

Nativity of St. John the Baptist

Isaiah 49:1-6
Ps 139:1b-3,13-15
Acts 13:22-26
Luke 1:57-66, 80

Monday June 25

2 Kings 17:5-8,13-15a,18
Ps 60:3-5,12-13
Matthew 7:1-5

Tuesday June 26

2 Kings 19:9b-11,
14-21,31-36
Ps 48:2-4,10-11
Matthew 7:6,12-14

Wednesday June 27

2 Kings 22:8-13;23:1-3
Ps 119:33-37,40
Matthew 7:15-20

Thursday June 28

St. Irenaeus

2 Kings 24:8-17
Ps 79:1b-5,8-9
Matthew 7:21-29

Friday June 29

Sts. Peter & Paul

Acts 12:1-11
Ps 34:2-9
2 Timothy 4:6-8,17-18
Matthew 16:13-19

Saturday June 30

Lam 2:2,10-14,18-19
Ps 74:1b-7,20-21
Matthew 8:5-17

Consider how much you and John the Baptist are alike!

God assigned John's vocation to him at his birth and gave him his name while he was still in his mother's womb. The Lord did the same with you! Since the moment of your conception, even before you looked human and had a beating heart and a brain that could think, he named you as his precious child.

God gifted John with a sharp-edged sword, i.e., the ability to speak the truth (the sword of the Spirit), which cuts through the lies and deceptions of evil. He gave you the same gift during your baptism when you received the Holy Spirit.

God concealed John in the shadow of his arm, i.e., he protected him. No matter how difficult your life has been, and no matter how often you strayed from the Lord, you

still belong to him. He has been holding onto you.

Even though you sometimes toil in vain and your efforts to do God's work seem worthless, as if you've uselessly spent your strength, like John, your reward is with the Lord. He will reward you generously.

No matter how ugly you think you are, no matter if you are too short or too tall or diseased or malformed by a

birth defect, you look glorious to the Lord, your Creator. The verses of Psalm 139 confirm this: You are wonderfully made! Since the moment of your conception, your life has been precious and important.



As it was with John, God is your strength. And like John, what you think you can do is "too little" compared to what he knows you can do. He has a more important use for your gifts and talents and experiences and training. He wants to make his light shine through you! His salvation will reach others as long as you're willing to serve him.

What Luke 1:80 tells us of John is true of you also: You are God's child, growing and becoming strong in spirit. You have experienced the desert of hardships and training. Everything that has happened to you can become valuable and useful when you let God send you forth in service for his kingdom.

Reflect & Discuss:

1. Using Isaiah 49:1-6, how do the words reflect your own life?
2. What is most surprising to you? Why? Do you see yourself as less useful to the kingdom of God than he sees you?
3. God has wonderfully made you and each member of your family or group. Tell each other at least one thing that is evidence that God made a masterpiece when he created him/her.
4. How is this useful to God?