

From the Pastor's Desk:

Dear Friends:

Today we celebrate the birth of St. John the Baptist. He was the son of Zechariah and Elizabeth. Luke tells us the angel Gabriel announced his birth to his father Zechariah and gave him the name John, which means "God is gracious". While still in his mother's womb, John recognized the presence of Jesus by leaping when Mary visited Elizabeth. It is the moment when John the Baptist was cleansed of original sin. The angel Gabriel had previously promised Zechariah that John would be filled with the Holy Spirit even while in the womb, and this promise was fulfilled when he was cleansed of original sin when Mary visited his mother Elizabeth. John left his parents to live the life of a prophet in the desert. He preached in the desert dressed like an Old Testament prophet, wearing a garment of camel-skin and eating locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed the kingdom of God and a coming judgment, and invited people to accept baptism as a sign of their repentance. His message spread far and wide. Mark says all Jerusalem and Judea made their way to him and as they were baptized in the Jordan they confessed their sins.

We see John's humility when he did not want attention on himself but directed people to Jesus. People began to wonder if John was the Messiah so he reassured them that he was not. He declared that his ministry was preparing for the coming of the Messiah, "I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." (Mark 1:8) When Jesus came to John asking for baptism, John recognized Jesus at once and said, "Look, there is the lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world." These words have found their way into the prayer of Mass; when the priest holds up the Sacred Host as we prepare for Holy Communion he says, "This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world..." Jesus began his public ministry after he had been baptized by John.

We see John's great courage in condemning the marriage of Herod to Herod's brother's wife. Herod had John arrested and put in prison. John stood up for the truth and unfortunately like many who stand up for the truth today he had to pay a price. John's courage in upholding the dignity of marriage and condemning the adulterous relationship of Herod and Herodias was to result in his death by beheading in prison. John's courage in upholding the truth about marriage, challenges us in a time when it is not popular to speak the truth or live by the truth. John turning attention away from himself towards Jesus reminds us to do the same in our lives. In each of us, we ourselves are to decrease and Jesus is to increase.

God Bless You!

Fr. Madanu Lourdu Raju

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FORMATION ANNOUNCEMENTS CCD: Catholic Christian Discipleship

When John the Baptist was born, the neighbors of Elizabeth and Zechariah asked "What then, will this child be? For surely the hand of the Lord was with him." Perhaps that question goes through the minds of all parents as each child is born. What will this child be? John the Baptist came out of the desert, began to preach, and proclaimed a baptism of repentance. Among those he baptized was his cousin, Jesus of Nazareth. Like John the Baptist, parents are called to take the next step and have each child baptized. They set the child on the way of Jesus. John the Baptist died as a martyr at the hand of King Herod. Each child's life may require some sacrifices to fulfill their calling in life. We pray for all parents and children to be faithful to their baptismal calling.

+ Have you asked your children to pray for good weather? Children's prayers are powerful.

Blessings, ~ Sister Marianna

OUR WEEKLY GIVING

Ss. Peter & Paul			
Adult Envelopes	\$	1,115.00	
Loose		313.00	
Total		1,428.00	
Total from June 18, 2017		1,214.00	
Building Fund		140.00	
National Concerns		180.00	
St. Stanislaus			
Adult Envelopes	\$	255.00	
Loose		123.00	
Total		378.00	
Total from June 18, 2017		377.00	
National Concerns		107.00	
St. John			
Adult Envelopes	\$	577.00	
Loose		213.00	
Total		790.00	
Total from June 18, 2017		491.60	
Building Fund		10.00	
Votive Lights		5.50	
National Concerns		85.00	
St. Michael			
Adult Envelopes	\$	330.00	
Loose		172.00	
Total		502.00	
Total from June 18, 2017		273.00	

(Totals include only the basic collection)
2017/2018 Catholic Services Appeal

Contributor Status Report as of 6/1/18

	Assessment	Received	Amount Due
Ss. Peter & Paul	\$ 11,179.00	\$ 8,945.00	\$ 2,234.00
St. John	\$ 8,721.00	\$ 5,350.00	\$ 3,371.00
St. Stanislaus	\$ 5,249.00	\$ 3,276.00	\$ 1,973.00
St. Michael	\$ 2,509.00	\$ 2,509.00	PAID in FULL

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OUR SPONSOR THIS WEEK

KNIGHTS of COLUMBUS

FR. KOLMAN COUNCIL - GILMAN

WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

SHELDON - LUBLIN - JUMP RIVER - GILMAN



Serving Others
in God's Love
Religious Freedom Week
June 22-29, 2018

People of faith are committed to serving others in God's love in healthcare, child welfare, migration and refugee resettlement, education, and more. Religious freedom protects the space in which we can continue to serve. Religious Freedom Week begins June 22, the Feast of Ss. Thomas More and John Fisher. Join Catholics across