Gospel Action of the Week

Each week, we will spend time at school looking at the gospel reading for Sunday and think about what we can do to bring the message of Jesus alive for each of us. We encourage you to pay close attention to the gospel reading at Mass this Sunday, and pray with this reading during the week, perhaps at a meal time or during the evening. Below is a prayer you can use at home.

Prayer for the Nativity of St John the Baptist

Sign of the Cross

+ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Reading

A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke (1:5-17)

When Herod was king of Judea, there was a priest by the name of Zechariah from the priestly group of Abijah. His wife Elizabeth was from the family of Aaron. Both of them were good people and pleased the Lord God by obeying all that he had commanded. But they did not have children. Elizabeth could not have any, and both Zechariah and Elizabeth were already old.

One day Zechariah’s group of priests were on duty, and he was serving God as a priest. According to the custom of the priests, he had been chosen to go into the Lord’s temple that day and to burn incense, while the people stood outside praying.

All at once an angel from the Lord appeared to Zechariah at the right side of the altar. Zechariah was confused and afraid when he saw the angel. But the angel told him:

Don’t be afraid, Zechariah! God has heard your prayers. Your wife Elizabeth will have a son, and you must name him John. His birth will make you very happy, and many people will be glad. Your son will be a great servant of the Lord. He must never drink wine or beer, and the power of the Holy Spirit will be with him from the time he is born.

John will lead many people in Israel to turn back to the Lord their God. He will go ahead of the Lord with the same power and spirit that Elijah had. And because of John, parents will be more thoughtful of their children. And people who now disobey God will begin to think as they ought to. That is how John will get people ready for the Lord.

Reflection

(Provide time after each question for thinking)

Elizabeth and Zechariah were full of joy with the news they would have a son. What am I thankful for? How can I show that I am thankful for the things God has given me?

(You might want to invite the children to name any things they wish to pray for)

Lord’s Prayer

Let us pray the prayer that Jesus taught us.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Closing Prayer

God who blesses us always, Help us to be thankful. May we tell others about the great things you do for us. We this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

This Week’s Gospel Action:
Be thankful
His name is John

The Birth of St John the Baptist

Who was John the Baptist

Answer the following statements True or False

He was Jesus’ cousin

He was born six years before Jesus

His father, Zechariah, had lost the ability to speak

He lived in the desert wilderness

He was baptised by Jesus

Colour the shapes that contain dots to find out what Zechariah wrote on the tablet.

Draw a picture of John the Baptist from one of the following bible stories...

The Proclamation of John the Baptist

John preaches in the wilderness

Matthew 3:1-12

The Baptism of Jesus

John Baptises Jesus in the Jordan River

John 1:39-34

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