

St. John the Baptist

Feast Day: Solemnity of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist, on June 24th.

Patron Saint of baptism, converts, and those who seek a deeper life of prayer.

St. John the Baptist holds a unique and honored place in the Catholic Church as the prophet chosen by God to prepare the way for Jesus Christ. He is known as the Forerunner of the Lord because his mission was to call people to repentance and point them toward the coming Messiah.

John was the son of Saints Zechariah and Elizabeth. His birth was miraculous, for his parents were advanced in age and had long been without children. The Archangel Gabriel announced that John would be filled with the Holy Spirit even from his mother's womb. When the Blessed Virgin Mary visited Elizabeth, the unborn John leaped for joy at the presence of Jesus, showing his special role in salvation history.

As an adult, John lived a simple and prayerful life in the desert. He wore camel's hair, ate locusts and wild honey, and preached a message of conversion. Many people came to him at the Jordan River, where he baptized them as a sign of repentance and preparation for God's Kingdom.

John's greatest moment came when Jesus approached him to be baptized. Though John felt unworthy, he obeyed the Lord. At Jesus' baptism, the Holy Trinity was revealed: the Father spoke from heaven, the Holy Spirit descended like a dove, and the Son stood in the waters of the Jordan.

John remained humble, saying, "He must increase; I must decrease." He courageously defended God's truth and was martyred for his faithfulness. The Catholic Church honors St. John the Baptist as a model of humility, courage, holiness, and devotion to Christ.



Did You Know?

- St. John the Baptist is the only saint besides the Blessed Virgin Mary whose birth is celebrated as a feast day.
- He is known as the "Precursor" because he prepared the way for Jesus Christ.
- John leaped for joy in his mother's womb when Mary visited Elizabeth.
- He baptized Jesus in the Jordan River.
- Catholics also observe a second feast day, the Memorial of the Passion of St. John the Baptist (the beheading), on August 29.