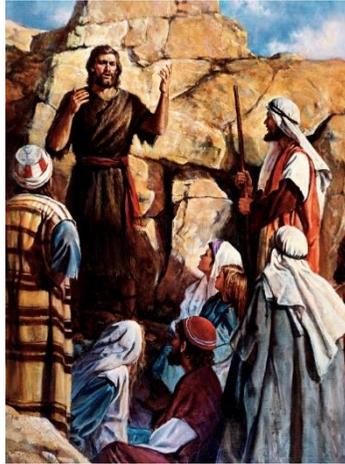


Reflection: He Must Increase by Scott Hahn, Ph.D.

The people in this week's Gospel are frightened and amazed by the mysterious events surrounding the birth of John. Only his mother and father, Elizabeth and Zechariah, know what this child will be. John the Baptist was fashioned in secret, knit by God in his mother's womb, as we sing in this Sunday's Psalm. From the womb he was set apart, formed to be God's servant, as Isaiah declares in this week's First Reading. The whole story of John's birth is thick with Old Testament echoes, especially echoes of the story of Abraham. God appeared to Abraham and promised that his wife would bear him a son; He announced the son's name and the role Isaac would play in salvation history. The same thing happened to Zechariah and Elizabeth. Through His angel, God announced John's birth to this righteous yet barren couple. He made them call John a special name—and told them the special part John would play in fulfilling His plan for history. As Paul says in today's Second Reading, John was to herald the fulfillment of all God's promises to the children of Abraham. John was to bring the word of salvation to all the people of Israel. More than that, he was to be a light to the nations—to all those groping in the dark for God. We often associate John with his fiery preaching. But there was a deep humility at the heart of his mission. Paul alludes to that when he quotes John's words about not being worthy to unfasten the sandals of Christ's feet. John said, "[Christ] must increase. I must decrease". We must have that same attitude as we seek to follow Jesus. The repentance John preached was a turning away from sin and selfishness and a turning of our whole hearts to the Father. We must decrease so that, like John, we can grow strong in the Spirit until Christ is made manifest in each of us.



CONSOLATA SHRINE
The Nativity of St John the Baptist
24TH June 2018



FIRST READING

"I will give you as a light to the nations."

ISAIAH 49:1-6

A reading from the Book of Isaiah

Listen to me, o islands, and pay attention, you peoples from afar. The Lord called me from the womb, from the body of my mother he named my name; he made my mouth like a sharp sword, in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow, in his quiver he hid me away. And he said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified." But I said, "I have laboured in vain, I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my right is with the Lord, and my recompense with my God." And now the Lord says, who formed me from the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, and that Israel might be gathered to him, for I am honoured in the eyes of the Lord, and my God has become my strength- he says: "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the preserved of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 139:1-3, 13-15 (R. 14a)

(R) I thank you who wonderfully made me.

O Lord, you search me and you know me.
You yourself know my resting and my rising;
You discern my thoughts from afar.
You mark when I walk or lie down;
You know all my ways through and through. **R**

For it was you who formed my inmost being,
Knit me together in my mother's womb.
I thank you who wonderfully made me;
How wonderful are your works,?
Which my soul knows well! **R**

My frame was not hidden from you,
When I was being fashioned in secret
And moulded in the depths of the earth. **R**



On sale support the CWA
Dinner card, Umbrella and T-Shirt.
Funds towards Allamano Centre



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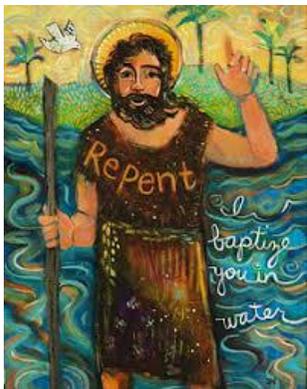
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SECOND READING

“John had preached before Christ’s coming.”

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles



In those days: Paul said, “God raised up David to be our fathers’ king; of whom he testified and said, I have found in David, the son of Jesse, a man after my heart, who will do all my will.’ Of this man’s posterity God has brought to Israel a Saviour, Jesus, as he promised. Before his coming John had preached a baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel. And as John was finishing his course, he said, ‘What do you suppose that I am? I am not he. No, but after me one is coming, the sandals of whose feet I am not worthy to untie.’ “Brethren, sons of the family of Abraham, and

those among you that fear God, to us has been sent the message of this salvation.”

ACTS 12:22-26

Announcement

1. Today the Finance and Accountants group are assisting parishioners on filling the returns. Those who have not filled their returns kindly visit the table at the gazebo.
2. The Proclaimers are appealing who would wish, to join the Ministry of Proclamation of the Word of God, especially MEN and YOUTH to register at the table outside the church.
3. The 7.30am Choir is appealing for new members. Religious sisters & Brothers are also encouraged to join. For more information, visit the table at the gazebo.
4. Couples planning to get married are asked to register for premarital counselling sessions. Sessions will begin with their parents meeting on Saturday 30th June 2018. Kindly register at the Catechists Office.
5. Next Sunday 1st July, is the first Sunday of the Month. There will be a blessing of our Tithe, our families and our work at the end of all Masses.
6. Next Sunday, also we shall pray the Rosary in front of the Blessed Eucharist after the twelve o’clock Mass.
7. The Charismatic group has organized a LIFE IN THE HOLYSPIRIT SEMINAR from 1st July 2018 to 9th September 2018 from 2pm to 5pm in the Parish Hall. Come and enrich our faith in Christ Jesus. Open for all Parishioners.
8. The Allamano Centre keeps growing. On 15th July 2018 there will be a Mini Harambee and Mr. George Kihara our Chairman will be our guest of honour. We keep appealing for your prayers, presence and contributions towards the completion of this project.



Alleluia. Alleluia.

You, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways. **Alleluia.**



GOSPEL

“His name is John.”

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Luke. 1:57-66, 80

Now the time came for Elizabeth to be delivered and she gave birth to a son. And her neighbours and kinsfolk heard that the Lord had shown great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. And on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child; after his father, but his mother said, “Not so; he shall be called John.” And they said to her, “None of your kindred is called by this

name.” and they made signs to his father, inquiring what he would have him called. And he asked for a writing tablet, and wrote, “His name is John.” And they all marvelled. And immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, blessing God. And fear came on all their neighbours.



DAILY READINGS

Monday: 2 Kgs 17:5-8.13-15a.18; Ps 60; Mt 7:1-5

Tuesday: 2 Kgs 19:9b-11.14-21.31-35-36; Ps 48; Mt 7:6.12-14

Wednesday: 2 Kgs 22:8-13; 23:1-3; Ps 119; Mt 7:15-20

Thursday: 2 Kgs 24:8-17; Ps 79; Mt 7:21-29

Friday: Acts 12:1-11; Ps 34; 2 Tm 4:6-8.17-18; Mt 16:13-19

Saturday: Lam 2:2.10-14.18.19; Ps 74; Mt 8:5-17



On Sale
Mug of St John Paul II