

He Must Increase: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Nativity of St. John the Baptist

Sunday Bible Reflections by Dr. Scott Hahn
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First Reading: Isaiah 49: 1–6 | Psalm 139: 1–3, 13–15
Second Reading: Acts 13:22–26 | Gospel: Luke 1:57–66, 80



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 promising that his wife would bear him a son; He announced the son's name and the role Isaac would play in salvation history (see Genesis 17:1, 16, 19).

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 (see Luke 1:5–17).

As Paul says in today's Second Reading, John was to herald the fulfillment of all God's promises to the children of Abraham (Luke 1:55, 73). 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 (see Matthew 3:7–12). 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" (John 3:30).

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.

ANNOUNCED MASSES
June 23rd – July 1st, 2018

Saturday 4:30 p.m.	June 23rd	Saint John the Baptist Vigil Adrian de Souza – RIP – by the family
Sunday 9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	June 24th	Nativity of Saint John the Baptist Dorothy Alexander – RIP – by the Alexander family Adelwisa C. Estrabillo – RIP – by Jerry and Ofelia Roy
Monday	June 25th	NO MASS
Tuesday 7:00 p.m.	June 26th	Weekday Bruna Alesi – RIP – by the family
Wednesday 9:00 a.m.	June 27th	Weekday Thanksgiving by the Mendes family
Thursday 9:00 a.m.	June 28th	Saint Irenaeus Caetano Mendes – RIP – by the family
Friday 9:00 a.m.	June 29th	Saints Peter and Saint Paul Ruby O'Neill – RIP – by the Ladies' Auxiliary
Saturday 4:30 p.m.	June 30th	Sunday Vigil Romeo and Helen Di Gaetano – RIP – by the family
Sunday 9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	July 1st	Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Sal Lancione – RIP – by the family In Thanksgiving to the Virgin Mary – by Mercedes and family

Called Home To The Father

*Our deepest sympathies to the families of **Leslie James Smith** and **Loretta Foran Petruch**. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.*

Collection:

June 17, 2018 - **\$2,616.10**

You Lift Me Up - **\$2,490.00**

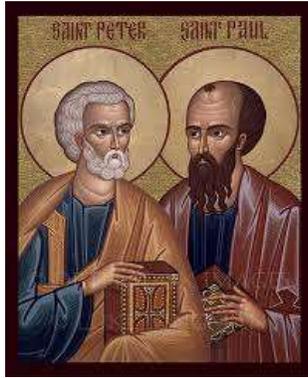
(bringing our total to **\$118,694.00** for our goal of **\$170,000.00**)

Thank you for your generosity.

THE GRAPEVINE PRESS: LAST EDITION BEFORE SUMMER

The latest edition of the Grapevine Press is now available in your parish bulletin. Don't forget to pick up a copy and get ahead on your summer reading!

SAINT PETER AND SAINT PAUL



Tradition says these two apostles, honoured since the earliest days, were martyred in Rome. Peter, a fisherman, was chosen by Jesus to be his disciple. After Simon confessed that Jesus was the Christ, Jesus changed Simon's name to Peter and told him that it was on this rock (*petra*) that he would build his church. Acts records that, after the Ascension, Peter was indeed the "chief of the Apostles." From the middle of the third century onward, documents show that the bishops of Rome were recognized as the successors of Peter.

Paul was born in Tarsus, a Roman citizen raised and educated as a Pharisee. His experience of the risen Christ resulted in his conversion from a zealous persecutor of Christians to an Apostle. In the Acts of the Apostles his friend Luke describes Paul's missionary journeys between the years 45 and 57, his return to Jerusalem, his subsequent arrest and his appeal to Caesar. Here history ends but tradition tells us that Paul was martyred for the faith about the year 66. Paul called himself the "Apostles of the Gentiles." – *Living with Christ, June 2018*)

BE MY DISCIPLES NEWS



The **REGISTRATION Forms** for September are ready. **ALL children** of the Parish **must be registered in this faith transmission and education program.** The children who are currently in the Be My Disciples program have taken the new registration form home. Please look for it in their book or backpack. All other

parishioners, who have children between the ages of Kindergarten and Junior High, please enquire at the office or call Connie Kuhr for information – 514-747-9347. The **DEADLINE is June 24, 2018.** Registrations after that date will be charged a late fee of \$25.00 per person.

HOLY HOUR



Silent adoration every Tuesday evening, following the 7:00pm mass (from 7:30pm to 8:30pm) Also, Adoration every Friday, following the 9:00am mass (from 9:30am to 10:30am). Come and spend some time with the Lord!

"Our Lord hears our prayers anywhere, but He has revealed to His servants that those who visit Him in the Eucharist will obtain a more abundant measure of grace." -St.Alphonsus Ligouri

THE FOOD BANK "OASIS"



Please remember to bring non-perishable food and leave them in the bins at the doors of the church...Thank you.