

The Nativity of Saint John the Baptist June 24, 2018



MASS SCHEDULE AND INTENTIONS: JUNE 23 TO JULY 1

(L) indicates a living intention

Saturday	June 23	Nativity of St. John the Baptist
4:30 pm	Vito Marcario & family	Rina Della Rocca
Sunday	June 24	
9:00 am	In thanksgiving to St. Anthony & St. Jude	Audrey Poisson
11:00 am	Our Parishioners	
Monday	June 25	
8:30 am	Joan Pinto	The Bocarro Family
Tuesday	June 26	
8:30 am	Ernest Cassidy	Maurice Bluteau
Wednesday	June 27	
8:30 am	Catherine Guenette	Marie Meier
Thursday	June 28	
8:30 am	Jennifer Kitchen	Barbara Percival
Friday	June 29	
8:30 am	Rosalie Mennillo	Rosemary & Alex Della Rocca
Saturday	June 30	Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
		Canada Day
4:30 pm	Leonard Bocarro	Teresa Listorti
Sunday	July 1	
9:00 am	Carol Garneau & Robert Barras	Mark Barras
11:00 am	Our Parishioners	

SANCTUARY LAMP (Week)

June 24: For the deceased members of the Reuben and Quelch families.

July 1: Charles Kerr, requested by Marie Foggo

LORD, GRANT MERCY AND LASTING PEACE to those who died recently and strength and comfort to those who mourn them:

Tray Ferdinand, son of James & Linda, brother of Kyree and Keisha

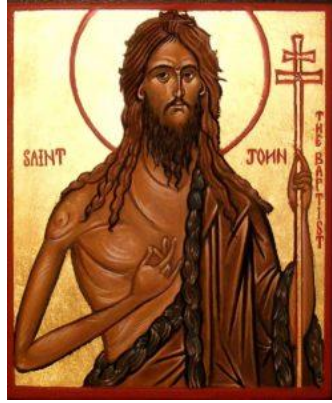
THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR JUNE 16/17

Offerings: \$5, 392.95

Next special collection: July 8 – Helping Others

BECKET PANTRY NEEDS: fruit, yellow & green beans, corn niblets; gravy, stew, zoodles, salmon, Prem & tinned meats, tomatoes, tomato sauce, rice (small & large packages) dry pasta, crackers, tea bags, sugar, cereal, jam, jello & pudding, cookies juice, cake mix, muffin mix, Kleenex, dish soap, laundry soap. Our stock is very low. Please remember the poor this summer. Thank you.

FEAST OF THE BIRTH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST



St. John the Baptist, the son of Zachary and Elizabeth, straddles both the Old and New Testaments. His parents were reckoned as "just before God". John the Baptist is a major figure in the **history of salvation**. While in his mother's womb, he recognised the **Saviour**; his birth was accompanied by great **signs**; he retired to the desert where he led a life of **austerity and penance**; "Prophet of the Most High", the word of God descended on him; "he went through the whole of the Jordan district proclaiming a **baptism of repentance** for the forgiveness of sins"; like the new Elijah, humble

and strong, he prepared his people to receive the Lord; in accordance with God's saving plan, he baptized the Saviour of the World in the waters of the Jordan; to his disciples, he showed that Jesus was "the Lamb of God", "the Son of God", the Bridegroom of the new messianic community; he was imprisoned and decapitated by Herod for his heroic witness to the truth, thereby becoming the **Precursor** of the Lord's own violent death, as he had been in his prodigious birth and prophetic preaching. Jesus praised him by attributing to him the glorious phrase "of all children born to women, there is **no one greater** than John".

Devotion to St. John the Baptist has been present in the Christian Church since ancient times. In addition to the celebration of his death (29 August), of all the Saints he is the only one (besides Jesus and Mary) whose birth is also celebrated. In all probability, the date of John the Baptists' birth was fixed in relation to that of Christ: according to what was said by the Angel Gabriel, when Mary conceived Our Saviour, **Elizabeth** had already been with child for six months. The date of 24 June is also linked to the solar cycle of the Northern hemisphere. The feast is celebrated as the sun begins to decline: a phenomenon that was taken to symbolize John the Baptist who said in relation to Jesus: "**He must increase, I must decrease.**" In virtue of having baptised Jesus in the Jordan, many baptistries are dedicated to him. He is the **patron saint** of those condemned to death or who have been imprisoned for the witness to the faith. John's mission of witnessing to the light lies at the origin of the custom of blessing bonfires on **St John's Eve**—or at least gave a Christian significance to the practice. The Church blesses such fires, praying God that the faithful may overcome the darkness of the world and reach the "indefectible light" of God.

The Directory of Popular Piety and the Liturgy, The Vatican

FLOWER DONATIONS: Help us keep our sanctuary beautiful over the summer months by making a contribution to our memorial flower fund. A donation box is available at the back of the church. Please include an envelope with your intention, your name address, telephone number, and envelope box if applicable. Thank you!

FAITH FIRST NEWS Registration is now open for new and returning families for the 2018-2019 year. Faith First is a six-year religious education program beginning in grade one, with First Communion celebrated in grade two, and Confirmation celebrated in grade six, once all requirements are met. Please register online at www.becket.ca

Please note that the Faith First office will be closed part of the summer, with online registration remaining open throughout the summer.

BEAUTIFYING OUR CHURCH GROUNDS Many thanks to warden Siro Di Marco and his company, P pini re Pierrefonds, for the beautiful plantings they have provided at the main entrance and Marian shrine.

HERE'S A QUESTION ON ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST



Was John the Baptist born without original sin?

Our faith teaches that four individuals were born without sin. Jesus, because he is God, could not know sin, even in his human person. The Virgin Mary was preserved from sin by a unique act of God from the moment of her conception so, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* reminds us, she might “become the mother of the Saviour” (see Nos. 490-492). It also teaches, “Adam and Eve were constituted in an original ‘state of holiness and justice’ ” (No. 375). Our first parents were “not only ... good, but ... in a state that would be surpassed only by the glory of the new creation in Christ” (No. 374).

What shall we say of John the Baptist? Jesus’ own testimony ranks John highly: “Among those born of women there has been none greater than John the Baptist” (Mt 11:11). However, John laboured under the same burden of original sin as any of us, as we might surmise from his words to Jesus at the Jordan, “I need to be baptized by you” (Mt 3:14). This in no way diminishes John’s majesty, or the importance of his preaching. His is the last voice of the Old Testament prophets, and he completes their witness to the long-awaited Messiah.

~ *Father Reginald Martin*

FEAST OF ST. PETER & ST. PAUL: June 29



Saints Peter and Paul are the principle pillars of the Church founded by Christ. **Saint Peter** was chosen by Christ to be his first **Vicaron** earth, he was endowed with powers of the **keys of the kingdom** of heaven (Mt 16:13-19) and charged with the role of **Shepherd** of Christ's flock (Jn 21:15-17). In St. Peter and his successors (**the popes**), we have a visible sign of unity and communion in faith and charity. Divine grace led St. Peter to profess Christ's divinity. St. Peter was **martyred** in about the year 64 AD.

Saint Paul was chosen to form part of the apostolic college by Christ himself on the road to Damascus (Acts 9:1-16). He is the greatest **missionary** of all time. St. Paul was beheaded in the *Tre Fontane* along the Via Ostiense in Rome and buried nearby, on the site where the basilica bearing his name now stands.

SUMMER HOLIDAYS

It is easy to become **consumed by work** and the toils of daily life. Some years ago, Pope Benedict XVI recommended that on vacation we spend time with **others** and with **God**. He characterizes vacation as a time for rest and contact with God, people, nature, and culture. It is not a time away from Christ so Sunday Mass is essential. Why not take a Bible along on vacation for spiritual reading and prayer, and visit some sacred places (shrines, monasteries, churches) as well as contemplating the splendour of God’s creation in nature? Since today’s lifestyles leave little room for silence, reflection and being in touch with nature it has become necessary to be able to re-fortify one’s body and spirit with a relaxing vacation. *Today’s Catholic News*

GOING ON VACATION?

Please **do not forget** your parish while you are away! Make-up envelopes can be dropped in the collection basket or mailed to the parish office. Your weekly support is vital to your parish’s ongoing operation. We thank you for your continued **generosity** and **support** of St. Thomas à Becket.