

# NATIVITY OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

### **INTRODUCTION TO THE LITURGY OF THE DAY!**

### FIRST READING: Isaiah 49:1 - 6

Isaiah foretold the birth of a man called to serve the Lord. He would be like a sharp-edged sword, a polished arrow, a light to the nations.

### SECOND READING: Acts 13:22 - 26

John heralded Jesus' coming by proclaiming a baptism of repentance. John was not the Messiah but the forerunner of the One who was to come.

### **GOSPEL READING: Luke 1:57 - 66, 80**

Elizabeth's time for delivery had come, and she gave birth. She and Zechariah named her child John. Zechariah became able to speak once again. While still in the womb, John the Baptist was called to prepare the people for the coming of the Lord. We hear today from Jeremiah or Isaiah, two prophets also called by the Lord before they were born. We ourselves were not called by God in such a dramatic way. Yet by virtue of our baptism, each of us also shares in Christ's prophetic and salvific mission. As we listen to the readings today, let us think about how we have been called.

### MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

### Saturday Mass (Sunday Observance):

5:00 PM: Lionel Hilaire (deceased) rb Jean Dragin.

### **Sunday Masses:**

7:30 AM: God's wisdom and guidance for John Antoine rb His parents.

10:00 AM: God's guidance and protection for Marilyn Louis, the Louis' and Maynard family.

5:00 PM: God's healing, deliverance and blessings for the Haitian community.

### **Daily Masses:**

Mon. June 25, 7:00 AM: St. William of Vercelli Dwan Sweeney (d) rb The Children of Mary.

Tues. June 26, 7:00 AM: St. Josemaria Escriva Deceased Eustache, Titre and Toussaint familes rb Mary Antoine.

Wed. June 27, 7:00 AM: St. Cyril of Alexandria God's guidance and protection for the children and grandchildren of Eve Ogiste rb Eve Ogiste.

Thurs. June 28, 7:00 AM: St. Irenaeus Kathleen Farro (d) rb Estelle Farro.

Fri. June 29, 7:00 AM: Sts. Peter & Paul God's guidance and protection for Eve Ogiste rb Eve Ogiste.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**SECOND COLLECTION:** This week's second collection goes towards the Peter's Pence. Next week's second collection will go towards the Renovation Fund. As always we thank you for your generosity.

Today is the Peter's Pence Collection, a worldwide collection that supports the charitable works of Pope Francis. Funds from this collection help victims of war, oppression, and natural disasters. Take this opportunity to join with Pope Francis and be a witness of charity to our suffering brothers and sisters. Please be generous today. For more information, visit www.usccb.org/peters-pence.

**ETERNAL CANDLE:** This week the Eternal Candle is burning for **birthday** blessings for Veda Henry, requested by her family. You can request the Eternal Candle for your loved ones' birthdays or any special occasions.

HOLY FAMILY HEALTH MINISTRY: Health care professionals and interested persons are encouraged to attend an organizing and planning meeting on Tuesday, June 26, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. in Lower Columban Hall for the purpose of reactivating the Health Ministry. Questions can be directed to Candace Bryan at (340) 228-1912.

**BREAKFAST SALE:** The Dominica Association of St. Thomas will host a breakfast sale on Saturday, June 30, 2018, in Holy Family parking lot, from 7:00 a.m. to 12 noon. Thank you for your support.

ADORATION: Adoration to the Blessed Sacrament continues every Wednesday, after the 7:00 a.m. mass to conclude at 5:00 p.m., and every **Friday** from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Jesus is available for you to spend time with Him.

**CATHOLIC CHARITIES:** Catholic Charities has the following vacancies: FULL-TIME FINANCIAL OFFICER - General accounting duties to include preparation of monthly and quarterly federal and local grant reports and budgets, yearly agency budgets and financial statements.

CASE MANAGER – General case management duties include the managing of cases by assessing needs; developing service plans and providing referrals to mainstream services.

**CLERICAL ASSISTANT (2)** –Duties include filing, handling correspondence, maintaining data using computer or manual systems, and other general office duties.

**SECURITY OFFICER**– General duties include, but are not limited to, ensuring the security of Bethlehem House Shelter, receiving and recording of in kind donations, conflict resolution and ensuring the safety of all residents while on dutv.

Interested persons may submit their application to *ccusvi@outlook.com* or Call 340-777-8518 for further information. Applications may also be dropped off at the office on #42 Kronprindsens Gade, St. Thomas.

**NEW ADDRESS:** Bishop Elliott Thomas has recently relocated to the St. John Newman Residence in Timonium, Maryland. Below is his new mailing address in case you want to send him well wishes - especially since he will be celebrating his 92nd birthday on July 15th. Please continue to keep him in your prayers. His new address is as follows:

Most Rev. Elliott G. Thomas, Retired St. John Newman Residence **2300 Dulaney Valley Road** Timonium, MD 21093

Today the Church celebrates the birthday of John the Baptist. The coming of the long awaited Messiah needed preparation and John the Baptist carried out that task brilliantly. John the Baptist and Jesus are cousins who were born six months apart. John had a short though vibrant mission. His life was cut short abruptly by Herod whose immoral marital union with Herodias John had questioned. John was imprisoned and eventually executed by Herod. It was a senseless act from Herod to execute John because it was to honor a foolish pledge made to Salome, the daughter of Herodias, his wife. The circumstances of John's birth are told elaborately in the 1st chapter of Luke's Gospel. John had a miraculous conception because his parents Zechariah and Elizabeth were elderly. They are described as being upright in the sight of God, observing all the Lord's commandments and regulations blamelessly (Lk 1:6). The motifs of the child of aged parents, the announcement of the birth by an angel, and the divinely chosen name echo the narratives of Abraham, Isaac, Samson and Samuel. That John lived an austere life is well documented in the Gospel of Mark. His early ministry took place in the wilderness of Judea and in the Jordan valley. The main theme of his preaching was the nearness of the messianic age and the need for adequate spiritual preparation to be ready for it. His mission was to prepare the people for the advent of the Messiah so that when he made his appearance, they would recognize and accept him. His message did not harmonize with what many of his hearers expected, for while they looked for deliverance from and judgement on the foreign oppressor, John said that the Messiah would separate the good from the bad and would cast into the fire any tree that did not bring forth good fruit. Many of the Jews, especially the Pharisees, thought that they would enter the kingdom of God automatically, simply because they were physically descended from Abraham; but ohn declared in no uncertain terms

### LITURGY AND WORD

### **STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE**

Every week the report on stewardship will include our gifts of time, talent, and treasure. In gratitude to God, we give of our first fruits to help fulfill God's mission of love here on earth.

Attendance: Last Weekend: 426 Last Weekend's collections FIRST COLLECTION: \$5,826.00 Youth Ministry: \$1,276.62

*Our Bishop's Appeal contribution for* 2018 amounted to \$23,409.00, 59% of our goal of <u>\$40,000.00</u>. As always we thank you for your continuous contribution towards our Bishop's Appeal. Once again, thank you.



that this was not the case at all. He called on them to repent sincerely of their sins and to be baptized. The baptism by water that he administered signified a break with and cleansing from sin. His baptism prepared the people for a new life. So far the Jews baptized only the Gentiles, but he called on Jews to baptize themselves; and his baptism was a baptism in preparation for the messianic baptism of the Spirit anticipated by the prophets. The Gospels tell us that John met his death through the vindictiveness of Herodias, whom John had denounced for her sin of living in adultery with Herod. John the Baptist was an ascetic, and conducted a ministry in the Judean wilderness that involved preaching and baptism. His popularity and the revolutionary possibilities of his message of social justice led to his arrest, imprisonment, and execution by Herod Antipas, probably in A.D. 28 or 29.

