



The Nativity of Saint John the Baptist June 24, 2018

Dear Members and Friends of St. Mary's/
St. Patrick's, and St. Peter's Cathedral:

Nearly forty years ago Christa and I found ourselves in Florence, Italy, on today's feast – the Nativity of St. John the Baptist. It turns out that he is the patron saint of Florence and the city celebrated appropriately. There was a solemn Mass in the great cathedral whose dome was created by novel methods of engineering later used to create the even larger dome of St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. That by itself is a helpful reminder that intelligence and technological skill are not unique to our own day.

And at night there were fireworks. The Nativity of St. John the Baptist merits solemnity and fireworks. Along with the Blessed Mother he straddles and connects the Old and New Testaments. His ministry is that of an Old Testament prophet. With great passion and deep love for the Jewish people, he calls for repentance and renewal, so that they will be ready for what God is about to do. He administers baptism as a sign of repentance to symbolize the need for a fresh start. He speaks with great urgency: 'the axe is already laid to root of the tree.' Be ready; avoid God's judgment. In this he is like the prophets before him. Jesus identifies him as the greatest of the prophets.

His ministry culminates when he baptizes Jesus the Messiah and points to him as the 'Lamb of God who

takes away the sins of the world.' We might say that when he does so he introduces the New Testament. The connection to Jesus is also one of kinship; they are cousins and no doubt learned from each other and assisted one another in the unrecorded years before their public ministries.

John will die the death of a martyr. Of Mary we often say that she endured a 'white martyrdom.' She did not shed her blood but shared in suffering and endured Jesus' death as an onlooker. The Old Testament promise of redemption comes to fulfillment in her.

Therefore, it is not surprising that the two are often displayed together on either side of the crucified Lord – John pointing and Mary suffering. This image is called the *deisis* (meaning supplication, as they join in Christ's self-offering to God). It is common in the Eastern Church and can be seen in Western churches as well. John points to Christ. Mary bears him in her womb. Together they present him to the world. As I said, the day is worth fireworks.

In Christ,

Fr. Klein
Rector

Pray for the Sick

Darlene Bargelski, Facenda Burton, Michael Dineen, Helen Dugan, Sigurd Erickson, Cal Fuhrmann, Jaxon Gardner, Valencia Giannantonio, Ann Hagan, David Kidd, Kathy Kingsley, Rita Lynam, Kay Lynch, Bill Marshall, Barbara Mondzelewski, Francesca Olivere, Teresa Rodriguez, Earlene Roles, John Sarnecky, Howard Scott, Cheryl Smith and Olga Yapó.

Quo Vadis 2018

Quo Vadis is a 3-day event for high school and college age men to learn about the priesthood, deepen their Catholic faith, and to have fun. This event will take place at Malvern Retreat House, 315 S. Warren Avenue, Malvern, Pennsylvania on Thursday, July 26 at 5 PM to Sunday July 29 at 8 AM. Registration is free. Register online and find more information at cdow.org/vocations.

Masses/Services for the Week

Saturday, June 23

4:00 PM Irene Hannas

Sunday, June 24 (The Nativity of Saint John the Baptist)

8:00 AM Parishioners

11:00 AM Genevieve Moran

Monday, June 25

12:10 PM Kathryn Hall

Tuesday, June 26

12:10 PM Luis and Georgina Cruz

Wednesday, June 27 (M, Saint Cyril of Alexandria, Bishop, Doctor of the Church)

12:10 PM Jesus M. Prado

Thursday, June 28 (M, Saint Irenaeus, Bishop, Martyr)

12:10 PM Judith Coombs-Convery

Friday, June 29 (S, Saints Peter and Paul, Apostles)

12:10 PM Anna Kaminska (L)

Saturday, June 30

4:00 PM Judith Coombs-Convery

Sunday, July 1 (Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time)

8:00 AM Parishioners

11:00 AM Eugenia Duncan

Birthday Wishes

Prayers and warm wishes for the following parishioners who have birthdays this week: **June 25:** Dian O'Leary; **June 26:** Mary Theresa Marinelli

Welcome Bishop John Ricard

On the weekend of July 7-8, Bishop John Ricard, Bishop Emeritus of Pensacola-Tallahassee, will be in town to preach and celebrate Mass and to promote a collection on behalf of the Josephite Missions and the National Black Catholic Congress. The Josephites have long worked among African-Americans. They long served at St. Joseph's, French Street, and in fact our beloved deacon, the late Robert Levesque, was in the order for several years.

Bishop Ricard will be at all three Masses at the Cathedral and at the 5:00 PM Mass at St. Patrick's. Please be prepared to welcome him and to give generously to this important mission effort.

Book of Sacred Liturgy

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Readings/Responsorial Psalm Pg. 686/689

On Jordan's Bank #778

Christ Be Our Light #958

God's Blessings Sends Us Forth #1045

Annual Catholic Appeal

Thank you for your generous involvement in the 2018 Annual Catholic Appeal. The Cathedral's target was \$32,000. The pledged amount was \$43,991; 62 out of 122 households pledged, a total of 51%.

St. Mary's target was \$10,000. The pledged amount was \$10,430; 20 out of 49 households pledged, a total of 41%.

St. Patrick's target was \$31,000. The pledged amount was \$37,135; 68 out of 118 households pledged a total of 58%.

Our small parishes play an important role in the community and the diocese, and in this area we play a leadership role. Our stewardship of our material blessings is a critical part of our discipleship. Many thanks for your generosity.

Save the Date!

The Cathedral Pipe Organ, built by the Austin Organ Company in 1918 and renovated by Michael Davidson is 100 years old this year! The Cathedral will celebrate the occasion with a special organ recital to be held on **October 21, 2018** at 3 PM. Seven organists will perform in addition to instrumentalists. The program will include a variety of music, hymn singing, and a special hymn concertato being composed for the event. Stay tuned for more updates on this special celebration!

Catholic Forum

Listen to *Catholic Forum* every Sunday morning at 10:05 AM on WDEL 101.7 FM, 1150 AM and www.del.com. Next Sunday, July 1, tune in to meet a newly ordained priest from our diocese, Father Matthew Mary, MFVA and learn about his fascinating conversion and vocational calling.

Vocation Reflection

As the great herald of the Christ child is born again, let us all herald the Christ into this world, why not consider becoming a priest for the Diocese of Wilmington by contacting Father Norm Carroll, Diocesan Director of Priestly and Religious Vocations (302) 573-3113, vocations@cdow.org. Be sure to visit our website: www.cdow.org/vocations!

Marriage Help

Retrouvaille is Christian-based, and Catholic in origin, but welcomes couples of all faiths as well as non-religious couples. The next program begins on the weekend of August 17-19 at the Family Life Center in Malvern, PA. For more information or to register for one of the weekend programs, visit www.HelpOurMarriage.org or call 1-800-470-2230. All inquiries are kept strictly confidential.