



INSTITUTE OF CHRIST THE KING SOVEREIGN PRIEST

THE NATIVITY OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

POPE BENEDICT XVI - ANGELUS, JUNE 24TH, 2012



*St. John the Baptist Preaching, Mattia Preti, 1665,
Fine Arts Museum of San Francisco*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Today, 24 June, we are celebrating the Solemnity of St John the Baptist. He is the only saint - with the exception of the Virgin Mary - whose birth the liturgy celebrates and it does so because it is closely connected with the mystery of the Incarnation of the Son of God. In fact, from the time when he was in his mother's womb John was the precursor of Jesus: the Angel announced to Mary his miraculous conception as a sign that *"nothing is impossible to God"* (Lk 1:37), six months before the great miracle that brings us salvation, God's union with man brought about by the Holy Spirit. The four Gospels place great emphasis on the figure of John the Baptist, the prophet who concludes the Old Testament and inaugurates the New, by identifying Jesus of Nazareth as the Messiah, the Anointed One of the Lord. In fact, Jesus himself was to speak of John in these terms: *"This is he of whom it is written 'Behold I send my messenger before your face, / who shall prepare your way before you. Truly I say to you, among those born of women there has risen no one greater than John the Baptist; yet he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he!'"* (Mt 11:10-11).

John's father, Zechariah—Elizabeth's husband and a relative of Mary — was a priest of Old Testament worship, he did not immediately believe in the announcement of such an unexpected fatherhood. This is why he was left mute until the day of the circumcision of the child to whom he and his wife gave the name God had indicated to them, that is, John, which means *"graced by God"*. Inspired by the Holy Spirit, Zechariah spoke thus of his son's mission: *"And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins"* (Lk 1:76-77).



*Annunciation of the Angel to Zechariah by Domenico Ghirlandaio
(1490, fresco in the Tornabuoni Chapel, Florence)*

All this came to pass 30 years later when John began baptizing people in the River Jordan, calling them to prepare themselves with this act of penance for the imminent coming of the Messiah, which God had revealed to them during their wanderings in the desert of Judaea. This is why he was called the *"Baptist"*, the *"Baptizer"* (cf. Mt 3:1-6). When one day Jesus himself came from Nazareth to be baptized, John at first refused but then consented; he saw the Holy Spirit settle on Jesus and heard the voice of the heavenly Father proclaiming him his Son (cf. Mt 3:13-17). However, the Baptist's mission was not yet complete. Shortly afterwards he was also asked to precede Jesus in a violent death: John was beheaded in King Herod's prison and thus bore a full witness to the Lamb of God who had recognized him and publicly pointed him out beforehand.

Dear friends, the Virgin Mary helped her elderly kinswoman Elizabeth when she was expecting John to bring her pregnancy to completion. May she help all people to follow Jesus, the Christ, the Son of God, whom the Baptist proclaimed with deep humility and prophetic fervor.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today: Second collection for the Sisters Adorers of the Royal Heart of Jesus

Particularly during the month of June, which is dedicated to the Adoration of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, we ask you, dear faithful, to help the Sisters Adorers of the Royal Heart of Jesus with your donations. In support of the work of the Institute of Christ the King this community of contemplative nuns is dedicated to reparation and adoration of the Royal Heart of Jesus Christ Sovereign Priest. The Adorers are leading a non-cloistered contemplative life and offer their daily prayers and sacrifices particularly for the priests of the Institute and the souls entrusted to them. In the name of our Prior General and founder, Msgr. Wach, and in the name of the Sisters Adorers, I thank you wholeheartedly for all your support!
- Canon Michael K. Wiener



Important Announcement

Mass this coming Saturday, June 26th, 2021, will be celebrated at 9:00am at the Cathedral (not as usually at 10:00am) due to a wedding later that morning. Thank you for your understanding.

Talk “The Mass and the Missal” Postponed

Due to the extension of the present lockdown restrictions until 19th July, the use of the parish hall will not be possible before 19th July and the talk about the Mass and the Missal had to be postponed.

Available this Sunday: “Elements of Catholic Reform Bases on Truth”

Canon Wiener has ordered copies of Msgr. Rudolf Michael Schmitz’ “Elements of a Catholic Reform Based on Truth.” Monsignor talked in 2018 at the ‘Catholic Voice’ conference in Limerick and gave in this fascinating presentation a comprehensive description of the most important areas in the Church’s life. His Eminence, Raymond Leo Cardinal Burke wrote the foreword. - These booklets will be available for purchase after Mass on Sunday (£3.00).



SHREWSBURY WEEKLY SCHEDULE

DAY	DATE	TIME	MASS OF THE DAY	INTENTIONS	
				CANON WIENER	FATHER GRIBBIN
Sun*	20 th June	12:30 pm	FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST	BENEFACTORS OF THE INSTITUTE	PI
Mon	21 st June	10:00 am	St. Aloysius Gonzaga, Confessor	Private Intention K	PI
Tue	22 nd June	6:30 pm	St. Paulinus, Bishop & Confessor	Gabrielle & David - Healing	PI
Wed	23 rd June	10:00 am	Vigil of St. John the Baptist	Frances & Jonathan	PI
Thu	24 th June	6:30 pm	The Nativity of St. John the Baptist	Martin, Catherine & family	PI
Fri	25 th June	10:00 am	St. William, Abbot	Veronica, Peter & family - Healing	PI
Sat	26 th June	10:00 am	SS. John and Paul, Martyrs	Jonathan, Sophia, Ian & Paul	PI
Sun*	27 th June	12:30 pm	Fifth Sunday after Pentecost	Raymond Leo Cardinal Burke	PI

*SUNDAY MASSES AT 12:30 PM AT ST. WINEFRIDE’S CHURCH, 187 CROWMERE RD, SHREWSBURY SY2 5LA

St. Winefride’s Presbytery, Mynd Close, Shrewsbury SY2 5RA
 Rev. Canon Michael Wiener, Prior of the House of Saint Chad
 email: canon.wiener@institute-christ-king.org telephone: 07311 44 33 23
 Rev. Anselm Gribbin, Assisting Priest - email: jagribbin@hotmail.com telephone: 07952 963641
 ICKSP website: <https://icksp.org.uk/shrewsbury/>