function in the unfolding of salvation. Yet the least in the kingdom, Jesus said, is greater than he, for the pure gift that the Father gives. The attractiveness as well as the austerity of John, his fierce courage in denouncing evil—all stem from his fundamental and total placing of his life within the will of God.



2018-2019

Opening day: September 10

Monday 6:15 pm to 7:20 pm: Grades 1 - 4

Monday 6:15 pm to 7:25 pm: Grades 5 - 8

I encourage parents to register their children by July 17 (after July 17 the tuition is higher).

Registering early helps us to determine how many books to buy, how many classrooms needed (must negotiate with the township school in a timely manner concerning the number of classrooms desired), how many catechists and aides are needed. Last-minute and late registering is problematic on many levels for us.

I am asking you to please help us and register now while it is fresh in your mind. Thank you and God bless you. -- Fr. Damian

Registration forms can be found in the Narthex, on our web site

(www.sttheodorenj.com.) If you register on or before July 17: \$100 for one child, \$180 for two, \$220 for three or more children. Grades 2 & 8: Additional \$50 Sacramental Fee .

Cost per child if Mother or Father is

Catechist- \$50 for one child, \$90 for two, \$100 three or more, **additional \$25 Sacramental fee.**

If you register after July 17: \$120 for one child; \$200 for two, \$240 for three or more children.

Grades 2 & 8: additional \$50 Sacramental Fee.



St. Theodore Church participates in collecting food for the **Food Pantry in Washington, NJ.**

Donations are needed to feed the disadvantage in our area. If

you would like to take part in feeding the hungry, please drop off your nonperishable food in our Parish Center. Deliveries are made by parishioners on a regular basis. Thank you and God Bless.

Our Sunday Offering

June 3: \$2,745.21

June 3: Assessment Fund: \$782.

June 10: \$2,008.

June 17: \$2,002; Air Conditioning \$861.



**REQUESTS
— FOR —
PRAYER**

Stephen, Bridget M., Savannah Paine, Bobby Gross, Keira Hedges, Peter, Zachary, Logan Peter Saksa, Anna Saksa, Lauren Lane, Jay Mildrum, Philip Kinney, Peter S., Mary Supple, Mary Rupell, Susan Reynolds, Maryanne C., Robert Dicheck, Christian, Tara, Zoe, Teagan, Eric Harding, Kathy & Bob Y., Irma Marquart, Dolores Staiano, Gerard Schnaars, Glenda L., The Rasimowicz Family, Michael Dante, Joseph Boyle, Tony Santos, Tina Delrosso, Gaspar Scozzati, Eleanor D., Tom and Jean C.

Interested in Becoming Catholic?

The RCIA, which stands for Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, is a process through which non-baptized men and women enter the Catholic Church. It includes several stages marked by study, prayer and rites at Mass. Participants in the RCIA are known as catechumens. They undergo a process of conversion as they study the Gospel, profess faith in Jesus and the Catholic Church, and receive the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist. This process is also for children who have not been baptized and have reached the age of seven (**RCIC**).

If a person has been baptized in another Christian tradition, the initiation process prepares you to enter into full communion with the Catholic Church by celebrating the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist.

Are You a Baptized Catholic and have not received the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist?

RCIA Sessions are also for the completion of the initiation sacraments for Baptized Catholics.

Please Join us; for more information please call 908- 689- 8318, ext 1.