

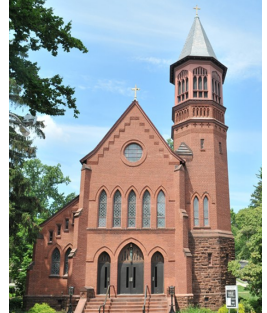


Welcome to the Parish of St. Paul - St. Ann



Church of St. Paul
82 Lake Road West
Congers, NY 10920

Church of St. Ann
16 Jefferson Street
Nyack, NY 10960



Pastor@spasaparish.org
Parish Office:
82 Lake Road West, Congers, NY 10920
Phone: (845) 268-4464/-4465 Fax: -6790
Current Email: office@spasaparish.org
Websites: Stann-nyack.org, spasaparish.org

Rev. Vladimir Chripko, C.O. Pastor

Rev. **Roman** Dominik Palecko, C.O. Assistant Pastor

Rev. **Arogya** Raju Narisetty, Parochial Vicar • Rev. **Peter** Bujdos, Parochial Vicar

Rev. Maniraguha **Jean Paul** Ruriho, Assistant

Rev. **George** Torok, C.O., Provost—Weekend Assistant

♦♦ ST. PAUL ♦♦		♦♦ ST. ANN ♦♦
Deacons	Dominic Buonocore Mark Czerwinski, Director RCIA	Luke Conroy, Director RCIA Charles DeGroat Gerald Fenton, Liturgy Coordinator
Parish Office Hours	9:00 am-3:00 pm Monday-Friday	11:00 am-12:00 pm Mon, Tues, Wed & Thurs.
Cemetery/Assistant to Pastor	Lisette Diaz Lisette.sor3@gmail.com	
Religious Education Program	(845-268-5442) Email: religiouseducation@spasaparish.org Carmen Hernandez Thomas H. Sullivan	
St. Paul Regional School	Mrs. Michelle Pitot (845-268-6506)	
Music Ministry	James Russell	Vincent Green
Sunday Masses	Saturday 5:00 pm Sunday 7:30 & 10 am, 12:00 & 6:00 pm 2 nd & 4 th Sundays of month: Spanish mass at 7:30 pm	Saturday 5:30 pm Sunday 8:45, 11:30 am
Weekday Masses	Monday—Friday 6:30 & 9:00 am Saturday 7:30 am & 9:00 am	Monday—Friday 7:30 am & 12:10 pm Saturday 9:00 am
Morning Prayer	Monday—Saturday 8:45 am	
Rosary	Following Weekday 9 am Mass	Before 12:10 Mass
Confessions	Saturdays 4:00-4:45 pm Anytime by request.	Saturdays 4:30-5:15 pm Anytime by request.

Sacrament of Baptism

Baptisms are normally celebrated at St. Ann's Church on the first and third Sundays of the month and at St. Paul's Church on the second & fourth Sundays. For a Baptism at St. Paul's contact Deacon Dominic at the Rectory (845-268-4464); at St. Ann's, call Deacon Luke (845-323-5669). First-time parents of child to be baptized must register for a Baptismal instruction class, held in the Rectory, normally on the last Thursday of the month at 7 pm. Please direct all inquiries to Deacon Dominic.

Sacrament of Marriage

Engaged couples should contact the Rectory at least six months in advance in order to arrange for their participation in the marriage preparation program. Please email assistantpastor@spasaparish.org.

Anointing of the Sick

If someone is homebound or in the hospital, please notify the Rectory. Arrangements can be made for the sick person to receive the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. Holy Communion is brought to the homebound by our Ministers of Holy Communion.

June 24, 2018 The Nativity of St. John the Baptist

<u>ST. PAUL'S CHURCH</u>		<u>ST. ANN'S CHURCH</u>	
Saturday	June 23, 2018	Saturday	June 23, 2018
5:00 PM	Joanne Vidovich Hartofilis and Delia & Vince Boccolini	5:30 PM	John T. Ruiz Sr.
Sunday	June 24, 2018	Sunday	June 24, 2018
7:30 AM	Assunta Cecere and William Thomas & William James Sbordone	8:45 AM	Daniel Kirwan — 17th Anniversary
10:00 AM	Melody Ortiz-Geta	11:30 AM	Mass of Thanksgiving 50th Anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood, Msgr. Frank Pugliese
12:00 PM	Michael Garvey — 14 Anniversary		Second Collection for Capital Projects
6:00 PM	Eva Christie		
Monday	June 25, 2018	Monday	June 25, 2018
6:30 AM	Gloria Mezzetti	7:30 AM	Anthony Bourdain
9:00 AM	Richard Cullen	12:10 PM	Melissa Doresca
Tuesday	June 26, 2018	Tuesday	June 26, 2018
6:30 AM	Giovanni A. Dagnelli	7:30 AM	Alice Sutherland
9:00 AM	Josefina Loria	12:10 PM	George Bryant
Wednesday	June 27, 2018	Wednesday	June 27, 2018
6:30 AM	Robert Michael Sbordone (L)	7:30 AM	Kenneth George Rowell
9:00 AM	Jerry, Yesenia, & Julian Joseph (L)	12:10 PM	William Allee
Thursday	June 28, 2018	Thursday	June 28, 2018
6:30 AM	Marino Martinez	7:30 AM	Terrence Russell Jr.
9:00 AM	Thomas Abraham — 6th Anniversary	12:10 PM	Anthony, Jack & Meri Ferrera
Friday	June 29, 2018	Friday	June 29, 2018
6:30 AM	Wendy Marino	7:30 AM	Robert Spinoso Jr.
9:00 AM	Anna Mariano	12:10 PM	Tom O'Neil
Saturday	June 30, 2018	Saturday	June 30, 2018
7:30 AM	Andy Diaz		
9:00 AM	Living and deceased members of the Mathew Family	9:00 AM	Pierre Bruno Auguste
5:00 PM	Kenneth Hiep	5:30 PM	Joseph Benedetti
Sunday	July 1, 2018	Sunday	July 1, 2018
7:30 AM	William Krauss	8:45 AM	Louise Bouchet
10:00 AM	For the People of the Parish and John Gandolfo	11:30 AM	Ann-Marie St. Fleur
12:00 PM	Kevin Reynolds		Second Collection for Pastoral Solidarity with the Church in Africa
6:00 PM	John Galleta		

These masses are still available. If you would like to schedule a mass to be said for your special intention, please call the Rectory.
 St. Paul — Aug. 1 (6:30), Aug. 2 (6:30), Aug. 3 (6:30), Aug. 4 (7:30), Aug. 7 (6:30), Aug. 8 (6:30), Aug. 9 (6:30), Aug. 10 (6:30)
 St. Ann — July 2 (7:30 & 12:10), July 3 (7:30), July 4 (7:30 & 12:10), July 5 (7:30), July 6 (7:30 & 12:10), July 7 (9:00)

PARISH NEWS & UPCOMING EVENTS



Bartolome Esteban Murillo (1617-1682) The Birth of John the Baptist

THE NATIVITY OF SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST — JUNE 24

The Nativity of John the Baptist was marked by wondrous events. His birth and destiny as a prophet were foretold by the angel Gabriel. His father, Zechariah, was struck mute for questioning the angel's news that his wife, Elizabeth, who was past child-bearing age, would nevertheless conceive a son. It was only after the child's birth that Zechariah regained his speech, after he indicated that, according to Gabriel's words, the boy should be named John.

John grew up to be the "voice of one crying out in the desert, 'Make straight the way of the Lord.' " As the herald of Christ, the long-awaited Messiah, John baptized penitents from all over the countryside at the Jordan River. He fearlessly called out the Pharisees and those who refused to turn away from their sins, and eventually suffered the death of a martyr.

But all this is far in the future. This painting by Murillo shows the tender scene shortly after John's birth. His mother, Elizabeth, is resting in bed. Zechariah looks down in love and wonder at his newborn son. The women in the foreground, who probably assisted in the birth, have just given the infant his first bath in the basin on the floor.

Many commentators have remarked on the symbolism and possible meanings conveyed in this painting.

The bath, of course, prefigures John's role as the baptizer, the plunging into water, and the forgiveness of sins.

The presence of God is indicated by the cherubim looking down

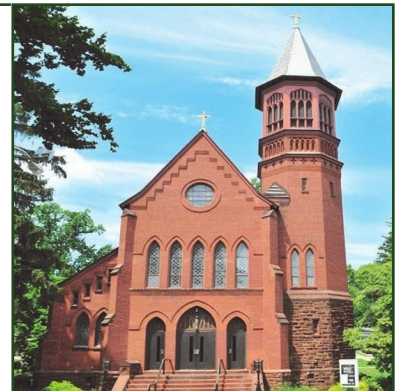
from above and the light emanating from the newborn child. The snow-white towels also seem glow with light, suggesting the child is, as St. John the Evangelist wrote, the one who has come "to testify, to bear witness to the Light" — who is Christ.

The various red-hued fabrics in the painting hint at John's martyrdom. Even the little puppy on the chair to the right may represent John's loyalty to God and faithfulness to his mission.

John's destiny will be a fierce life of prophecy in the wilderness and it will end in violence. But this simple scene is one of peace, — the joy in the birth of a child, the wonder of a father, and the assurance that God's providence is at work in our world, as the first rays of the Redemption break upon it with the birth of John the Baptist.

Congratulations
Msgr. Frank Pugliese
on the
50th Anniversary
of Your Ordination
to the Priesthood

The Priests and People
of St. Paul & St. Ann's
Parish



FROM the RECTORY

MASS BOOK & MEMORIALS

The **Mass Book** is open at both churches. Please call the Parish Office to reserve a mass at St. Ann's or St. Paul's **through September 2018**.

If you'd like to bring up the Gifts at a mass for which you've scheduled an announced intention, please tell the usher.

You may also request that the '**Sanctuary Lamp**' in either church or the St. Ann's Chapel be lit for your special intention or in memory of a loved one. The candle burns for 1 week. Donation is \$25.

EMAIL FOR THE PASTOR

Pastor@spasaparish.org

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

Deadline is Friday, the week before publication
Send to: Bulletin@spasaparish.org

June 24 bulletin — deadline Friday, June 15

July 1 bulletin — deadline Friday, June 22

PARISH WEBSITES

For more detailed information about our parish:
Spasaparish.org Stann-nyack.org

MEMORIAL INTENTIONS — WEEK OF JUNE 24

Sanctuary Lamp (St. Paul)

Sanctuary Lamp (St. Ann)

Chapel (St. Ann)



St. Paul & St. Ann PRAYER FOR THE SICK

We pray that the sick of our parish, our relatives, and friends will experience God's healing love, especially:

Ann O'Connor, Msgr. Patrick McCabe,
Frances McCabe, Carmelina Maida,
Robert Healy, Kieran Power, Joseph Salvemini,
Noah Diaz, Bonnie L. Taylor, Manuel Tucay

Call the rectory (268-4464) to be placed on the list of those who need prayers in time of illness, or call with the names of any sick family members or friends. The name will remain on the list for 3 weeks and then be removed unless we hear from you that the person still needs our prayers.

FORMED Free Catholic movies, e-books, audios, and programs. Go to *Formed.org* and use our parish code **X74FWM**. You can download a free **Formed app**.



PARISH COUNCIL Enrico Aberion, Ann Marie Blackwood, Hernan Caceres, Guy Gebbia, Vicki Gill, Marie Josee Joseph, Karin Lancellotti, Julie Lepore, Marie Lorenzini, Dennis Lynch, Bernadette Masiello, Greg Moreau, George Strayton, Keith Taylor

FINANCIAL COUNCIL William Dailey, Carlos Hernandez

TRUSTEES Walter Hartl, Robert Campodonico

STANN-NYACK.ORG

Our **PARISH WEBSITE** has mass and devotion schedules, current and past bulletins, photo albums of parish events, Catholic News Service updates, and more!



**WE'D LIKE TO CONNECT
WITH YOU!**

Sign up for important updates from the parish via email or text.
www.flocknote.com/STANNNYACK or [/STPAULS](http://www.flocknote.com/STPAULS)
Or text SACC or STPC to 84576 from your phone

DONATING TO OUR PARISH ONLINE

Currently, we have two programs for donating online. Our new program is called **PARISH GIVING**. You can register online at either of our parish websites, *stann-nyack.org* or *spasaparish.org*.

The original program, which many of you are enrolled in, is called **WESHARE** (used to be called **PARISH PAY**). It still exists, and if you are satisfied with it, you may keep it. If not, we suggest you switch to Parish Giving. The WeShare link is also on our websites, or you can call them at 800-950-9952, option 1. You may experience a wait.

MAY 2018 COLLECTIONS

	05/06/18	05/10/18 Ascens	05/13/18	05/20/18	05/27/18
St. Paul collection	8,428	1,665	8,738	8,398	8,057
St Ann collection	5,032	1,392	4,159	4,478	4,887
St. Paul and St Ann Parish Giving & We share	7,653 + 2,420= 10,073				
St. Ann Capital campaign	376				

CHURCH of ST. ANN



St. Ann's LITURGY MINISTERS for July 1, 2018



TIME	LECTORS	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS	ALTAR SERVERS	USHERS
5:30 PM	C. Roy	D. Oswald, C. Stokes	I. & N. Nunez, B. Sanchez	Joe A., Frank G. George B., Ric A.
8:45 AM	K. Lynch	V. Camitan, D. Oswald	M. & N. Camitan Z. Chaubard	James C., Ken W. Tom S.
11:30 AM	B. Leone	R. Campodonico, J. Tangredi	P. & J. Gannon N. Duffy	Ed T., Ed G. James B.
DEVOTIONS Rosary Monday through Friday 11:45 am (11:30 am, First Friday) Divine Mercy Chaplet Monday through Friday after 12:10 pm Mass Rosary & Divine Mercy Saturday after 9 am Mass First Friday 7:30 am Mass; 8:00 am to 11:30 Exposition of Blessed Sacrament (chapel); 8:15 Morning Prayer, 11:30 Rosary; 11:50 Benediction; 12:10 Mass; 12:40 pm Divine Mercy Chaplet; 7:30 pm to 8:30 pm Holy Hour, Exposition, Benediction.				

A note of thanks:

The St. Paul-St. Ann's Parish would like to thank those children who participated as lectors or in the children's choir at St. Ann's Church. Thank you for your dedication to your ministry during the 2017-2018 school year.

Student Lectors:

Caitlin Furey
Kiera Furey
Christina Vozza
Owen Coffey
Joseph Gannon
Jack Gannon
Mark Camitan

Children's Choir:

Zoe Chaubard
Emily Gannon
Patrick Gannon
Yan Emile Verdier
Coralie Verdier
Finnley Castrillo



Perhaps your child would like to join the children listed above in participating in liturgy. The Children's Mass is usually the 2nd Sunday of the month. For more information, call Janet Fenton 353-0793.

SAVE THE DATE — FEAST OF ST. ANN — JULY 21

The Feast of St. Ann Second Annual Pot Luck Supper will be held at St. Ann's cafeteria on Saturday, July 21, after the 5:30 pm mass. More information to come.

THIS SATURDAY

St. Ann & St. Paul Parish Picnic

Saturday, June 30th

Marydell Faith & Life Center - N. Midland Ave., Upper Nyack

NEW This year!

Pool and Games open at 12:30pm

Outdoor Mass begins at 4 pm followed by:

An All You Can Eat Barbecue
Dessert Table - Pie Eating Contest - Bouncy Castle
Face Painting - Dunking Tank - Many More Surprises
Popcorn - Cotton Candy - Bonfire

If you have questions email Ed Tangredi at
etangredi@aol.com or call 914-447-6527

Detach and return to the Rectory or put in collection basket by **Wed, June 27th**

I (we) will be attending the Parish Picnic on Saturday, June 30th and will bring a dessert

Name: _____ Rhoe: _____

Number Attending: _____ Adults @ \$10 each = \$ _____

_____ Seniors @ \$5 each = \$ _____

_____ Children (under 12) @ \$5 each = \$ _____
(must be accompanied by an adult)

TOTAL ENCLOSED = \$ _____

Volunteers are needed:

I would like to help with:

_____ Set Up (1pm); _____ Cooking; _____ Activities; _____ Clean up

CHURCH of ST. PAUL



St. Paul's LITURGY MINISTERS for July 1, 2018



TIME	LECTORS	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS	ALTAR SERVERS	USHERS
5:00 PM	D. Paoli	T. Ryan, S. Brennan	C. & A. Castillo M. Corniel	V. Panzo, W. Rodriguez, G. Holland
7:30 AM	R. Festa	J. & A. Carroll	M. Martucci, A. Francois	A. Smith, V. Czajkowski, T. Totorá
10:00 AM	J. Diaz	K. Butler, L. Diaz	H. Caceras, J. Viducich	G. Spinney, H. Caceres, M. Katigbak W. Kelder, K. McAleer, S. Reynolds S. Leto, V. Alfieri, A. Diaz, R. Nesi
12:00 PM	M. Allgor	M. & M. Toteró	C. Devers, K. Crai G. Kopf	W. Hartl, W. Kelder P. Dudgeon, A. Dibianco, M. Reilly, E. Lockhart, F. Cifuni
6:00 PM	A.M. Favorito	J. & S. Crean	M. Alfieri, W. Puehl	C. Linen, J. Cerreta, R. Aberion

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Homebound — C. James, J. Ventola, M. Raboy

Nyack Manor — A. Matthews, W. Fontanilla

Tolstoy — K. Reedy

DEVOTIONS	Morning Prayer Holy Rosary Eucharistic Adoration Our Lady of Fatima Novena Chaplet of Divine Mercy	Daily Daily Wednesday Wednesday Friday	8:45 am after 9:00 am Mass noon to 6:00 pm, Benediction at 6:00 pm 6:00 pm after 9:00 am Mass
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We would like to thank **Robert Helmke, owner of Hudson Valley Landscaping in Nyack**, for his continued support of the Garden of Faith in Upper Nyack. He once again donated a truckload of wood

chips to disperse around the plant beds to deter weeds. Without his generosity this would not be possible or it would certainly turn out to be a very costly endeavor.

WALK BY FAITH — FREEDOM OVER ADDICTION

A Christ-centered ministry for those struggling to break the chains of addiction, codependency, and emotional brokenness. Tuesday nights, 7 to 9 pm, June 19 to Aug. 4. Risen King Alliance Church, 190 New Hempstead Rd., New City. For more information call 845-634-3141.

300 CLUB WINNERS

Congratulations to the Lucky Winners of our Big May Drawing!

#115	Jerry Savoia — \$50
#39	Carol Izzolino — \$100
#126	Stephanie Hopkins — \$350
#4	Marie Salvati — \$1,000

WEEKLY at ST. PAUL'S

<i>Monday</i>	Prayer Group, 7:45 pm (school) K of C, 7:30 pm, 2nd & 4th
<i>Tuesday</i>	Bible Study, 7 to 8:30 pm (school)
<i>Wednesday</i>	(see 'Devotions' on pg. 6)
<i>Thursday</i>	Shawl making, 10 am (Parish Center)
<i>Saturday</i>	Spanish Prayer Group (Parish Center)

MORE PARISH & COUNTY EVENTS

FOLDING SHOPPING CARTS NEEDED

To assist many of our older clients at St. Ann's Food Cupboard, we are asking for donations of **folding shopping carts**. These may be used or purchased new and dropped off on the porch of St. Ann's rectory in Nyack. Many of our guests travel on foot and their bags are heavy. Please consider making their Saturday trips to our Cupboard more manageable by donating a cart.



GREEN KNIGHTS BASKETBALL CAMP

St. Joseph Regional High School in Montvale, NJ, is the site of the 30th annual Green Knights Basketball Camp this summer for boys ages 8 to 15. The camp runs in three sessions: July 9-13; July 16-20; and July 23-27. The camp day is from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. (Note: Friday dismissal at noon). Great fun & competition ... guest lecturers ... free basketball & player jersey to each camper! Please call (201) 391-3300 for camp applications and further information or visit our website (www.sjrnj.org).

CLASP (Catholic Literature and Arts Summer Program)

July 29 to August 3, a theater camp for high school students and incoming freshmen. No prior music/acting/crew or theater experience is necessary! We need set-designers, actors, singers, tech-people, and crew! More info: cyfm.org. Find us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Flocknote: CYFMGarri-son. Capuchin Youth & Family Ministries, 781 Route 9D, PO Box 192, Garrison, NY (845) 424-3609.



50 Years — Priests celebrating their golden anniversaries join Cardinal Dolan after mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral on May 16. From left to right, Msgr. Patrick McCahill, Msgr. Frank Pugliese, Father William Brogan, Cardinal Dolan, Msgr. Charles Coen, and Father Peter Meehan. (*Catholic New York*)

Today: 50th Anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood of Msgr. Frank Pugliese

Today at the 11:30 mass at St. Ann's we are celebrating Msgr. Frank Pugliese's 50 years as a priest (above, second from left). Msgr. Pugliese is now the only priest from the Archdiocese of NY whose home parish was St. Ann's. He has served as Archbishop's Delegate to the tribunal for the cause of beatification and canonization of servant of God Father Vincent Capodanno, MM; as vicar general of the Archdiocese for Military Services; as chaplain in the U.S. Navy, and in several parishes in New York. Monsignor invites everyone to celebrate with him next Sunday. There will be a reception following the mass. No gifts, please.

July 4th Vigil for Life

Come for a morning of prayer for America at the Marian Shrine, Filors Lane, Stony Point

10:00 am — Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

11:15 am — Rosary

12:00 pm — Holy Sacrifice of the Mass

Confessions will be available during the morning.



FALCON SOCCER CAMP AT ALBERTUS MAGNUS HS

Aug. 6 thru 10, 9 am to 12 pm, for boys and girls grades K thru 5. Register online at albertusmagnus.net. Contact: Brian Fitzpatrick, bfitzpatrick@albertus.magnus.net.

ONLINE/IN-CLASS AT ST. JOSEPH'S SEMINARY

Principles of Sacred Music — June 4-July 22

Introduction to Chant — St. Joseph's Seminary (Yonkers)

June 25-28; More information: nyliturgy.org/workshops

Contact: liturgy@archny.org or 914.968.6200, x8177



*The New York Oratory of St. Philip Neri
cordially invites you to join us as we celebrate
the 60th Anniversary of*

Fr. George J. Torok

*The Holy Sacrifice
of the Mass will take place at
four o'clock in the afternoon at
Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church in Tappan, NY
Reception immediately following in the Parish Hall*

JULY 1 2018

Our Mother of Perpetual Help



<https://www.catholiccompany.com/content/our-lady-perpetual-help-icon-meaning.cfm>

The small chapel at St. Ann Church is home to a beautiful replica of an icon of Our Mother of Perpetual Help (also known as, “Our Lady of Perpetual Help,”) one of the most beloved images of The Blessed Mother. The original, (Byzantine) dating back to 1495, is renowned for many miraculous healings and is found in the Redemptorist Church of St. Alphonsus in Rome. Catholics have a long tradition of saying novenas to Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

- The icon represents the Redemption.
- The Greek title, “Mother of God,” is found above the Virgin Mary.
- Archangels Michael and Gabriel, seen in upper corners, hold instruments of the Passion. St. Michael (left corner) holds the spear, wine-soaked sponge and crown of thorns. St. Gabriel (right corner) is holding the cross and nails.
- The child Jesus, is contemplating the vision of his Passion. Frightened by his future suffering, Jesus runs to the arms of his mother, grasping her hands, seeking consolation. His anguish is represented by the loss of his sandal.
- Mary’s hands hold Jesus who appears as a small adult ... He is true God and true man. She is also presenting Him to us and speaking to us of the reality of the Incarnation.

Please come visit the icon of Our Mother of Perpetual Help in the main sanctuary of St. Ann Church from June 19 through June 27.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION ST. PAUL SCHOOL APRIL 28, 2018



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



'John the Baptist' by Bartolomeo Veneto 1502-1555

NATIVITY OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

Today's First Reading finds Isaiah proudly declaring the fact that he was given his special role while still in the womb! We also read the same about St. John the Baptist. For not only does his very existence display God's miraculous power acting in Elizabeth long after her child-bearing years, but also in the conferring of a name and a life's mission.

John the Baptist does indeed grow into the man who stands at the end of the long line of prophets of the Old Testament. But he also is at the start of the New Testament when he announces the arrival of the long-awaited Messiah. On that fateful day he will point to the adult Jesus walking on the Jordan riverbank and shout to the crowd gathered, "Behold the Lamb of God!" Six chapters later, Luke will record Jesus saying of John that, "Of all those born of women none is greater than John the Baptist, but that he who is least in the Kingdom of God is greater than John." (7:28) A great compliment indeed, but tempered by a comparison that I believe John himself would welcome!

Meanwhile we can ponder this man John as we celebrate today his birthday, noting that the Church does this for only two other persons: Christ Himself and Our Blessed Mother. I admire John for what has always been so outstanding in his life: his humility. After all, the man had crowds of people following him and hanging on his every word. (Dare I say he anticipated people the likes of Bishop Sheen and Billy Graham?) All that could have inflated John's ego beyond help. But listen to him declare "There is one among you whose sandal strap I am unworthy to loosen." Not a shabby attitude of mind and heart for any of us to have.

This feast, coming precisely six months before Christmas, divides the calendar year. St. Augustine once seized upon that fact and stated that this feast, so close to the summer solstice, makes it possible for us to say that "after John's birth, the days slowly grow shorter, but after Christ's birth they grow longer."

More importantly, I think John's lifestyle divides the phonies from the faithful. He is the true blue man of God, someone we can all strive to be, man and woman. So much talk these days about the need for transparency, among individuals and groups, including the Church. But talk is not needed as much as action. St. John the Baptist could well be at the front of the line of saints who show us how it's done. Humility is truth. Transparency is truth exposed.

~ Rev. Leonard N. Peterson



WHAT WOULD JOHN THE BAPTIST TWEET ?

- JB** Make straight the way for the Lord. [Yes, that means you.] #JohnTheBaptist
- JB** Don't just be sorry for your sins; be willing to make a radical change in your life. #JohnTheBaptist
- JB** Don't judge others by appearance. This locust-eating, homeless zealot just baptized the Son of God. #JohnTheBaptist
- JB** "He must increase, but I must decrease." (John 3:30) #JohnTheBaptist
- JB** "I am not even worthy to unfasten the sandals of His feet." (John 1:27). #JohnTheBaptist

~ Toni Birdsong, *StickyJesus.com*