

METUCHEN GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB

EDISON, NEW JERSEY

FOR DETAILS AND REGISTRATION, VISIT US AT: www.ChurchoftheSacredHeart.net

REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE

SUSTAINABILITY TIP: Avoid Traffic - being stuck in traffic wastes gas and unnecessarily creates CO₂. Use traffic websites and apps and go a different way or wait. Combine errands to make fewer trips. Remove excess weight from your car. Use cruise control. — From Catholic Climate Covenant

PRAYER FOR THE PROTECTION OF RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

O God our Creator,

from Your provident hand we have received our right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. You have called us as your people and given us the right and the duty to worship You, the only true God, and Your Son, Jesus Christ.

Through the power and working of Your Holy Spirit, you call us to live out our faith in the midst of the world, bringing the light and the saving truth of the Gospel to every corner of society.

We ask You to bless us in our vigilance for the gift of religious liberty. Give us the strength of mind and heart to readily defend our freedoms when they are threatened; give us courage in making our voices heard on behalf of the rights of Your Church and the freedom of conscience of all people of faith.

Grant, we pray, O heavenly Father, a clear and united voice to all your sons and daughters gathered in your Church in this decisive hour in the history of our nation, so that, with every trial withstood and every danger overcome —

for the sake of our children, our grandchildren, and all who come after us —

this great land will always be "one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Are you praying your Morning Offering?

VISIT US ON INSTAGRAM — SACREDHEARTSPNJ

DAILY INTENTIONS

Sunday That the Gospel message of Joy, Mercy and Reconciliation, may open hearts and minds to Christ

Our Savior

Monday For the Sick and Persons with Disabilities

Tuesday For Those who Suffer Discrimination regardless of its

source (Age, Gender, Race, Religion, Disability, National

and Ethnic Origin, Sexual Identify, Social Status)

Wednesday For Military & Emergency Response Services Personnel

Thursday For all Pregnant Mothers and their Unborn Children

Friday For all Civil and Religious Leaders

Saturday For our Families, our Bishop James & his intentions, and

the intentions written in our Parish Intention Book

WITNESSES TO FREEDOM ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

"He must increase." I must decrease."

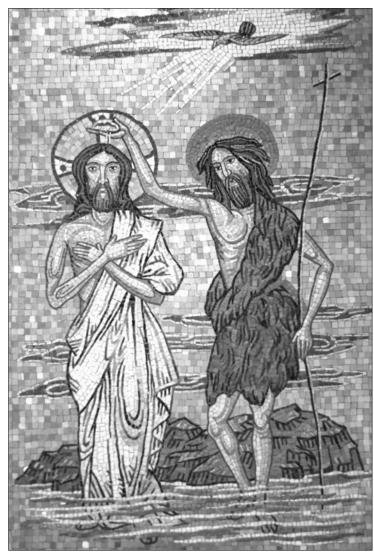
On June 24, we celebrate the birth of the Forerunner, one of the great men in the story of Jesus.

As herald of the Christ, John the Baptist reveals what it means to be a witness. He was one of the greatest of the prophets, and his courageous truth-telling led to his martyrdom. Most importantly, his ministry opened the way for others to encounter Jesus.

John links the Old Testament to the New. He preaches a message of repentance, challenging complacency among the people of Israel. He is often thought of as the last of the old prophets. When he is approached by religious leaders who are failing in their role, he confronts them directly, calling them a brood of vipers. He also challenges the immorality of the political leaders, opposing Herod's marriage – a stance for which he was later beheaded.

By calling people to come to be dipped in the waters of the Jordan as an act of repentance, he reminds his fellow Judeans of the Exodus. The call to renewal is an act of remembrance. The action says, "Remember the God who delivered you!" At the same time, the ritual looks forward to the one who has been promised to bring true freedom to Israel.

John's renewal movement prepared the way of Jesus. John knew that God was moving in his people, even if he did not know what that would mean. When Jesus comes to be baptized, an act of his solidarity with sinners, John first begins to recognize Jesus as the one to come. Later in Jesus' ministry, John says to his own disciples, "He must increase; I must decrease" (John 3:30). He bears witness to the freedom that comes with true humility and openness to answering a call.



National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, DC; photo by Fr. Lawrence Lew, OP

St. John the Baptist, pray for us!



Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty www.usccb.org/freedom | Twitter: @USCCBFreedom Text "Freedom" to 377377 to receive updates

PRAY FOR PEACE, **FREEDOM**