

BIRTH OF JOHN THE BAPTIST JUNE 24TH

Jesus called John the greatest of all those who had preceded Him: "I tell you, among those born of women, no one is greater than John ..." But John would have agreed completely with what Jesus added: "(Yet) the least in the Kingdom of God is greater than he" (Luke 7:28).

John spent his time in the desert, an ascetic. He began to announce the coming of the Kingdom, and to call everyone to a fundamental reformation of life.

His purpose was to prepare the way for Jesus. His Baptism, he said, was for repentance. But One would come Who would baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire. John is not worthy even to carry His sandals. His attitude toward Jesus was: "He must increase; I must decrease" (John 3:30).

John was humbled to find among the crowd of sinners who came to be baptized the One Whom he already knew to be the Messiah. "I need to be baptized by You" (Matthew 3:14b). But Jesus insisted, "Allow it now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness" (Matthew 3:15b). Jesus, true and humble human as well as eternal God, was eager to do what was required of any good Jew. John thus publically entered the community of those awaiting the Messiah. But making himself part of that community, he made it truly messianic.

The greatness of John, his pivotal place in the history of salvation, is seen in the great emphasis Luke gives to the announcement of his birth and the event itself - both made prominently parallel to the same occurrences in the life of Jesus. John attracted countless people ("all Judea") to the banks of the Jordan, and it occurred to some people that he might be the Messiah. But he constantly deferred to Jesus, even to sending away some of his followers to become the first disciples of Jesus.

Perhaps John's idea of the coming of the Kingdom of God was not being perfectly fulfilled in the public ministry of Jesus. For whatever reason, he sent his disciples (when he was in prison) to ask Jesus if He was the Messiah. Jesus' answer showed that the Messiah was to be a figure like that of the Suffering Servant in Isaiah. John himself would share in the pattern of messianic suffering, losing his life to the revenge of Herodias.

COMMENT: John challenges us Christians to the fundamental attitude of Christianity - total dependence on the Father, in Christ. Except for the Mother of God, no one has a higher function in the unfolding of salvation. Yet the least in the Kingdom, Jesus said, is greater than he, for the pure gift that the Father gives. The attractiveness as well as the austerity of John, his fierce courage in denouncing evil - all stem from his fundamental and total placing of his life within the will of God.

QUOTE: "And this is not something which was only true once, long ago in the past. It is always true, because the repentance which he preached always remains the way into the kingdom which he announced. He is not a figure that we can forget now that Jesus, the true light, has appeared. John is always relevant because he calls for a preparation which all people need to make."

From *Saint of the Day*, edited by Leonard Foley, O.F.M., & Pat McCloskey, O.F.M.

PARISH NEWS



OUR FAMILY MASS: Next Sunday, July 1st, we will celebrate our Family Mass at 10 a.m. All children and their families are encouraged to attend. Mass will be followed by "Family Breakfast" at the McManus Parish Center. All are welcome.

SOCIAL MINISTRY: Please don't forget our Food Pantry this summer. We have an ongoing need, for non-perishable staples, such as cereal, rice, pasta sauces, peanut butter, jelly, juices, canned fish/meat, canned fruits & condiments. Please keep this in mind when you see sales on your trips to the supermarket. Thank you for your continuing support!



Registration for 2012 - 2013 **Religious Education Classes** for public school children, running September through June, is open. Classes are available for children entering 1st grade in September through High School, including those with Special Education needs. **All Catholic children attending public schools should enroll in a religious education program.** Please call (476-6676) for more information.

The **ALTAR BREAD & WINE, ALTAR CANDLES** and **SANCTUARY LAMP** for the week have been donated by the Manno Family in loving memory of Carmine Manno.



FRIDAY, JULY 6th
1:30 - 7:30 PM
MCMANUS PARISH CENTER



St. Bartholomew's will be conducting its 72nd **Blood Drive** in the 31 years since starting in 1981. St. Bart's parishioners and friends have made 5292 donations to date. Thank you to all who have participated in our past drives.

We are traditionally asked to run drives during holiday periods when the need for blood is great and the donations are usually down. Your support is just one of many things that make St. Bartholomew's Parish special. If you can donate, please call Tony Sciacca (423-3592) for an appointment. Also, please encourage your family & friends to participate.

MARRIAGE BANNS

This is the first publication of marriage banns between Mary Jane George Edattel and Sandeep Samuel Masih; if you are aware of any reason they should not marry, according to the Catholic rite, please contact the Pastor, Father Anthony Bassey, MSP.



NATIVITY OF JOHN THE BAPTIST



VISITING PRIEST

WELCOME BACK, MONSIGNOR JOHN KENNEDY!

Monsignor Kennedy will be with us for a couple of weeks. We warmly welcome him back to our community, our neighborhood, and our Parish!

Father Anthony will take a much needed, one week vacation. He will leave us later this week and return on Saturday, July 7th. We pray that the Lord protects him during his travels, and brings him safely home to St. Bartholomew's Parish.

Building a just society has been a concern for religious and secular organizations alike. Human imperfection means that there will never be any wholly just society. But over time certain values immerge that form the basis for decision-making and the progress of peoples. Upholding the dignity of the human person is a core principle. Individuals, communities, and nations are called to protect that dignity. A corollary is that not only is the individual person sacred, but that people have the right to organize themselves into societies that promote the common good. Consequently, people have both rights and responsibilities, one of which is to protect the poor and vulnerable. In a just society, the economy must serve people. Work has a dignity of its own. In our care for creation, we act as stewards of the earth, recognizing our responsibility to future generations.



MARYKNOLL VISIT

On Saturday, June 16th, eighteen parishioners made a day trip to visit the Maryknoll Fathers in Ossining. Maryknoll Brother John Blazo was an outstanding tour guide, relating numerous antidotal stories that captivated everyone's attention and left them wanting more. After the morning tour, the group enjoyed a buffet luncheon with the priests and brothers in residence before embarking on their afternoon visit to the interactive Maryknoll Museum and gift shop. The consensus of the group is that it was a wonderful day, and they would like to return for another visit soon.



Youth Group **will not be meeting** next Sunday, July 1st. Look for an update on their upcoming summer activities.

MIRACULOUS MEDAL NOVENA: Held after the 9 a.m. Mass on Mondays.

EUCHARISTIC DEVOTION: Held the First Friday of every month at 1 p.m. Please join us when you are able.

DIVINE MERCY DEVOTION: Held the First Saturday of every month at 3 p.m. All are encouraged to participate.

RECITATION OF THE ROSARY: Join your fellow parishioners in praying the Rosary after the 9 a.m. Mass on weekdays and Saturdays



TITHING - GOD'S PLAN FOR GIVING

June 19, 2011

Adults' Contribution	\$4730.00
Children's Contribution	\$67.00
Last Year's Total	\$4797.00

June 17, 2012

Adults' Contribution	\$5853.35
Children's Contribution	\$71.20
This Year's Total	\$5924.55

"The true purpose of tithing is to secure not the tithe, but the tither; not the gift, but the giver; not your money, but you... for God."

REMEMBER YOUR BELOVED PARISH

Remember, "We make a living by what we earn. We make a life by what we share." Please remember our Parish in your Will as a lasting and loving gift to your parish family. Thank you!



Please pray for all the sick & the homebound members of our Parish, especially Ethel Thomas, Aldina Pereira, Rebecca Conroy, Alejandra Santander, Andy DeFabritis, Maryann Tolli, Maria Marte, Ed Carpenter, Barbara Rup, Jule Yaskovic, Rosalie Heit, Florence B. Swetz, Clare Yaskovic, Neil Caruso, Raymond Fitzpatrick, Sr., Deacon James Byrnes, Andrea Objay, Carmen Torres, John Esposito, Mark Baum, Frank Marra, Deacon Patrick Troy, Josephine Apuzzo, Edith Dugan, Gary Roth, Joyann Allan, Anna Rita Morgante, Lois Burton, Mary DeStefano, Dan Seratto, Mark Cianfaglione, Shawn Colon, Margaret Maccia, Nicole Ryan Betancourt, Anthony Spinner, Audrey & Alfred Falcone, Kathleen Hayes, Marge Muraik, Stan Buoninfante, Donna Vasconez, Mary Ann Berengur, Gene DelBene, Angelina Brusco, Mary Romanchik, Nicole Pisani-Frame, Louis Petruolo, Cynthia Swiatkiewicz, Rose Botcheller, Silvia Georgi, Jimmy Maimone, Robert Mirsky, Steve Oddo, Roseann Mercandetti, Paul Bolduc, Amelia Gagliardi, Louis Brusco, Josephine Daniele, Jennifer Dorsey, Valerie Riccardi, Fatima Panik, and Joanne Moscarello.

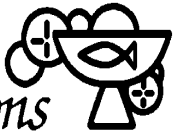
Parish Trip to See Play about Catherine of Sienna

A Fall trip to Ossining to view the play, *Catherine of Sienna, A Woman of Our Times*, is planned for Sunday afternoon, October 14th. The tickets (\$35 per person) will include the performance followed by lunch. Rather than chartering a bus, the plan is to carpool and/or meet at the Center.

Dominican Sister Nancy Murray, sister of actor Bill Murray, recreating one of Catholicism's most influential women in this one woman play, has given over 400 performances across the U.S., Europe, South America, Central America and Asia. This limited, one time engagement will sell out.

Reservations placed with Cheryl Duda in the Religious Education Office (476-6676) **are required by July 1st, and must include payment.** If ticket requests exceed the available supply, tickets will be distributed on a first reserved basis.

JUNE 24, 2012

Mass  for the
Intentions Week

The Nativity of Saint John the Baptist

Saturday, June 23 (Vigil Mass)

Weekday

5:00 PM Teresina & Luigi Pagnotta +

Sunday, June 24

8:30 AM Carmine Manno +

10:00 AM Thanksgiving to the Sacred Heart

11:30 AM Novena for the Living & Deceased Fathers

5:00 PM For All Our Parishioners

Monday, June 25

Weekday

7:00 AM Novena for the Living & Deceased Fathers

9:00 AM Loretta Ricardi +

Tuesday, June 26

Weekday

7:00 AM Charles E. Bassey, Sr. +

9:00 AM Heath Tiemeyer +

Wednesday, June 27

Weekday

7:00 AM Father Anthony's Birthday (Thanksgiving to God)

9:00 AM Alfred Como +

Thursday, June 28

Saint Irenaeus, Bishop & Martyr

7:00 AM Fr. Donald Eruaga's Intention (Ordination anniversary)

9:00 AM Jeffrey Milowe +

Friday, June 29

Saints Peter and Paul, Apostles

7:00 AM Angelo Greco +

9:00 AM Father Anthony's Intentions

Saturday, June 30

Weekday

9:00 AM Helen Maffei +

Saturday, June 30 (Anticipated Mass)

5:00 PM Julieann Campisi Moroch +

Sunday, July 1

Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30 AM Lorenzo Marchionno +

10:00 AM Mary Ann Karpinski +

11:30 AM For All Our Parishioners

5:00 PM Jose Angel Ocasio +

JUNE 24, 2012

**PRAYER FOR THE PROTECTION
OF RELIGIOUS LIBERTY**

O God, our Creator,

Through the power and working of Your Holy Spirit,
You call us to live out our faith in the midst of the world,
Bringing the light and the saving truth of the Gospel
To every corner of society.

We ask You to bless us
In our vigilance for the gift of religious liberty.
Give us the strength of mind and heart
To readily defend our freedoms when they are threatened;
Give us courage in making our voices heard
On behalf of the rights of Your Church
And the freedom of conscience of all people of faith.

Grant, we pray, O heavenly Father,
A clear and united voice to all Your sons and daughters
Gathered in Your Church
In this decisive hour in the history of our nation,
So that, with every trial withstood
And every danger overcome -
For the sake of our children, our grandchildren,
And all who come after us -
This great land will always be "one nation, under God,
Indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

**THE HHS MANDATE
IT'S NOT A "WAR ON WOMEN"**

Opponents of the HHS mandate (which would force that virtually all private health care plans must cover sterilization, drugs that cause early abortions, and contraception) are being accused of being part of a "war on women." But when it comes to the health of women, their babies, and their children, the Catholic Church is the most effective private provider of such care anywhere in the world. Our hospitals and social service agencies are among the finest in our nation, and they serve women of all faiths who are in need. The Church doesn't want to take anything away from anybody - we just want to be left alone to live out the teachings of our faith to serve, teach, heal, feed, and care for others. If our government is really concerned about women's health, wouldn't it be better to get out of the way and let the Church do what we do best, according to our beliefs? Think about it - it's important!

For more information and to find out what you can do about it, see www.archny.org/about-us/hhs-mandate/ or www.usccb.org/conscience.

