

# LIVING FAITH

TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  
FATHER'S DAY  
JUNE 21, 2020



## THE GOSPEL FOR TODAY—Matthew 10:25-33

A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household! 'So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground unperceived by your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.'"

## REFLECTING ON THE GOSPEL

The Scripture scholar, William Barclay, said that the last four lines of this Gospel have to be among the most consoling words ever written. They assure us that God sees, each one of us, knows each one of us, and that each one of us has dignity and value in God's eyes. When our hearts are breaking because of the number of seniors and other vulnerable people who are at particular risk from the coronavirus, and when we are being challenged to face systemic racism and its effects on our visible minority populations, particularly our black sisters and brothers, the words of today's Gospel hit home. We are challenged to truly see others, as God sees them, as people loved, endowed with dignity and human rights, as equal. Then, we must work to make that vision real in our world.

## FOR CONVERSATION WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS:

- What does it mean to *really* see people as God sees them?
- How does God see people?
- What can you do, today, to accord someone else the dignity that is theirs as a child of God?
- What is one thing that you can do to become more educated about racism and how we can become a more just society?

## THE CHURCH TEACHES DEVOTION TO MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

Devotion to Mary, the Mother of God, is dear to the hearts of many Christians. The Blessed Virgin is honoured under many titles. One of the most practiced is the devotion to Mary under the title "Our Lady of Perpetual Help." This has been practiced since the miraculous icon of Our Lady of Perpetual Help was entrusted to the Redemptorists by Pope Pius IX in 1866, with the instruction, "make her known." The Feast of Our Lady of Perpetual Help is June 27.

Since the Virgin Mary's role in the mystery of Christ and the Spirit has been treated, it is fitting now to consider her place in the mystery of the Church. "The Virgin Mary . . . is acknowledged and honored as being truly the Mother of God and of the redeemer... She is 'clearly the mother of the members of Christ' ... since she has by her charity joined in bringing about the birth of believers in the Church, who are members of its head. Mary, Mother of Christ, Mother of the Church." (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 963)



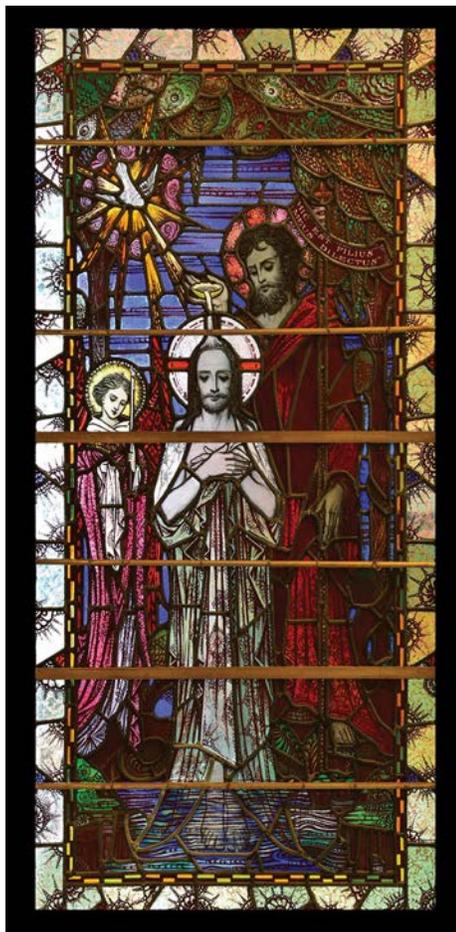
"All generations will call me blessed": "The Church's devotion to the Blessed Virgin is intrinsic to Christian worship." The Church rightly honors "the Blessed Virgin with special devotion. From the most ancient times the Blessed Virgin has been honored with the title of 'Mother of God,' to whose protection the faithful fly in all their dangers and needs... This very special devotion... differs essentially from the adoration which is given to the incarnate Word and equally to the Father and the Holy Spirit, and greatly fosters this adoration." The liturgical feasts dedicated to the Mother of God and Marian prayer, such as the rosary, an "epitome of the whole Gospel," express this devotion to the Virgin Mary. (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 971)

- What role does devotion to Mary, the Mother of God, play in your life?
- How were you taught to pray through Mary? Who taught you this?

## SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST JUNE 24

St. John the Baptist is the patron of the Archdiocese of St. John's, of our Basilica-Cathedral, of the city of St. John's and of the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador.

John the Baptist is mentioned in all four Gospels. The greatness of John the Baptist, his pivotal place in the history of salvation, is perhaps best seen in the great emphasis that the Evangelist Luke gives to the announcement of his birth, and then the actual birth itself. Luke ties together the announcement of the birth of John the Baptist (and the story of the actual birth and the events that surrounded it) and the announcement of the birth of Jesus. The story takes up most of the first Chapter of the Gospel of Luke, Chapter 1, verses 5 to 80. John the Baptist pointed the way to Jesus. In his ministry, he attracted countless people to the banks of the Jordan River, and it occurred to some people that he might be the Messiah. John baptized Jesus in the Jordan. He never sought to draw attention to himself, but constantly deferred to Jesus, even sending away some of his followers to become the first disciples of Jesus.



The statue of St. John the Baptist that stands on top of the archway in the Basilica piazza, looking out over the city and the Narrows. Sculptor: Filippo Ghersi, 1856 (Photo by John FitzGerald, 2020)

St. John the Baptist is also a patron saint of French Canada. In addition to St. John's, NL, the Canadian cities of Saint John, New Brunswick (1604), and Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, Quebec (1665) were all named in his honor. His feast day of June 24, celebrated officially in Quebec as the *Fête Nationale du Québec*, and in Newfoundland and Labrador as Discovery Day.

To the left, you will see a photo of a stained glass window from the Basilica of St. John the Baptist, showing the baptism of Jesus by John in the Jordan River. The window, by Gerard Earley of Dublin, is part of a set of windows installed in 1955, on the occasion of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the consecration of the Cathedral.

The windows of the Basilica are in need of restoration and stabilization. The Basilica Heritage Foundation is currently raising funds to complete this project. If you are interested in becoming part of the ongoing story of the Basilica by donating to our Stained Glass Window Restoration Project, contact John FitzGerald, Executive Director of the Basilica Heritage Foundation by e-mail at [BHF.inquiries@thebasilica.net](mailto:BHF.inquiries@thebasilica.net)

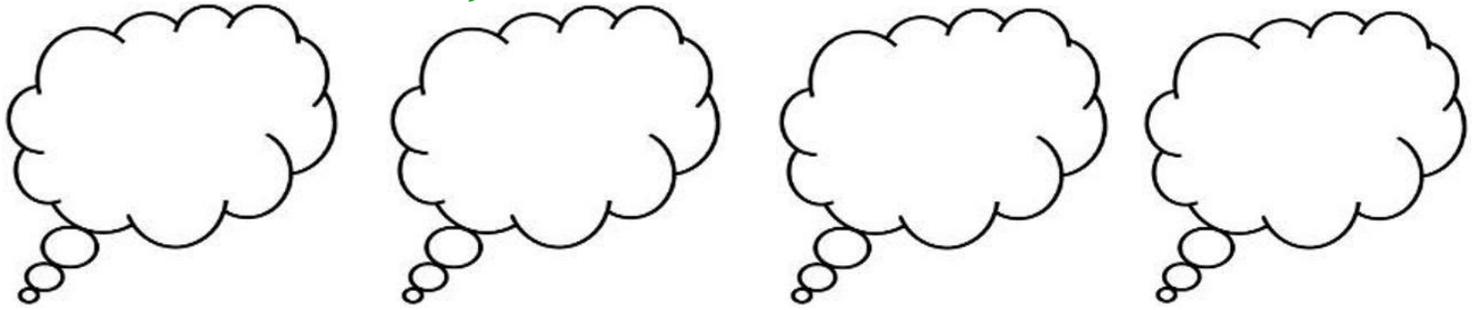
Photo credit: Robert and Lynn Photography 2018.

To take a virtual tour of the Basilica, use this QR code:



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*Read again this week's Gospel. Jesus tell us not to be afraid to tell others what we have learned from Him. Write or draw some ideas of what you have learned about Jesus.*



## He Cares for You

So don't be afraid; you are more valuable to God than a whole flock of sparrows. Matthew 10:31 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 10:24-39



Y Z A H W N C R O S S G E S U  
 I S F E W U B P S X P K J H E  
 W O R A F M C F H E R E V W B  
 Q Q A D V B F A L L R H N Z T  
 H L I F E E W K I H M V W N A  
 Y N D K R R B T T Z K Z A H Y  
 T E A C H E R R U T R V T N S  
 G R O U N D O N C L L N H W T  
 L F L E D W Q Z U L E T O D F  
 M O A B O V E O Q D R R J U O  
 N A D C N V S V U O R H D S L  
 M S S Z H R O T W A T F B N L  
 J O V T Y X S Z P W G U O W O  
 S L N X E I M S E G L V D Z W  
 G D I S D R X J X V E X Y L Z

TEACHER	FOLLOW	CROSS	HEAD	PENNY
SPARROWS	NUMBERED	LIFE	STUDENT	SOUL
FALL	SERVANT	BODY	AFRAID	GROUND
WORTH	SOLD	ABOVE	MASTER	WORTH

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### *A Prayer for Christian Fathers on Father's Day*

*Heavenly Father, you entrusted your Son Jesus, the child of Mary, to the care of Joseph, an earthly father. Bless all fathers as they care for their families. Give them strength and wisdom, tenderness and patience; support them in the work they have to do, protecting those who look to them, as we look to you for love and salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

*Author Unknown*