



My Dear Parishioners,

Praised be Jesus Christ and Happy Father's Day to all our dad's! All the Masses this weekend are being offered for our dear fathers, living and deceased, who will be remembered and honored throughout this month of June. In addition to our dads, this week we salute our grads. A word of congratulations to all our parishioners who have graduated in recent weeks and completed their course of studies. Job well done!

Most of us are familiar with Geico's Hump Day Camel. According to CBS, his actual name is "Caleb" and as we know he makes his appearance each week on Hump Day, Wednesday. While not the high point of each week, it is the mid-point. This week, we arrive at a big mid-point, the mid-point of our calendar year, the Summer Solstice. At 11:32 PM Sunday, summer arrives as the sun will stand at its highest point in the Northern Hemisphere's sky. This is the longest day of the year, a day that has been celebrated throughout centuries by peoples of all faiths and cultures as Seasons change.

For Christians, this even coincides with the birth of Saint John the Baptist celebrated on June 24. His birth, six months before the birth of Christ, is a "hump day" of sorts, as the greatest of all the prophets is born and the coming of the Savior draws near. I share below a little reflection on this day by Philip Kosloski and encourage you to celebrate it. Our regularly scheduled 7:00 PM Mass this Weekday marks the eve of John's Birth and all are welcome to join us for a bonfire in the courtyard after Mass.

Peace,

Fr. Rogers

St. John's birthday is celebrated on June 24, three months after the Annunciation and six months prior to the birth of Christ. The feast coincides with the summer solstice, the time of the year when the days are the longest. After the celebration of St. John's birthday the days become progressively shorter up until the Winter Solstice around December 25 when the days start to get longer. This corresponds to the words of St. John the Baptist, "He must increase, but I must decrease." One of many traditional celebrations associated with St. John's birthday is the blessing of a bonfire the night before. This is done to commemorate the words of Zechariah in the Benedictus:

***"In the tender compassion of our God
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace" (Luke 1: 78-79).***

St. John is often seen as a light that shines in the darkness, pointing to the true light of the world, Jesus Christ. It is a tradition in many parts of the world to host a bonfire party and to have a priest bless the fire. Sometimes people will burn old things to symbolize the transition of the end of the Old Law to make way for the New Law in Christ. It is also an appropriate time to burn old sacramentals that are no longer of use (like old scapulars), since burning is one the approved ways to dispose of blessed items.



St. Patrick Parish welcomes are newest members who were baptized on Sunday, June 13, 2021. May God Bless them and their families!

Emilia Catherine Bentley

Benjamin Patrick Michener



We would like to welcome the following new members to our Parish Family:

- Mr. Allan Dunn
- Ms. Amanda DeCarolis
- Ms. Anne Marie DeCarolis
- Mr. & Mrs. Joseph DeCarolis
- Mr. Gilberto Sanchez
- Mr. & Mrs. Damian Harding
- The Piccone Family