

Week of June 24, 2018

MONDAY

2 Kgs 17:5-8,13-15,18 * Ps 60:3-5,12-13 * Mt 7:1-5

TUESDAY

2 Kgs 19:9-11,14-21,31-36 * Ps 48:2-4,10-11 * Mt 7:6,12-14

WEDNESDAY 8:00am Mass

2 Kgs 22:8-13, 23:1-3 * Ps 119:33-37,40 * Mt 7:15-20

THURSDAY 8:00am Mass

2 Kgs 24:8-17 * Ps 79:1-5,8-9 * Mt 7:21-29

FRIDAY

Acts 12:1-11 * Ps 34:2-9 * 2 Tm 4:6-8,17-18 * Mt 16:13-19

SATURDAY 4:30pm Mass

Lam 2:2,10-14,18-19 * Ps 74:1-7,20-21 * Mt 8:5-17

SUNDAY 9:30am Mass (No summer Nursery or CLOW)

Wis 1:13-15; 2:23-24 * Ps 30:2,4-6,11-13 * 2 Cor 8:7,9,13-15 * Mk 5:21-43



John the Baptist

Parish Activities

June 27- July 1 Mission Trip in David KY.

July 1-July 17 Fr. Tom on vacation.

Shh...Our Pastor has a couple of days coming up that we need to acknowledge! Fr. Tom will celebrate his 49th anniversary of Ordination on June 28 and the 76th anniversary of his birth on July 5. For all he has done and continues to do for us, wouldn't it be great to stuff his mailbox with good wishes, words of encouragement and gratitude for his continued presence in our part of creation!

VBS registration forms are due now – Monday June 25th!

Fall Raffle: After having tickets available for two weeks in the church, those that weren't picked up were mailed to registered members. It's an annual fundraiser. The proceeds are usually in the neighborhood of \$4,500. For the past several years, we designated a request by the school as the beneficiary. To that end a couple of school parents took charge of the raffle. This was always difficult because of employment obligations and our parish office hours. We recruited volunteers from the parish at large to oversee the raffle. Is the school going to be shortchanged because of it? Certainly not!!

Auburn Area Catholic School is a parish school. At least 40% of the school expenses (about 160,000 per year) comes from the parish. That amounts to more than our best collection of the month each month of the year. Whatever is garnered from the raffle will help us maintain our support of the school. Hopefully, all the school parents recognize this end and are grateful for what the parish does. *Fr. Tom*

Stewardship

Weekly Target: \$11,538.47 * Offering: \$9,243.80
Food Pantry: \$35.00 * Priests Retirement: \$2,878.00

CSA: There is still some activity (3 new pledges totaling \$550.00), so the offer remains open! We are now at 92% of our target. We know that 68% of the parish has responded. What we don't know is what the other 32% are going to do. Why not surprise us?? *Fr. Tom*

Children's G@od Deeds: My Good Deed was...

...I helped make my dad breakfast. ...help my Mom clean the pool.
...I was the best kid on vacation. ...I babysitted my aunt's dog.

The Parish in the Community

► **Election Inspectors** needed: Minimum age 16, no prior experience necessary, training sessions will be held in June/July. Applications available at Monitor Township Hall. Get involved in the election process!

Kristol's Law: Being frustrated is disagreeable, but the real disasters in life begin when you get what you want. *Irving Kristol*

Luce's Law: No good deed goes unpunished. *Clare Boothe Luce*

Education/Formation

Family Talk Time Celebrating Sunday for Catholic Families, Sara McGinnis Lee
Is your name important to you?

► **Reflecting on the Word:** John clearly has an important role to play in the story of Jesus. From the beginning these men are linked. Elizabeth brought Mary tidings when John, even in the womb, recognized Jesus. However, his vital part can only be played if he chooses to do it. Therefore, we see that the acts and miracles of Jesus came from a network of courage and support through people like John and Mary and many others. We never know when our acts may be just as vital. The people in our life could have a profound impact on the world with our support, love and guidance.

► **Living the Word:** There is power and much meaning in a name. In today's reading, we see how much some wanted to call John a name that would not be his. Spend some time exploring the meaning of your full names. Explore both the meaning of the words and the family meaning in context. If anyone goes by a nickname, discuss that as well. Invite family members to make visual images of their names, reflecting their personality and likes, or a poem using each letter of their name to come up with a word.

Auburn Area Catholic School

► **AACS Kitchen Cook/Manager:** Approximately 17.5 hrs/week, 9:30-1:00. A job description is available in the school office.

Send a resume with a letter of interest and 3 letters of recommendation to Jessica Reder, 114 W Midland Rd, Auburn MI 48611.

► **AACS** will have a float in the **Cornfest Parade** on Sunday, July 8 at 1pm. If you would like to help with the float or walk with us in the parade, please contact Sarah Pope at sarah.pope08@gmail.com.

From Father Tom's Desk

Nativity of John the Baptist

Sr. Mary McGlone, [Celebration](#)

Luke's account of John's birth sets the stage for the novelty of the Gospel. Having read the whole story in Chapter 1 of Luke, we know that John came from an unusually blessed family. It wasn't just that his parents were too old to have children, but his father, a priest, had been miraculously mute since the day an angel announced that John would be born. Elizabeth, his mother, herself from a priestly clan, became the spokesperson for the family. She not only named their child, but when she acknowledged Mary as the mother of the Lord, she and the child who leapt in her womb became the first to proclaim Jesus. Zachariah and Elizabeth, the new Abraham and Sarah, a silent priesthood and woman prophet, are signs that God's faithfulness is fresh every day.

How did this beginning form John the Baptizer into the prophet he would become? Knowing the wondrous circumstances of his birth, people said, "Surely the hand of the Lord was with him" (Lk 1:66). More like his mother than his father, John avoided Jerusalem and the centers of power, remaining far from the public eye until he began his preaching career. But when he began, he did it with his whole heart and impeccable integrity. No threat had the power to stop him: He was God's sharp sword and polished arrow.

A Saint for Our Time

Sr. Mary McGlone, [Celebration](#)

John is one of a few figures from the Christian Scriptures whom we call saints even though they were not followers of Jesus. John heralded wonder and mystery. He called his people to prepare their lives and hearts for what was to come, but he couldn't proclaim a mystery that was yet to be revealed. Living a vocation that seemingly required more faith than Jesus ever asked of his disciples, John's most powerful preaching was and still is the example of his life. Authentic to

the core, John remained passionately dedicated to his mission even though what was to come was beyond his imagination.

Like the faithful prophet described in Isaiah's Servant Song, though he may have thought he had toiled in vain, John placed his trust in the God who called him rather than in his own vision or understanding. John was the ideal precursor, faithful enough to withstand the tension of the in-between time. Many aspects of the modern world to which we have been accustomed are changing or ending. The most we know about the future is that we cannot imagine it. John the Baptizer was formed by his father, the priest who had to keep silence, and his mother, the woman who prophesied. Who better than John to teach us how to cultivate hope and help others trust in God's unpredictable, unlimited faithfulness?

Servant of the Lord (Isaiah 49)

Celebration

The "Songs of the Servant of the Lord" found in Chapters 42, 49, 50 and 52-53 of Isaiah defy clear explanations; no one has definitively identified the person to whom they refer. While that can be a frustration to exegetes, it allows the faithful to look at them as meditations on vocation. Today's liturgy suggests that John the Baptist could identify with the prophet who describes himself in the second song. All of this points us toward listening to this reading as a reflection on our own vocation as well as that of our predecessors in faith.

If we use the Servant Song of Isaiah 49 to reflect on John's life, it helps us to see him as an example of honest, passionate and humble faith. Even though he called himself the forerunner, John never seemed to reach a definitive conclusion about Jesus. While both Jesus and John pointed to the need for conversion, John took the austere road while Jesus chose a path that highlighted joy. Ultimately, no matter what powers John enjoyed, no matter how auspicious his birth, he wasn't given an unshakeable faith in Jesus. John lived his vocation according to his light and had to trust God for the rest.

As a reflection on John, the second Servant Song helps us to understand him as the last of the prophets of Israel who fulfilled Israel's mission by going before the Lord and preparing his way. John's example invites us to faith in God's call, even when we cannot imagine the results. His life also reminds us that God will not be limited to one faith tradition when it comes to furthering the divine plan. John's vocation, like that of Christians, was to provide enough light to help others seek the true light of the world.

The Baptist's Role (Acts)

Celebration

Here as throughout his Gospel, Luke presents the Baptizer as the one pointing toward Christ. Although he is recognized as a prophet and very effective preacher, nothing in the Gospels is designed to lead us to become his followers. Even the quotations we hear from John in the liturgy celebrating his birth are more self-effacing than almost anything we'll hear from Jesus' disciples. In this regard, John stands as an example to the whole church. He warns us to be cautious that we always preach Christ, not ourselves. The best we can hope for is to be like John, not having all the answers but willing to awaken others to seek the Christ who is here for them.

The Crowds Reaction

Celebration

They had rejoiced with Elizabeth and they were amazed when she named her son. But when they witnessed the miracle of the return of Zechariah's speech and his proclamation, the situation had become downright unnerving. Luke tells us that the people were struck with fear. But even though they felt the need to get away, they couldn't stop talking about it. The story ends with a question that runs through the first half of the Gospel: What will this child be?

The question about John persists as the larger question about what God is doing among us at any moment. When Luke describes the

progression of the people's reactions from shared joy to amazement to fear, he's showing us how much safer it feels to hope and wonder than to interpret what God is actually doing among us. Beginning with his parents and Mary, the story of John's birth teaches us to rejoice in the wonders of the day, trusting that only this will prepare us for God's morrow.

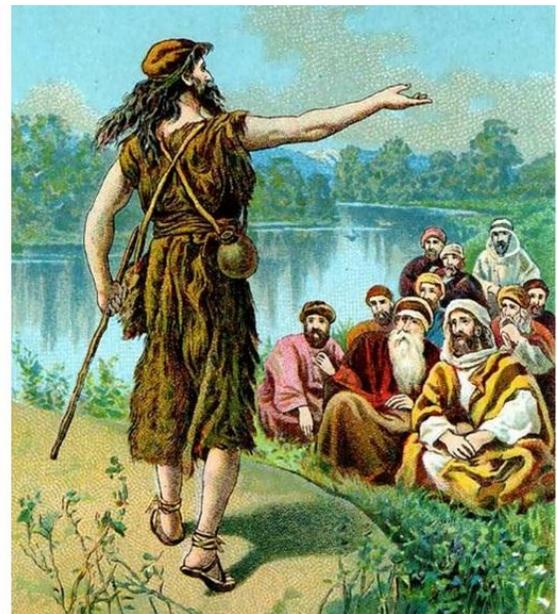
More to Come

GraceWorks, Dallas TX

John understood that his role was herald, announcer, preparer of the way Jesus would walk. And so it is that John speaks across millennia reminding us that the Good News of Jesus Christ points beyond us to him. It is his life, his death, his resurrection that courses through our lives. As with John, Jesus always comes after us, bring definition and clarity to the witness we share.

In utter candor, the only Jesus most people will ever see is the Jesus walking out of our lives. The words we speak, the values we embrace, the choices we make, the faith we demonstrate all say "One comes after us." Christian faith, in all the ways that matter, is a "coming after" way of life. Resurrection comes after crucifixion. Healing comes after hurt. Forgiveness comes after failure. Life comes after death. John the Baptist's witness could not be any clearer.

Hear the Good News today. God has entrusted to us the gift of life. Every one of us, no matter our age, have others who will come after us. Are we living aware that God is coming with more?



*"Help me, John to prepare
the way of the Lord."*

A Comparison

Patricia Sanchez, Celebration

John the Baptist's role and significance continue to be what they have always been, viz., secondary and subordinate to Jesus. John was herald but Jesus is the message; John was the voice, but Jesus is the word. John offered testimony but Jesus is the truth; John spoke of promise but Jesus is the fulfillment of every promise. John preached repentance and Jesus brought forgiveness. John called for fairness, justice and a thoroughgoing conversion of heart; Jesus made available the grace that enables and empowers such change, such growth, such spiritual revolution. John prepared the path, but Jesus is the Way. As if to affirm the fact of his ancillary and temporary role, one biblical dictionary included this simple entry at the end of a very brief blurb about John: "See Jesus."