



## ***NATIVITY OF SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST YEAR B – June 24, 2018***

Today, we gather to celebrate the birthday of St. John the Baptist. During the liturgical year, when certain feasts fall on a Sunday, we set aside our usual calendar of ordinary Sundays and focus on the feast day. Today is such a day. St. John is the last of the Old Testament prophets and today we celebrate his birthday.

The church invites us to share the joy of Zechariah and Elizabeth on the birth of their son. It must have been a marvelous occasion and it was a point at which no one knew that he would grow up to unsettle the stifling status quo of his contemporaries.

The responsorial psalm reminds us that Saint John was "Wonderfully made" - to be the prophet of the coming dawn. He welcomed God's own Son and announced the kingdom of God

He was the God's voice at the Jordan river, cleansing God's people from their sins and making way for God's kingdom within each one of them. He was an arrow sharpened by God, to pierce through selfishness and strife, waking complacent hearts to new life.

You will recall that Jesus said of St. John, "Among those born of women no one is greater than John" (Luke 7:28).

Can Jesus say the same thing about each one of us? He can if we realize that like St. John, we too are wonderfully made. Wonderfully made to be the prophets of our own time and place, welcoming God's beloved Son, Jesus and announcing that the kingdom of God is in our midst - inside each one of us. We are indeed wonderfully made:

- Wonderfully made to be the voice of Jesus wherever we go, helping to heal others and making way for God's kingdom within each one of them
- Wonderfully made to be that arrow in the responsorial psalm, sharpened by God, piercing through pride, avarice, lust, anger, gluttony, envy and laziness, waking complacent hearts to new life.

Like Saint John, we are called to be the light of the world and like John, we need to realize that *Jesus is the candle* and we are the mirrors that reflect him. We too are not worthy to untie the laces of his shoes. But we too are wonderfully made. And we are called to be disciples.

For a few moments in silence, reflect on how you mirror the light of Christ in the part of the world in which you live.



**CAN PEOPLE SEE JESUS IN YOU?**