**THE NATIVITY OF SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST**

The Nativity of St. John the Baptist
5 p.m.  † Steven Kin
8 a.m.  † Arthur Fleck, III
9:30 a.m.  † Patricia Wescott
11 a.m.  † Jaci Fusco

Monday, June 25
7 p.m.  People of the Parish

Tuesday, June 26
7 p.m.  † Mark Phillips

Wednesday, June 27
7 p.m.  † Grace Furnari

Thursday, June 28
9 a.m.  People of the Parish

Saturday/Sunday, June 30/July 1
13th Sunday in Ordinary Time
5 p.m.  † John Kertesz
8 a.m.  People of the Parish
9:30 a.m.  † Linda Hotchkiss
11 a.m.  People of the Parish

**THIS WEEK’S ACTIVITIES**

Thursday, June 28
Knights of Columbus (7:30 p.m.) Upper Room

**THE GIFT OF OUR TREASURE**

Offertory Collection for 6/10/18: $5,801.

**THE DIOCESE OF METUCHEN’S FAMILY LIFE OFFICE** will sponsor a mass for the Mercy of God for healing from the effects of the opioid epidemic on Thursday, June 28, 2018 at 7 p.m. at the St. John Neumann Pastoral Center Chapel, 146 Metlars Lane, Piscataway, N.J. For more information call 732-243-4573.

PRAYER CHAIN is in need of more members to give spiritual help to those facing challenges in their life. Prayer Stewards are asked to commit to 10 minutes a day in prayer in the privacy of their home at whatever time is convenient. What better way to help the parishioners of your Church with a minimum amount of time commitment? Call Fran Rapp, Coordinator, at 908-638-6211, Ext. 19 or at sjcbbfm@comcast.net. Please consider joining such a meaningful ministry.

First Reading: Isaiah 49:1-6
Isaiah tells how the Lord called to him from birth and gave him his name. He explains that although he thought he toiled in vain, his strength is in the Lord in whose sight he has been made glorious. God made him a light to the nations so that salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.

Second Reading: Acts 13:22-26
John heralds the coming of Jesus by proclaiming a baptism of repentance. He says, "Behold, one is coming after me; I am not worthy to unfasten the sandals of his feet." The children of the family of Abraham and those who are God-fearing have received the word of salvation.

Elizabeth gave birth to a son whom she named John. On the eighth day, when her neighbors and relatives came to circumcise the child, they wanted to call him Zechariah, after her father, but Elizabeth’s husband wrote on a tablet, “His name is John.” Immediately he spoke blessing God and the people became afraid. All who heard of the incident knew that the hand of the Lord was with John.

Readings for the Week

**Sunday**
Vigil: Jer 1:4-10; 1 Pt 1:8-12; Lk 1:5-17

**Monday**
2 Kgs 17:5-8, 13-15a, 18; Mt 7:1-5

**Tuesday**
2 Kgs 19:9b-11, 14-21, 31-35a, 36; Mt 7:6, 12-14

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

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

**Friday**
Vigil: Acts 3:1-10; Gal 1:11-20; Jn 21:15-19
Day: Acts 12:1-11; 2 Tm 4:6-8, 17-18; Mt 16:13-19

**Saturday**
Lam 2:2, 10-14, 18-19; Mt 8:5-17
“From this man’s descendants God, according to his promise, has brought to Israel a savior, Jesus. John heralded His coming by proclaiming a baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel; and as John was completing his course, he would say, ‘What do you suppose that I am? I am not he. Behold, one is coming after me; I am not worthy to unfasten the sandals on His feet. My brothers, children of the family of Abraham, and those others among you who are God-fearing, to us this word of salvation has been sent.’”

The church celebrates the birth of three persons – Mary, Jesus and John the Baptist. We spend time with John, especially during advent, recalling his conception, the meeting of his mother with Mary, and his ministry in the desert, preparing the way of the Lord. St. Paul today, in the reading from the Acts of the Apostles, helps us focus on the role of John.

He was a ‘herald’ announcing the coming of the Messiah, an arrow pointing out the One he would call the ‘Lamb of God.’ The church today is the herald of the Good News. In the ‘Joy of the Gospel’, Pope Francis points out that the kerygma, the announcement or proclamation of the Good News is vital for us today. We are to be like John the Baptist, announcing, being the herald that we have salvation in the person of Jesus Christ. ‘Hear ye, hear ye.’