

The Nativity of St. John the Baptist

June 24, 2018

Who am I to speak God's word to others? Jeremiah balks at his mission: "I know not how to speak; I am too young" (1:6). Peter, though enthusiastic and impetuous, is accused of being of little faith and would go on deny his association with Jesus. Yet both are trusted by God to speak the word of God and God gives each the power to do so. "See, I place my words in your mouth!" the Lord says to Jeremiah (1:9). After Peter confesses that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, Jesus selects Peter to receive the keys to the kingdom of heaven. God provides the ability and the confidence to allow Jeremiah and Peter to preach in the Lord's name.

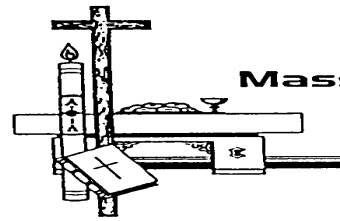
Isaiah and Paul spend much of their lives preaching about the Messiah. Isaiah prophesied about the one who would be sent by God to save the Chosen People. Paul spread the Good News of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles. Interestingly, today's first and second readings both end with the same subject: salvation. Isaiah writes that the Lord wants "my salvation (to) reach to the ends of the earth" (Isaiah 49:6). Paul says that "to us this word of salvation has been sent" (Acts 13:26). The Messiah brings salvation to all and Isaiah and Paul, like John the Baptist, took it upon themselves to preach this message to everyone.

Traditionally, a saint's day is celebrated on the anniversary of their death, since that day marks the day of their entrance into heaven. But we also celebrate John the Baptist on the day of his birth. Perhaps this is because he was called by God before he was born. Luke writes that John the Baptist was filled with the Holy Spirit in his mother's womb (Luke 1:15). But let us not forget that the Holy Spirit came to each of us when we were baptized.

God called John the Baptist to prepare the way for Jesus. In baptism, God calls us to prepare the way for Jesus in the world today. John the Baptist completed his mission by purifying himself in the desert, then traveling throughout the region, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sin, teaching people to be honest and generous, and preparing them for the Messiah.

Question of the Week

How can I prepare the way for Jesus in my corner of the world? Can I recognize a desert somewhere in my world that is without Jesus' message of hope and comfort?



Mass Intentions

Saturday, June 23, 2018

Vigil of the Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00p.m. Darrell and Elodie Gabriel – Bruce Gabriel – Francis Hai Cao – Joseph Ngan Cao and Mary Pham – Leonard Belton – Gerald Fleury – Ellsworth McKendall – Tu Tran – Lloyd Bradshaw Family – Ruth Bass Cornwell – \Intentions of Randy Cruell

Sunday, June 24, 2018

Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30a.m. Darrell & Elodie Gabriel – Bruce Gabriel – Joseph Ngan Cao & Mary Pham – France Hai Cao – Earthy B. Lazard – Walter Banks, III – Lawrence Miller, Jr. – Melvina Kepp – Corrine Singletary – Nathaniel Wilson, Sr. – Paul and Doris Andoh – Calvin Tate – Beverly Wilkerson – Maria Pham – Tu Tran – Leontine Coleman – Intentions of Stacey Martin and Family – Kayla Henry – Kelsey Trentzsch – Tanya Richard – Shakia Rogers

10:30a.m. Lamar & Shirley Smith – Lordeas Glapion Nix – Charles and Marjorie Valteau – Cinque Stallworth – Gina Greenlee – Tu Tran – Fred and Dorothy Johnson

12:00p.m. Gina Greenlee – Tu Tran – Intentions of the Deslie Ann Isidore – Parishioners of St. Maria Goretti Parish – Elysian Fields St. Joseph Altar

Monday, June 25, 2018

8:30a.m. Joseph Ngan Cao & Mary Pham – Charles Winchell, Jr. – Maria Pham – Tu Tran – Ellsworth McKendall – All poor souls – Intentions of Stacey Martin and Family

Tuesday, June 26, 2018

8:30a.m. Joseph Ngan Cao & Mary Pham – Maria Pham – Tu Tran – Ellsworth McKendall – Intentions of Stacey Martin and Family – Patricia Casmire

Wednesday, June 27, 2018

8:30a.m. Joseph Ngan Cao and Mary Pham – Joseph Cong Cao – Peter & Mary Kham Nguyen – Maria Pham – Edgar Morgan – Tu Tran – Intentions of Stacey Martin and Family

Thursday, June 28, 2018

8:30a.m. Joseph Ngan Cao & Mary Pham – Maria Pham – Tu Tran – All souls in purgatory – Intentions of Stacey Martin and Family – Patricia Casmire and Family

Friday, June 29, 2018

8:30a.m. Joseph Ngan Cao & Mary Pham – Maria Pham – Tu Tran – Intentions of Stacey Martin and Family – Patricia Casmire and Family

Saturday, June 30, 2018

8:30a.m. Maria Pham – Tu Tran – The Living and Deceased Benefactors of the Catholic Negro American Mission.

Announcements

“Eucharist Adoration – It really is Jesus strengthening us and renewing us in His love, His joy, and His peace.”
 Eucharistic Adoration Monday – Friday, 9:00a.m. – 12:00 Noon and Saturdays, 12:00 noon – 3:00pm.

Dare to Be Different! Dare to Be Great!
 The Bible Study for **The Nativity of St. John the Baptist** is based on the readings for **The Nativity of St. John the Baptist Year B: Reading I: Isaiah 49:1-6; Responsorial Psalm: 1:39:1b-3, 13-14ab, 14c-15; Reading II: ACTS 13:22-26; Gospel Luke 1:57-66, 80.** The bible study can be found on our parish website smgnola.com/Bible Study, and it can be downloaded for your personal use. Bible will resume June 25, 2018 in the Center at 7:00p.m. **Come and be warmed by the word of God.**

The Annual St. Maria Goretti Gospel Concert for Haiti will take place on July 15, 2018 from 3:30 - 5:00p.m. in the Church. Tickets are \$10 and will be available after all weekend masses beginning June 10, 2018 until the concert. All proceeds are dedicated to rebuilding our partner in Haiti, St. Threse De L'Enfant Jesus and supporting the parish school.



Thursdays, 8:00p.m. in the Center where you might win and have some fun with friends & family.

RCIA

The Bible Study theme for the **Solemnity of the Nativity of Joh the Baptist. During Ordinary Time, we live our great commission to bring others into God’s community of love called His Church. In gratitude for that great love, we embrace the need to renew and strengthen our faith in Jesus Christ. I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people (PS 22:26-27).**

The RCIA will commence its summer schedule and will meet July 19, 2018 at 7:00 in the Chapel.

For more information contact the RCIA Team: Deacon Terrel J. Broussard, Harold Broussard, Sheila Thompson, or any member by email at tbroussard@smgnola.com, or visit the website at <http://www.smgnola.com>.

We welcome everyone into our parish. If you have not filled out a census card, the cards can be found on the table at the entrance of the church.



Sanctuary Lamp

The Sanctuary Lamp in the Church for this week will burn for the intentions of Memory Britsch
 The Sanctuary Lamps in the chapel this week will burn in memory of Jesse Gibson and Tu Tran.

In Our Parish

- Monday, June 25, 2018**
 9:00a.m. Altar Society Cookie Bake Preparations – Center
 6:00p.m. Raido Rosary – Rms. 3 & 4
 6:00p.m. Zumba Exercise Class – Center
- Tuesday, June 26, 2018**
 12:00p.m. AARP – Center & Kitchen
 6:00p.m. ENONAC – Rms. 3 & 4
 7:00p.m. First Place Class – Rm. 10
 7:00p.m. Holy Name Executive Board Meeting – Library
- Wednesday, June 27, 2018**
 10:30a.m. Senior Dance Class – Center
 6:00p.m. Exercise Class – Center
 7:00p.m. Liturgical Dance – Center
 7:00p.m. Catholic Men’s Fellowship – Library
- Thursday, June 28, 2018**
 6:00p.m. Bingo – Center
- Friday, June 29, 2017**
 9:00a.m. Altar Society Cookie Bake Preparations – Center
 12:15p.m. Low Impact Exrecise Class – Center
- Saturday, June 30, 2018**
 7:00a.m. Altar Society Cookie Bake Preparations – Center & Kitchen
 10:30a.m. Just Faith Feeding – St. Jude
 7:00p.m. Family Movie Night – Center & Kitchen
 7:00p.m. KC Social –Center & Kitchen, Rms. 3, 4 & 10

Prayer for Hurricane Season

O God, Master of this passing world, hear the humble voices of your children. The Sea of Galilee obeyed your order and returned to its former quietude. You are still the Master of the land and sea. We live in the shadow of a danger over which we have no control: the Gulf, like a provoked and angry giant, can awake from its seeming lethargy, overstep its conventional boundaries, invade the land and spread chaos and disaster.

During this hurricane season we turn to you, O Loving Father. Spare us from past tragedies whose wounds seem to refuse to heal. With passing of time. O Virgin, Star of the Sea, Our Beloved Mother, we ask you to plead with your son in our behalf, so that spared from the calamities common to this area and animated with a true spirit of gratitude, we will walk in the footsteps of your Divine Son to reach heavenly Jerusalem where a stormless eternity awaits us. Amen.