

**Christ Child Catholic Church**  
***Dedicated to Growth in Christ and to the  
Challenges of Loving Service***

23230 Summit Road  
Los Gatos, CA 95033-9278  
Telephone: (408) 353-2210  
Fax: (408) 353-8680  
Pastor: Rev. Eugenio Arámburo  
Web Site: [www.christchild.org](http://www.christchild.org)  
Email: [eugenio.aramburo@yahoo.com](mailto:eugenio.aramburo@yahoo.com)

**THE NATIVITY OF SAINT JOHN**  
**THE BAPTIST**  
**June 24, 2018**

**The birth of John the Baptist is a Sabbath year Feast, that is, a feast that we celebrate on a Sunday only once every seven years. It is an important feast in the sense that his is one of only three whose birthdays we commemorate.**  
**The other two of course are Jesus and the Virgin Mary.**

**John's birthday in Church history and tradition**

This is one of the oldest feasts on the Church calendar. In the early Church, as in medieval times, this was one of the biggest feasts of the year. As was done on Christmas, three masses were offered, one at midnight, and two in the morning. All over Europe, fires were lighted on mountains and hilltops on the eve of this feast. The people had parties and lit bonfires in honor of John because our Lord called him a "burning and shining lamp" (John 5:35). These fires, sometimes called St. John's fires, were lit on St. John's Eve and burned until at least midnight. These fires

were also a sign of Christ the Light, and a reminder that we, too, are called to be a light for the world. In Catholic sections of Europe, people prayed together to Saint John for his intercession that the summer might be blessed in homes, fields, and country. Finally, they performed some of the traditional folk dances, usually accompanied by singing and music. In addition to celebrating around outdoor fires, other customs included decorating one's home with flowers, making floral wreaths which were sometimes sent down a river as a symbol of Jesus' baptism, placing sprigs of St. John wort around the house much as we do Palm Sunday palms, and eating strawberries. This feast, placed three months after of the Annunciation, and six months before Christmas, also served the useful purpose of supplanting the immoral pagan feasts of the Summer solstice. St. John the Baptist was highly honored throughout the whole Church from the beginning. Proof of this is, among other things, was the fact that fifteen churches were dedicated to him in the ancient imperial city of Constantinople.

**The crippled Doctor who transformed tragedy into sacrificial service.**

Take the story of Mary Varghese. Mary Varghese was a brilliant young Indian surgeon. Crippled as a result of a car accident, she was able to feel and move only her arms and her head. But she believed that God could still use her, and she became interested in treating lepers. In the words of John Lane, "She realized she could transform their wasted stumps into something like hands and feet. Mary Varghese underwent major surgery herself so that she could be

made to sit upright in a wheelchair. In her operating room at Vellore, she reconstructed hands and feet and faces, the type of surgery that can be performed from a wheelchair, a type of surgery she would never have done if she had not been deprived of her normal strength. What for many would be catastrophe, for Mary Varghese became opportunity. (John E. Lane, Expository Times 96)

That is what the parents of John the Baptist, Zachariah and Elizabeth, did, transforming the painful memory of their childlessness into service for Zachariah in the Temple of God, for Elizabeth at Home.

**Sacrament of Reconciliation**

By request or appointment

**BAPTISMS & WEDDINGS**

Call the office for an appointment.

**Anointing of the Sick**

Celebrated biannually at Mass or individually call, for an appointment

**For Pregnancy Support:**

Birthright 241-8444 or 800-550-4900

**Prayer group in the Parish**

Every Tuesday at 8:15 am. All women and men.

**MASS INTENTIONS June 23 - 29**

**Saturday 5:00 p.m. Deceased Duncan Family**

**Sunday 10:00 a.m. + Fred & Bea Wagner**

Tuesday 9:00 a.m. All Fathers

Thursday 9:00 a.m. Alton & Anna Marie  
Dunnigan

Friday 8:00 a.m. Murphy - Dwyer

**Men's Club Meeting**

Our next meeting and dinner will be at 6:30 PM. on Wednesday, **July 11<sup>th</sup>**  
**"Together, supporting each other, we can do great things."**

**Women's Club/Prayer Group**

We meet the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month from 1 – 2:30 PM. **JUNE 27<sup>th</sup>!**  
Our focus is social and spiritual at the same time.

Please contact Ruth McCormick  
[ruthmcc@flash.net](mailto:ruthmcc@flash.net) 408 353.1017

**Parents – please help your children to continue in union with JESUS CHRIST in the Eucharist Bread! THE MASS!!!**

**TREASURY REPORT SUNDAY**

**Saturday & Sunday June 16 & 17, 2018**

**Plate Collection \$ 831.00**

**EFT \$ 548.00**

**Total \$1,379.00**

**Thank you and May God reward your generosity!**

**Benefit Concert Celebrating 60 Years of New Camaldoli Hermitage and the Prior's 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday – "Arise My Love!" –**

**Father Cyprian Consiglio in Concert**

**Thursday, June 28, 2018**

**Holy Cross Church 126 High Street Santa Cruz, CA**

**7:30 PM/ doors open at 7:00**

Suggested Donation: \$20 (includes reception after concert) Tickets available at the door only.

For more information call (831) 336-2351.

All proceeds will benefit New Camaldoli Hermitage

**ROSARY** We pray the Rosary together every Saturday at 4:30 PM. Please come to pray for the families and our Country!

**St. Clare's Retreat**

September Women's Silent Retreat with Father Serge Propst, OP –**Inner Peace-**  
For information St. Clare's Retreat 2381 Laurel Glen Road Soquel, CA 831 423.8093  
[stclaresretreatcenter.com](http://stclaresretreatcenter.com)