

# A Pastor's Perspective

June 19, 2022 Bulletin



Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

Last week, I reflected on solemnities occurring during this month of June which are devoted to the worship of God: The Most Holy Trinity; The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ; and The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. This week, we look at the solemn feasts which honor a few of those saints who knew the Lord Jesus most intimately, especially by imitating his life and sacrifice.

**Solemnity of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist (June 23):** Only Jesus, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and St. John the Baptist are honored with a feast on the liturgical calendar that commemorates the date of their birth/nativity. The Nativity of St. John is usually celebrated on June 24 (with a vigil Mass on the 23rd), six months before the Nativity of Jesus on December 25. This year, the celebration is limited to the Vigil because of the “competing” Solemnity of the Sacred Heart which happens to fall on the 24th (see last week’s column). Other than the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Joseph (March 19 and May 1), and Saints Peter and Paul (see below), the only other saint to have more than one day devoted to him on the liturgical calendar is John the Baptist. The other feast dedicated to his honor is referred to as “The Passion of St. John the Baptist,” (previously called his “Beheading” or “Martyrdom”). St. John the Baptist is a secondary patron of the Diocese of Portland (a traditional patron of Catholics with French- Canadian ancestry), along with St. Patrick (the bishop, apostle, and patron of Ireland and Irish immigrants in Maine).

**Solemnity of Saints Peter & Paul (June 29):** St. Peter and St. Paul, both of whom were martyred in Rome, share this date on the liturgical calendar. Together, they are considered the twin pillars of our apostolic faith – St. Peter, the Prince of the Apostles (and author of two New Testament letters) and St. Paul, the Apostle to the Gentiles (and author of thirteen New Testament letters). On February 22, the feast of the Chair of St. Peter celebrates his assuming the pastoral responsibility of the Church of Rome, thus becoming the first pope. (Pope Francis is the 266th Bishop of Rome.) The gospel for this feast is Simon Peter’s divinely inspired profession of faith in Jesus: “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” On January 25, the Conversion of St. Paul commemorates how the (Crucified and Risen) Jesus appears to Saul on the road to Damascus, initiating his dramatic conversion from being a persecutor to a promoter of the Christian faith.

*Peace and blessings/Msgr. Andrew*

P.S. Please join us for the Parish Picnic at St. Mary’s Church on June 26!