



Missionarii Sancti Joannis Baptistæ

Vox clamantis in deserto, parate viam Domini

401 BERRY STREET ✪ DAYTON ✪ KENTUCKY ✪ 41074

The Birth of a Prophet—The Birth of a Chapel

IF YOU HAVE BEEN VISITING OUR WEBSITE lately (msjb.info), then you will have noticed that the restoration of Our Lady

of Lourdes Chapel has begun in earnest. Church pews and older statues are being restored, while interior floor plans and a design for an outdoor grotto are being drawn up. We are especially pleased with a custom designed high altar presently being built.

Spires adorn the reredos on this high altar that remind one of the soaring spires that grace the front of the Basilica of our Lady of the Immaculate Conception in Lourdes, France. A life size statue of Our Lady of Lourdes will eventually find its proper place within the main niche of the reredos, flanked by both St. Bernadette and St. John the Baptist, our heavenly patron. In a real way, we hope and pray that future visitors to our Lady of Lourdes Chapel will feel as if that apparition site were somehow brought to Northern Kentucky.

In 1858, Our Lady of Lourdes appeared 18 times to Bernadette Soubirous, a young peasant girl, in the grotto of Massabielle. Our Lady also requested that a chapel be built near the site of the apparition. Since the 1870s, the Basilica of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception, strikingly stands atop of the rock of Massabielle, just above the

Grotto. We look forward to seeing the completed high altar that will partially capture the look of the magnificent basilica.



In celebration of this restoration project, and in thanksgiving to the Triune God, Our Lady of Lourdes, good St. Joseph, and yes our heavenly patron, St. John the Baptist, we are praying a novena in honor of the nativity of the greatest of prophets. **For nine days (June 15-23, 2016), we will be offering up special prayers in honor of St. John the**

Baptist in order to prepare for the celebration of his sinless birthday.

We would ask you to join us in this time of prayer. In addition, we would like you to send us any special intentions you might have. We will bring these petitions before the good Lord through the intercession of our heavenly patron. **If you wish to make a monetary offering in connection with this novena, then please make any checks or money orders payable to *The Missionaries of St. John the Baptist* (or just *MSJB*).**

As you can see from this pie chart, we are still working towards our goal of \$250,000. Your most generous support in the past has made the purchase of this church building a reality. With your further support, we hope to make it look beautiful for Our Lady, the highest honor of our race. ✪



SAINT AUGUSTINE, BISHOP AND DOCTOR

The voice of one crying in the wilderness

THE CHURCH OBSERVES THE BIRTH OF JOHN as a hallowed event. We have no such commemoration for any other fathers; but it is significant that we celebrate the birthdays of John and Jesus. This day cannot be passed by...John was born of a woman too old for childbirth; Christ was born of a youthful virgin. The news of John's birth was met with incredulity, and his father was struck dumb. Christ's birth was believed, and he was conceived through faith.

John, then, appears as the boundary between the two testaments, the old and the new. That he is a sort of boundary, the Lord himself bears witness, when he speaks of *the law and the prophets up until John the Baptist*. Thus he represents times past and is the herald of the new era to come. As a representative of the past, he is born of aged parents; as a herald of the new era, he is declared to be a prophet while still in his mother's womb. For when yet unborn, he leapt in his mother's womb at the arrival of blessed Mary. In that womb he had already been designated a prophet, even before he was born; it was revealed that he was to be Christ's precursor, before they saw one another. These are divine happenings, going beyond the limits of our human frailty. Eventually he is born, he receives his name, his father's tongue is loosened. See how these events reflect reality.

Zechariah is silent and loses his voice until John, the precursor of the Lord, is born and restores his voice. The silence of Zechariah is nothing but the age of prophecy lying hidden, obscured, as it were, and concealed before the preaching of Christ. At John's arrival Zechariah's voice is released, and it becomes clear at the coming of the one who was foretold...The tongue is loosened because a voice is born. For when John was preaching the Lord's coming he was asked: *Who are you?* And he replied: *I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness*. The voice is John, but the Lord in the beginning was the Word. John was a voice that lasted only for a time; Christ, the Word in the beginning, is eternal. ❀

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST NOVENA PRAYERS

Days 1, 4, & 7

O GLORIOUS ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, greatest prophet among those born of woman, although thou was sanctified in thy mother's womb and didst lead a most innocent life, nevertheless it was thy will to retire into the wilderness, there to devote thyself to the practice of austerity and penance; obtain for us of thy Lord the grace to be wholly detached, at least in our hearts, from earthly goods, and to practice Christian mortification with interior recollection and with the spirit of holy prayer. *Amen*.

Days 2, 5, & 8

O MOST ZEALOUS APOSTLE, who, without working any miracle on others, but solely by the example of thy life of penance and the power of thy word, didst draw after thee the multitudes, in order to dispose them to receive the Messiah worthily and to listen to His heavenly doctrine; grant that it may be given unto us, by means of the example of a holy life and the exercise of every good work, to bring many souls to God, but above all those souls that are enveloped in the darkness of error and ignorance and are led astray by vice. *Amen*.

Days 3, 6, & 9

O MARTYR INVINCIBLE, who, for the honor of God and the salvation of souls, didst with firmness and constancy withstand the impiety of Herod even at the cost of thine own life, and didst rebuke him openly for his wicked and dissolute life; by thy prayers obtain for us a heart, brave and generous, in order that we may overcome all human respect and openly profess our faith in loyal obedience to the teachings of Jesus Christ, our divine Master. *Amen*.

(end each day by mentioning petitions here)

V. O glorious St. John the Baptist, through the love thou does bear to Jesus Christ, and for the glory of His Name,
R. Hear our prayers and obtain our petitions.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be...



Should you wish to contribute to our work, please make out checks to:

The Missionaries of St. John the Baptist –or– MSJB

May God reward you!

Fr. Shannon Collins, MSJB & Fr. Sean Kopczynski, MSJB (www.msjb.info)

