

The Nativity of St. John the Baptist

The parents of Saint John the Baptist, the Priest Zachariah and Elizabeth, reached old age without having children. Once, Saint Zachariah was serving in the Temple at Jerusalem and saw the Archangel Gabriel. He predicted that Saint Zachariah would father a son. Zachariah had doubts that in old age it was possible to have a son, and he asked for a sign. Zachariah was struck speechless until the time of the fulfillment of the archangel's words.

Soon Saint Elizabeth gave birth to a son and named him John. After the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, king Herod gave orders to kill all male infants. Hearing about this, Saint Elizabeth fled into the wilderness and hid in a cave. Herod sent soldiers to Saint Zachariah to find out the abode of the infant John and his mother. Zachariah answered that their whereabouts were unknown to him, and he was killed right there in the Temple. Righteous Elizabeth continued to live in the wilderness with her son and she died there. The child John, protected by an angel, dwelt in the wilderness until the time when he came preaching repentance, and was accounted worthy to baptize the Lord.

St. Herman of Alaska Orthodox Church

Orthodox Church in America, Diocese of the West

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Reflection adapted from oca.org; Hymnography from oca.org

St. Herman of Alaska Orthodox Church

Port Townsend, WA



Sunday, June 24th, 2018

*Nativity of the Holy Glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist
John*

4th Sunday after Pentecost

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Readings

Epistle Romans 6:18-23; Romans 13:11-14:4
Gospel Matthew 8:5-13; Luke 1:5-25, 57-68, 76, 80

Tone 3 Troparion (Resurrection)

Let the heavens rejoice! Let the earth be glad! For the Lord has shown strength with His arm. He has trampled down death by death. He has become the first born of the dead. He has delivered us from the depths of hell, and has granted to the world// great mercy.

Tone 4 Troparion (Nativity of St John the Baptist)

O Prophet and Forerunner of the coming of Christ, although we cannot praise thee worthily, we honor thee in love at thy nativity, for by it thou hast ended thy father's silence and thy mother's barrenness, //proclaiming to the world the incarnation of the Son of God!

Tone 3 Kontakion (Resurrection)

On this day Thou didst rise from the tomb, O Merciful One, leading us from the gates of death. On this day Adam exults as Eve rejoices; with the Prophets and Patriarchs// they unceasingly praise the divine majesty of Thy power.

Tone 3 Kontakion (Nativity of St John the Baptist)

Today the formerly barren woman gives birth to Christ's Forerunner, who is the fulfillment of every prophecy; for in the Jordan, when he laid his hand on the One foretold by the Prophets, // he was revealed as Prophet, Herald, and Forerunner of God the Word.



This Week at St. Herman's

Sunday, June 24th - Nativity of St. John the Baptist *Fish Wine & Oil*

- 8:00 AM - Matins
- 9:30 AM - Divine Liturgy
- Coffee Hour in the parish hall

Wednesday, June 27th - Venerable Samptson the Hospitable

- 6:45 AM - Coffee and Books

Thursday, June 28th - Venerable Cyrus & John

- 7:00 PM - Vigil

Friday, June 29th - Sts. Peter and Paul *Fish Wine & Oil*

- 9:00 AM - Divine Liturgy

Saturday, June 30th - Synaxis of the 12 Apostles

- 7:00 PM - Great Vespers