



Friends of Jesus and Mary

Solemnity of the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist- June 24, 2018

Isaiah 49: 1-6; Psalm 139; Acts 23: 22-26; Luke 1: 57-66,80

When the time arrived for Elizabeth to have her child she gave birth to a son. Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy toward her, and they rejoiced with her. When they came on the eighth day to circumcise the child, they were going to call him Zechariah after his father, but his mother said in reply, "No. He will be called John." But they answered her, "There is no one among your relatives who has this name." So, they made signs, asking his father what he wished him to be called. He asked for a tablet and wrote, "John is his name," and all were amazed. Immediately his mouth was opened, his tongue freed, and he spoke blessing God. Then fear came upon all their neighbors, and all these matters were discussed throughout the hill country of Judea. All who heard these things took them to heart, saying, "What, then, will this child be?" For surely the hand of the Lord was with him. The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the desert until the day of his manifestation to Israel.

Reflection

Elizabeth, the Virgin Mary's cousin, was married to the priest Zechariah. They were elderly and could never have children. One day when He was before God's altar, an angel appeared to him and told him he was to have a son and he was to call him John. The son would be full of the Holy Spirit and would help prepare the way for the Messiah. But Zechariah doubted the message since he was old. So, the Angel left him without speech until this gospel. **The gospel says that when they were going to name the child, the neighbors wanted to name him what?** (Zechariah after his father.)

What did Elizabeth reply? ("He will be called John.") **However, it was the custom to name a child after a relative and none was named John, so what did they do?** (They asked the father with signs.) **What did the father do?** (He asked for a tablet and wrote, "John is his name.") **What happened then?** (He was able to talk and He blessed God.) **How did the people react to this?** (They were in fear and awe of who this child would become since his birth was surely a miracle.) **How did John grow?** (He grew strong in spirit and lived in the desert until he would begin preparing God's people for the coming of Jesus.) John prepared the people by asking them to stop disobeying God and to make God the center of their lives. Then he baptized them with water, symbolizing the cleansing of their souls.

(Who is John the Baptist, Catholic Kids Media, <https://youtu.be/JESNhOmnSiU>)

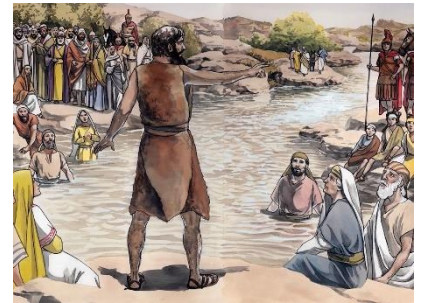
Activity

On the next page, color the picture and read John's words. Ask the kids what they need to change and on the following page, write on the feet, things they can change or things they can do to better follow Jesus and live their mission to love and serve the Lord.

Prayer

Thank you, God, for my family that brought me to you the day of my baptism. Help me to grow in faith and love every day as John did so I may understand my mission to share your love with everyone. **Amen**

Song: I will Follow You, Roy Rantung, <https://youtu.be/jpVuBcbZ24c>

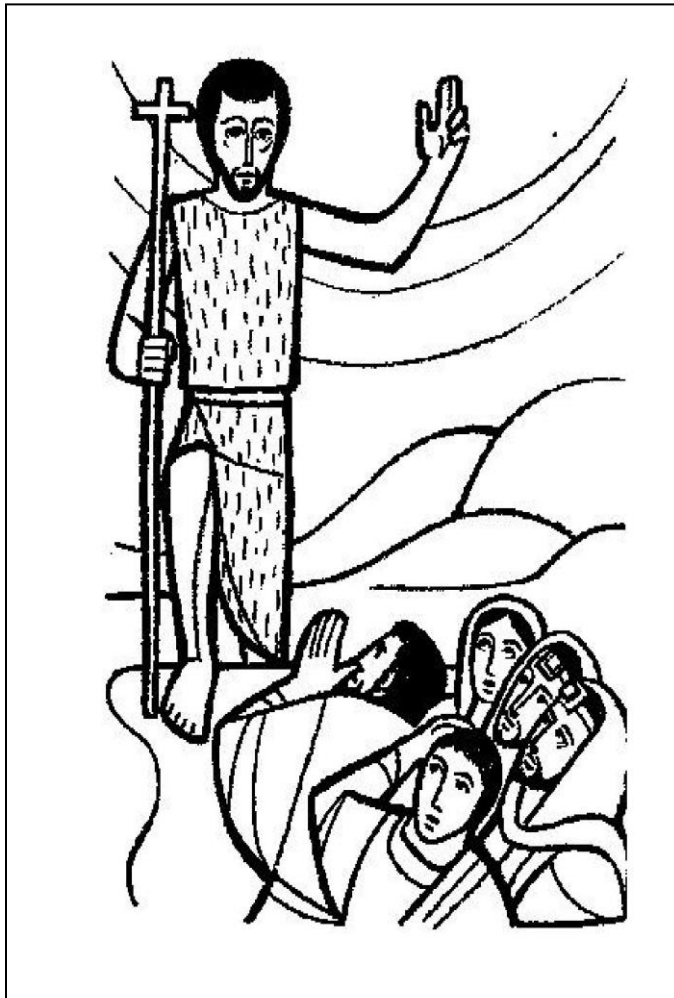




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Amigos de Jesús y María



Florida Center for Peace



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST JUNE 24

In the words of Isaiah the prophet,
"I am the voice of one calling in the
wilderness, 'Make straight the way
for the Lord.'" (John 1:23)



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