

THE NATIVITY OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

JUNE 24, 2018

LIVING GOD'S WORD

God of all creation, from the beginning creation sang as you brought the world from chaos into light. Throughout the story of Israel, men and women raised their voices in praise. In Jesus you sang your song of love to us. May our voices join the joyful song with all the angels and saints.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK JUNE 25, 2018

Monday, June 25

NO MASS

Tuesday, June 26

8:15AM Rev. John Frerker

Wednesday, June 27, St. Cyril of Alexandria

10:30AM Ethel Bievenue by Friends

Thursday, June 28, St. Irenaeus

NO MASS

Friday, June 29, Sts. Peter & Paul, Apostles

8:15AM Mary & Bob Friess by John

Saturday, June 30

5PM Mr. & Mrs. Charlie Buatte

Sunday, July 1

9AM For the Parish

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK JUNE 24 THRU JULY 1

Sunday	9AM Mass
Monday	NO MASS - Fr. Gene at Meeting 11AM-1PM K of C Luncheon Stuffed Peppers/Fried Chicken
Tuesday	8:15AM Mass in Rectory Dining Room
Wednesday	10:30AM Mass at Three Springs
Thursday	Fr. Gene's Day Off
Friday	8:15AM Mass
Saturday	5PM Mass
Sunday	9AM Mass

NOTE FROM THE PASTOR: Today we focus on the event that motivated Zechariah's great song of praise, the birth of John the Baptist. To appreciate this story we must remember the events leading up to what we hear in the Gospel. The archangel Gabriel had appeared to the priest Zechariah as he was offering incense in the temple, telling him that he and his long-barren wife, Elizabeth, would finally have their prayers answered with a son who would do great things for God. Quite taken aback, Zechariah asked how he could know this to be true. Wrong question! For doubting, he was made mute. Just as Elizabeth gave birth to a son, Zechariah gave birth to a song, one of the most beautiful in scripture, recognizing "the Lord, the God of Israel who has visited and brought redemption to his people," and hailing his infant child as one who would be called "the prophet of the Most High, going before the Lord to prepare his way" (see Luke 1:68-79). John, of course, would go into the desert to sing his own song: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths." And, in the fullness of time, Jesus, God's love song to the world, came, and the singing still goes on.

TITHE WEEK OF JUNE 17, 2018

Mary Help of Christians: \$6,834.00

\$485.00 Cemetery; \$40.00 Improvement; \$2.00 Child Env.;

\$12.00 Votives

WEEKLY Budget Need: \$7,000.00

YTD Average Weekly Tithe: \$6,581.12

Fiscal Year Week: 51

YTD Actual Giving: \$335,637.00

YTD Budget Need: \$357,000.00

YTD Budget Difference: (\$21,363.00)

YTD Weekly: (\$418.89)

SERVERS SCHEDULE for June 30 & July 1: 5PM, Jack Heffernan, Grace Welborn; 9AM, David Grau, Brock Vasquez, Gene Bicket

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: When God calls us, we can always say no. God gives us free will. But what if we say yes?

THE NEW K OF C INSURANCE AGENT is Michael W. Kuehnl. He may be reached at home (618-774-2819) or on his cell (618-799-9202).

PETER'S PENCE COLLECTION will be taken up next weekend to provide Pope Francis with the funds he needs to carry out his charitable works around the world for our brothers and sisters on the margins of society, including victims of war, oppression, and disasters. For more information, visit www.usccb.org/peters-pence.

A MUSICAL HISTORY OF FAMILIAR HYMNS will be presented at First Presbyterian Church, Chester, by Shane Wagner on Sunday, June 24, at 6:30PM.

MARY & MARTHA QUILT-A-RAMA will be held on Tuesday, June 26, from 8AM to 3:30PM at Sts. Peter & Paul School Cafeteria in Waterloo.

CHESTER AREA CHRISTIAN FOOD PANTRY will host the mobile market on Wednesday, June 27, in the Cohen Complex at 10AM. Please call Bob Koenegstein at 826-5264 to volunteer. The pantry is in need of canned meats and fruit. They also need drink boxes, PB crackers, cheese crackers and granola bars to provide food bags for children during their summer vacation.

INTERPARISH VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL will be held at St. Mary of the Divine Maternity, Ellis Grove, on Monday, July 9 through Thursday, July 12, from 6-8PM. This program is for Kindergarten-5th Grade students from St. Boniface, Evansville, St. Mary of the Divine Maternity, Ellis Grove, and Mary Help of Christians, Chester. Contact Gina Bleem (853-4196), Deb Hoelscher (763-5766 or 618-559-4384) or Cheryl Gross (826-2526 or 853-2678). Registration is due by Saturday, June 30.

NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING DAY will celebrate the 50th anniversary of *Humanae Vitae* with a 10AM Mass at St. Mary's, Mt. Vernon, on Sunday, July 15. Lunch, talks, and fellowship will follow until 4PM. To register, go to secure.acceptiva.com/?cst=500cbb. Any questions can be directed to Emily & Matt Joost at mejoost@gmail.com.

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL needs gently used men's slacks, shirts, socks, belts and shoes. Items may be dropped off at SVDP Thrift Store, 3718 State Street, East St. Louis or SVDP Office, 13 Vieux Carre Drive, East St. Louis. Call 618-394-0126 if you have questions or need additional information. Your donations are tax deductible.

AFRAID AND AMAZED: The gospels from both the vigil and the day tell us not to fear. An unnamed angel stands near the father of John the Baptist saying, "Do not be afraid." At his somewhat surprising birth and naming, "all were amazed." Why? Because the hand of God is at work! How will I lean into God's hand this week? How will I trust in God's good mercy toward me? Let me sing Psalm 139 (or "O God, You Search Me" by Bernadette Farrell) all week.

YOU'RE INVITED: Saturday, July 21, St. Bruno, Pinckneyville, Picnic, 3:30PM Mass, Fried Chicken & BBQ Pork Steak Dinners, Bingo, Music, Game Stands