

Calendar

Monday

DECEMBER 17
Advent Weekday
Gn 49:2, 8-10
Mt 1:1-17

Tuesday

DECEMBER 18
Advent Weekday
Jer 23:5-8
Mt 1:18-25

Wednesday

DECEMBER 19
Advent Weekday
Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a
Lk 1:5-25

Thursday

DECEMBER 20
Advent Weekday
Is 7:10-14
Lk 1:26-38

Friday

DECEMBER 21
Advent Weekday
Sg 2:8-14 or
Zep 3:14-18a
Lk 1:39-45

Saturday

DECEMBER 22
Advent Weekday
1 Sm 1:24-28
Lk 1:46-56

Sunday

DECEMBER 23
*Fourth Sunday
of Advent*
Mi 5:1-4a
Heb 10:5-10
Lk 1:39-45



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Dear Padre,

What do we really know about John the Baptist and how do we know it?

What we know about John the Baptist comes from a combination of Scripture and Church traditions that evolved during and after the writing of the Scriptures of the New Testament.

John's parents were Zechariah, a priest in the Jerusalem Temple, and Elizabeth, who was related to Mary. The angel Gabriel told Zechariah that his wife would bear a son, even though she was quite old. It is believed that John was born in the region of Ain Karim, southwest of Jerusalem. During his early twenties, he was a member of the Qumran community, and later was a desert hermit. In his late twenties John began his public ministry in the Jordan River Valley. He followed a long line of Jewish prophets who preached against evils of the day, demanding inner repentance and outer baptism as a sign of that repentance.

John continued to preach in the Jordan Valley even after encountering Jesus. Eventually John was arrested by Herod Antipas and imprisoned at Machaerus Fortress by the Dead Sea. He was beheaded at the request of Salome, daughter of Herodias. After John's death, many of his disciples followed Jesus, including Andrew and John.

John, whose name means "God is gracious," is usually represented in pictures holding a long slender cross with a small lamb partially hidden behind him. He is the patron of monastic life, people with epilepsy and other compulsive disorders, lambs, printers, blacksmiths, and tailors.

—Fr. Paul J. Coury, CSSr
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ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PREACHING, C. 1655 BY MATTIA PRETI / WIKIPEDIA



A Word From Pope Francis

Let us implore from on high the gift of commitment to the cause of peace. Peace in our homes, our families, our schools and our communities. Peace in all those places where war never seems to end. Peace for those faces which have known nothing but pain. Peace throughout this world...Simply PEACE.

—Address at Ground Zero Memorial, New York City, September 25, 2015

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