

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

*John the Baptizer called the people to a baptism of repentance.
The herald's cry echoes down the ages.*

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION FOR June Universal – Social Networks

That social networks may work towards that inclusiveness which respects other for their differences.

Save the date!

Good Shepherd Parish BBQ, **Sunday 22 July** following the 11:15 am Mass. Please mark your calendars... fun and food for all!

Invitation: On **June 28, 7 p.m.** in the Co-Cathedral of the Nativity of Mary, there will be a Mass to mark the recent nomination of Archbishop Prendergast as ninth Bishop of Alexandria-Cornwall and to bid farewell to Fr. Claude Hallé who will move from Cornwall to the John Paul II Residence in Ottawa in early July. As Alexandria-Cornwall and Ottawa are now united “in the person of the bishop”, **Archbishop Prendergast invites Ottawa priests, deacons, religious and laity** who can do so to join in celebrating this Mass and attending the reception in the Agora Centre (220 Montreal Rd., Cornwall). Info: (613-933-1138, ext. 29).

The Descalced Carmelite Secular Order under the patronage of Our Lady of Mount Carmel offers a lay vocation to the faithful. Teresa of Avila, Doctor of Spirituality, teaches us how to pray. We meet once per month at Holy Spirit Church, 1187 Michael St. Ottawa. For more information, please contact Carmel Farmer at 819-420-4125.

LITURGICAL DECORATING - Good Shepherd Parish needs a few parishioners to take on the Liturgical Decorating Ministry beginning in September, 2018. Beautifying our church for Feasts throughout the year and especially for Christmas and Easter is joyful work especially when done together with friends. The current leader of this ministry is stepping down after five years but will mentor those who take on the role from her and her team. You may phone Adele at 613-824-0907 for details and with questions.

Pro Life Mass - To pray for the establishment of a Pro-life Centre in Ottawa. Everyone welcome. Holy Redeemer Parish, 44 Rothesay Dr., Kanata, **Sat., June 30, 10:00 am**. Our Lady of Fatima Parish, 153 Woodroffe Ave., Sat., July 28, 9:00 am and at St. Patrick Parish, Fallowfield, 15 Steeple Hill Cres., Sat., August 18, 9:00 am. Info: wandawoj@rogers.com; 613-831-2515.

CineForum at Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish: On the last Friday of each month at **6:30 p.m.** in the parish hall a movie on the life of a Catholic saint will be shown. Accessed at 321 Cody Avenue, Vanier. Admission is free. The life of Saint Anthony of Padua will be featured on **Friday, Jun. 29th**. Info: (613)746-8503.

Cost: \$10 per person, \$7 for ages 7-10, younger children are free.
Info: Events@olvottawa.ca or 613-769-7570.

Offering for June 17, 2018

Sunday Envelopes:	\$ 1555.00
AC/Visa/MC	\$ 2660.00
Loose:	\$ <u>760.00</u>
Total Collection:	\$ 4975.00

Our financial requirements are approx. **\$8,000** per week to support our approx. **\$2,000** a week mortgage payment.

Fr. Shroff's Corner

There are many Saints inscribed in the general calendar of the Roman liturgy. The vast majority of them are celebrated with the rank of Memorial or Feast. When these feast days fall on a Sunday, they are suppressed since the Sunday takes precedence over them. But there are a few Saints (not many) whose feast days are celebrated with the rank of Solemnity, and whose feast days therefore take precedence over the Sundays in Ordinary Time. This is because of the particular importance of these Saints in the life of the Church and in the Catholic Faith. One such Saint is the Saint whose feast day we celebrate today: St. John the Baptist.

For the vast majority of Saints, we celebrate not the day of their birth in this world but the day of their death. This latter date is referred to as the *Dies natalis* of the Saint (literally: the Day of Birth). It refers to the Saint's Heavenly Birthday, corresponding to the day when the Saint left this world and returned to God (i.e. the day of his/her "death", in popular language). There are only three Saints in the Roman Calendar for whom we celebrate not just the *Dies natalis* but also the day of his/her physical birth into this world. These three are Jesus, Mary, and St. John the Baptist. Our Lord's Birth-day is celebrated on December 25; Our Lady's, on September 8; and St. John the Baptist's, on June 24.

Notice that St. John the Baptist was born right after the summer solstice, the day when the daylight hours begin to diminish once again (the "days becomes shorter", as we commonly say). And notice that Our Lord was born right after the winter solstice, when "the days begins to get longer." This is not a coincidence. In fact, it attests to the truth of the words of St. John the Baptist about Jesus Christ: He must increase and I must decrease. Christ is the Light of the world; John the Baptist is not that light. However, he did come into the world to bear witness to the True Light which is Christ (Jn. 1:8).

Apart from Mary and Joseph, there is no Saint who was closer to Christ in His earthly life than St. John the Baptist. Jesus Himself gives him an immense compliment when He says about him: "Of all those born of women, there is none greater than John the Baptist (Mt. 11:11; Lk. 7:28). No other Saint had the honour of baptizing the Son of God. And Our Lord did not refuse to be baptized by him. On the contrary, He willingly allowed it – probably to show the world the greatness of the one who would henceforth be known as "The Baptist."

On this feast day of St. John the Baptist's Nativity, let us give thanks to God for the witness and life of this great messenger of the Lord. The Scriptures refer to him as "The Precursor of the Lord." Zachariah, in his beautiful canticle that the Church sings every morning in the Divine Office, calls John the Baptist "the prophet of the Most High" who will "go before the Lord to prepare His way" (Lk. 1:76). And the Old Testaments prophesies of him being "the angel" or messenger of the Lord who will prepare for the coming of the Messiah (Is. 40:3; Mal. 3:1).

St. John the Baptist gave the ultimate witness to Christ by his martyrdom, which the Church celebrates on August 29, the feast day of the Passion of St. John the Baptist: his *Dies natalis* (Heavenly Birthday).

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, June 23 – Solemnity of the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist (Anticipated Vigil Mass)

5:00 pm †Alfred Reede req by the CWL
†Eileen Hunt req by the CWL
Souls in Purgatory req by Rose Dugandzic
Deceased members of the CWL

Sunday, June 24 – Solemnity of the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist

9:00 am †Richard Boucher req by Betty Ouellet
†Lloyd Wong Buckley req by the family
†Marie Abdelnour req by the family
Intention of Nancy MacKay req by Jean Hall
Intention of Deacon Dan Careau req by the Pastoral Care team
Thanksgiving mass for St. Jude req by the Sansom family

11:15 am For Our Parishioners

Monday, June 25 – 12th Monday in Ordinary Time

9:00 am †Andre Rigaud req by Luzette

Tuesday, June 26 – 12th Tuesday in Ordinary Time

9:00 am †Martin Julong req by the family

Thursday, June 28 – 12th Thursday in Ordinary Time

9:00 am †Francoise Rigaud req by Luzette Ledo

Friday, June 29 – Solemnity of Sts. Peter and Paul, Apostles

9:00 am In loving memory of Jack, Peg, Joe & Sylvie

Saturday, June 30 – Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Anticipated Vigil Mass)

5:00 pm †Gene & Vivian Lusignan req by Dr. G. M. Lusignan

Sunday, July 1 – Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00 am For Our Parishioners

11:15 am Intention of Helen Hall req by Jean Hall
Intentions of the Algan & Severin families
Deceased members of the Knights of Columbus

Please pray for our sick; Deacon Dan Careau, Joe MacDonell, Jean Scharf, Romina Andrews, Lorretta Dillon-Robinette, Jean-Ella Lemire, Maurice Lemire, Michael Nortey and John MacDonald.

Please pray for our deceased, that they may be received into God's love

PRO LIFE CORNER

As Catholics, we must remember that everything this side of heaven – from the almost “magical” new gadgets to the promises of charismatic political leaders – is far from ideal and often painful, yet we must endure this life and strive to “please Him” by all we do, for one day we will have to “appear before the judgment seat of Christ” where we will all be judged according to how we lived “in the body”. Taken from Priests for Life Canada

Spiritual Adoption Prayer of Archbishop Fulton Sheen “Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I beg you to spare the life of the unborn baby that I have spiritually adopted who is in danger of abortion.” Please remember to pray daily for your spiritually adopted baby and the baby's parents.