

Practice of Hope

An organization that offers weeklong, Christ-centered mission opportunities for 12 to 19 year olds is YouthWorks! Based in Minneapolis, MN, YouthWorks! has sites in urban and rural settings in the U.S., Puerto Rico and Mexico. Organizers say that when the youth cross borders of race and culture and leave their comfort zones behind, they offer more than hope and help. The 'works' in the name is about what God does in lives when allowed. Would you like to support someone who is acting as "a light to the nations"? Go to www.youthworks.com - and don't forget to pray for these young people as they learn what 'servant leadership' is about.

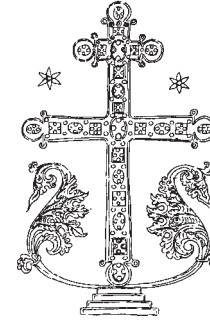
Scripture Insights

"What, then, will this child be?" The biblical narratives of the birth of John the Baptist, filled with echoes and allusions to numerous birth narratives from the Old Testament, leave no doubt. This child "will be great in the sight of the Lord." As with many of the great patriarchs and prophets of Israel, a heavenly messenger foretold John's birth. As with many of these figures, he was born to a barren woman. In the Old Testament, "children are a gift from the Lord"; and barrenness, a disgrace. Elizabeth, like Sarah before her, was not only barren, she was beyond child-bearing years. Thus, this child signified God's special favor, as his name "John" implies ("Yahweh has shown favor").

Not only was the birth of John a sign of God's favor for Elizabeth, but for all Israel. As with the Servant in Isaiah 49:1-6, and Jeremiah, whose call is recounted in the first reading for the Vigil for today's Solemnity, God named and missioned this child before he was born. He would be one who could go forth "in the spirit and power of Elijah...to prepare a people fit for the Lord."

The last line of today's Gospel moves us beyond the birth to those hidden years of growth and becoming "strong in spirit," years in the desert - that traditional place of encounter with God. John stayed in the desert, until the day of his "manifestation" to Israel, when at the bidding of "the word of God," he came forth, proclaiming a baptism of repentance, preparing the way of the Lord. Look, then, at what this child became.

At Home with the Word 2007. Reprinted with permission. Liturgy Training Publications.



Saint Cecilia Parish

Boston, Massachusetts

A Catholic Community in the Heart of the Back Bay

Saint Cecilia Church

www.stceciliaboston.org

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Parish Staff

Rev. John J. Unni, Pastor

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Genevieve Fiorente, Administrative Asst.

In Residence

Rev. Thomas A. Mahoney

Access for the Disabled

Both the church and parish hall are accessible by elevator.

Parking

Two hours of free parking for parishioners is available before 1:00 p.m. on Sundays at the Fitz-Inn Auto Park at Belvidere and Dalton Streets. Reduced rate parking is available with validation on Sundays in the Prudential Center Garage.

Liturgy Schedule

Saturday Vigil: 5:00 p.m.

Sunday: 8:00, 9:30, 11:00 a.m.

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, 7:30 a.m.

Holy Days, 7:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturdays, 4:30-4:50 p.m., and by appt.

Christian Initiation

Infant Baptisms: Baptisms are celebrated at the 9:30 and 11:00 Sunday Masses and should be scheduled one month in advance.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults: The parish welcomes those seeking fuller participation in the life of the Church. Classes run from September to May. Contact the rectory for more information.

Sacrament of Marriage

Couples preparing for marriage should contact the rectory at least six months in advance.

Religious Education

Classes are held after the 9:30 Mass.

CAP Team Members

G. DiSanto - gin250boston@yahoo.com
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Nativity of St. John the Baptist

June 24, 2007



Ministers of the Liturgy

Saturday, 5:00 p.m.

Rev. Peter Grover, OMV, presider
Cynthia Wanner, lector
Richard Barry, eucharistic minister

Sunday, 8:00 a.m.

Rev. David Beauregard, OMV, presider
Louvere Walker, lector

Sunday, 9:30 a.m.

Rev. Thomas Gariepy, CSC, presider
Randy O'Connor & Rosaria Salerno, lectors

Sunday, 11:00 a.m.

Rev. Thomas Gariepy, CSC, presider
Matthieu Biger & Paul Schreier, lectors

The centerpiece of the gospel for this solemnity is the naming of John, which means "the Lord is gracious." The Lord is gracious, certainly, in granting Zechariah and Elizabeth a son: gracious, certainly, in sending John to herald the coming of Jesus (see second reading); but most gracious in sending the Son to bring "salvation...to the ends of the earth" (first reading). In celebrating the birth of John the Baptist we are, indeed, celebrating the manifold graciousness of God in granting us salvation. Living Liturgy™, Nativity of St. John the Baptist 2007



Special Intention

Sunday, June 24, 11:00 a.m.

Sr. Giovanna Marie, Special Intention

Give Blood!

The American Red Cross is currently facing a critical blood shortage. Across the Northeast, supplies are down by almost 2700 units, and summer is always a challenging time for recruiting donors. Please consider this wonderful opportunity to give of yourself in the most concrete of ways. Call 1-800-GIVE LIFE or visit www.newenglandblood.org today. Thank you!

Praying the Rosary

On Sunday mornings at 7:15 a.m., parishioners are gathering in the church to pray the rosary together before the 8:00 a.m. Mass. All are welcome!

New Choir Members

We are always seeking singers and instrumentalists to join us at the 9:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m., and 6:00 p.m. Masses. If you have a musical talent to share with the community, we would love to have you join us. Please contact Richard Clark at 617-536-4548 or StCeciliaMusic@aol.com. For more info about the music program visit our website and click on "Saint Cecilia Music."

Dave Buerger in Concert

St. Cecilia Music's own Dave Buerger will be performing at the Berklee Performance Center with Odaiko New England presenting an evening concert as part of the Berklee College of Music's Percussion Festival. The program will highlight the dynamism and exhilaration of kumi-daiko (Japanese ensemble drumming). Compositions based on traditional Japanese folk rhythms, and contemporary compositions will be performed. 136 Massachusetts Ave. Monday, June 25, 7:30 p.m. \$4, 617-266-1400.

2007 Catholic Appeal Update

Thank you to all supporters of the 2007 Catholic Appeal. Our parish has raised \$15,331 from 30 households, reaching 52% percent of our parish goal of \$29,500. If you have not yet given, please consider a gift today and help us meet our goal. Remember, our parish will receive 25 percent of all funds we raise above our goal. So each gift has the potential to increase parish revenue while still supporting the ministries funded by the Catholic Appeal. You can pick up information packets with pledge forms in the back of the church to be mailed in, or for more information please visit www.BostonCatholicAppeal.com or call 617-779-3700. Thank you.

Eucharistic Visitation

If you are aware of anyone who is homebound for any reason who would like to receive the Eucharist, please call the parish office.

Coffee Hour

Join us after the 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. Masses for coffee in the parish hall.

Parish Registration

If you are new to the parish, or if you are a regular communicant who has never formally registered as a parishioner, there are registration forms at the rear of the church for this purpose. You can also register online by visiting our website: www.stceciliaboston.org. This parish is only as strong and vital as its members. Take that first step and let us know who you are!