

**ST. CATHERINE**



**OF SIENA ST. LUCY**

**DECEMBER 8, 2019**  
**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**



**PASTORAL TEAM**

**Rev. George Omwando, Pastor**  
**Rev. Patrick Wangai, Associate Pastor**  
**Mrs. Sharon Leamy, Principal**  
**Rev. Patrick Wangai, Chemetha Baker**  
**Religious Education Coordinators**  
**Mr. Kraig Zeronik, Director of Music and Liturgy**

**SUPPORT STAFF**

**Ms. Patricia Pomykalski, Business Manager**  
**Mrs. Amanda Pomareda, Office Manager**  
**Mrs. Fannie Cooper, School Secretary**

**CONTACTING THE PARISH & SCHOOL**

**Rectory:** 38 N. Austin Blvd.; Oak Park, IL 60302  
**Telephone:** 708-386-8077  
**Email:** [apomaredascsoffice@comcast.net](mailto:apomaredascsoffice@comcast.net)  
**Web:** [www.stcatherinestlucy.org](http://www.stcatherinestlucy.org)  
**Hours:** 8:30 AM-8:00 PM—Monday, & Thursdays.  
Tuesday, Wednesday, & Fridays: 8:30 AM—4:30 PM  
Saturday 9:00AM—4:30PM; Sunday 8:30 AM—12:00 PM  
**School -** 27 Washington Blvd.; Oak Park, IL 60302  
**Telephone:** 708-386-5286

**WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE**

**Weekday Masses:**

**Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday - 8:30 am**  
(Please enter the Church by Washington Blvd. 2nd door to the West)

**Weekend Masses:**

**Saturday Morning - 9:00 am**  
**Saturday Evening - 5:00 pm**  
**Sunday Morning - 8:30 & 10:30 am**

**Sacrament of Reconciliation**

Saturday at 4:00 PM to 4:30 PM; or by appointment.

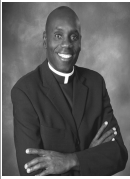
**Baptisms**

Baptism of infants and young children is celebrated on the 2nd and 3rd weekends of the month. Parents are asked to attend a Baptism preparation session/class prior to the ceremony. Please call the rectory to register for the preparation and set a baptismal date. (cont'd in pg.2)



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## Thoughts From Rev. George O. Omwando, Pastor



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

There are very many things that the world is obsessed with but chief among them is “Numbers” and I believe that there is nothing wrong with that. The problem is when the numbers seem to dictate or influence everything, we set out to do. Politics is swayed by numbers for example who is up and who is down, our television channels and shows, our population growth etc. are all driven by numbers that influence our policies. Sadly, this problem has entered the Church. Truly speaking it is hard to run the congregation when the numbers are not there. It is hard to maintain the state of the buildings especially constant renovations etc. I believe the initiative of consolidating and closing the many churches is inevitable, but we must look beyond numbers especially when it comes to matters pertaining to faith.

In today’s Gospel, John the Baptist’s preaching was not driven by numbers. If he was interested in numbers, he could not have gone to the desert to preach. What follows is that we are told that the people were drawn by the message that he was preaching. He never twisted God’s message in order to draw people. Look around our society today; you will not be surprised to see how many preachers who have twisted the Gospel of Christ for their own selfish interests. John’s message was challenging, he was calling people to change their ways of life so that they can meet God. Nowadays, again sadly speaking some Catholics and even our brothers and sisters who belong to other denominations have conditioned themselves to want to hear what pleases them. If there is something that challenges them, that is when you will begin to hear things like, “I am not welcome in this community.” In 2 Timothy 3:16-17 we are told that: *“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”* The Church is not a therapeutic or an entertainment or a meeting place to go but we go Church to thank God, to listen to his word and to receive the Eucharist.

In the desert, of all the places is not of the best site to go and preach but John the Baptist went any way because he was convinced that the Holy Spirit will support him. The desert has no water, temperatures are very high during the day and drop at night, there is a scarcity of water and it can harbor dangerous animals. John knew all this, but he trusted God. After the people listened to God’s message as proclaimed by John the Baptist, they repented and got baptized. John was preparing people for the coming of the Son of God who he acknowledged as greater than him. For many reasons, I love John the Baptist because he was a humble prophet doing his job and I want you to learn from his prophecy so that we can apply it in our daily lives. Let us be driven by the message that John was preaching. I must say it was not an easy message and it is not easy to deliver that kind of message nowadays.

Finally, this Sunday falls on the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary therefore, it has been moved to tomorrow. I encourage you to attend this great solemnity. I want to thank your tireless commitment and dedication to our community. Thanks for your ongoing generous support.

— Fr. George

### PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

WE THE PARISHIONERS OF ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA-ST. LUCY PARISH, SEEK TO DEEPEN OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH GOD AND TO CELEBRATE GOD’S PRESENCE IN WORD AND SACRAMENT. BY ACCEPTING ALL INTO OUR FAMILY WE SEEK UNITY IN CHRIST AND SEEK TO PROCLAIM HIS GOOD NEWS IN THE DISCIPLESHIP OF OUR LIVES.

### PARISH ORGANIZATIONS:

**Parish Pastoral Council**  
Madonna Sloan and Joyce Wade,  
Co-Chairs

**Parish Finance Council**  
Juan Perez

**Spiritual Life Commission**

**Faith & Fellowship:**

Connie Rakitan

**Liturgy Committee:**

Cantors: Rev. George Omwando  
Celebration Choir: Kraig Zeronik  
Praise Choir: Julius White  
Greeters & Ushers: Jim Lewis

**Ministers of the Eucharist & Ministers of the Word:** Jeanne Visteen

**Servers:** Kathy Paoli

**Ministers of Care:** Rev. G. Omwando

**Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults**

**(RCIA):** Fr. George O. Omwando

**Women’s Ministry:** Shelby Boblick

**Human Concerns Commission  
Peace & Justice Committee:**

Rev. George Omwando

**Education Commission**

Baptism Com.: Fr. G. Omwando

**Bible Study:** Russ McCaughey

**Religious Education of Children:**

Rev. Patrick Wangai, Chemetha Baker

**St. Catherine/St. Lucy School:**

School Board Chair: Natasha Lee

**Parish Development & Services  
Commission**

Collection Counters: Rev. G. Omwando

Facilities Committee: Jim Podraza,  
Amanda Pomareda

**Fundraising Committee:**

Pat Nelson / Cynthia Weaver

(cont’d from pg. 1)

**Weddings:** Please contact Fr. George to set a wedding date. Allow at least 6 months for preparation.

### **RCIA**

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is a sacramental process, celebrated in the midst of this Faith Community. This process assists adults, as well as children over the age of 7, in learning about the Catholic Faith.

### **Ministry to the Sick, Hospitalized and Shut—Ins**

Please notify the Parish Office so that we can visit and minister to your confined loved-ones.

### **Funerals:**

Please call the Rectory to set up arrangements with the Christian Burial Mass.

### **Newcomers**

Please fill out a registration form after Mass, or come by the Rectory Office during the week.



## Immaculate Conception

*A Holy Day of Obligation*

Tomorrow

**Monday, December 9, 2019**

**Daily Mass: 8:30 AM**

**Evening Mass: 7:00 PM**

## An Invitation!

**December 22nd from 12-2 PM**

As we prepare for our very special Christmas Eve children's liturgy, we want you to know that you are welcome to join us, **children....** together we tell the story of Jesus' birth and we would love you to be a part of it!

We need angels, shepherds, animals, star dancers, wise ones, innkeepers, Mary, Joseph and readers. As for the adults, we can always use extra hands and perhaps a reader or two. Also, if you know of a baby who could be the baby Jesus...let Jean know asap! Our practice is on Sunday December 22nd from 12-2 PM.

Please contact Jean Bacom at: lunamama6@gmail.com and request what part you would like to be. We will do our best to make that happen but **EVERYONE** gets a part and is welcome. Come join us and share the love.

## Save-the-Date

**Sunday, December 15**  
*Anti-Violence Candlelight Vigil here at SCSL Church*

**Monday, December 16**  
*Advent Reconciliation  
St. Giles Church*

**Sat.-Sun. December 21-22**  
*Fair Trade Sale*

**Sunday, December 22**  
*Practice for Children's Christmas Eve*



2019

## Holiday Schedule

St. Catherine—St. Lucy Parish

### Vigil of Christmas: (Christmas Eve)

Tuesday, December 24, 2019

8:30 AM

5:00 PM - Family Christmas Mass—(Prelude at 4:30 PM)

### Christmas Day

Wednesday, December 25, 2019

8:30 AM & 10:30 AM

### Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Tuesday, December 31, 2019

8:30 AM

7:00 PM —(New Year's Eve)

Wednesday, January 1, 2020

10:00 AM

## 500 Club Certificates

Certificates are \$25 each and will be included in every weekly drawing from now through October 19th, 2020. The prize each week is \$25 except for three weeks when the prize is \$500. **If we sell all 500 certificates, there will be a 4th drawing for \$500.** Purchase forms are available in the back of church. This is a fun way to support the parish. Pass the word. Thank you!!!

~ The Fundraising Committee

## 500 CLUB WINNER

\$ 25.00

December 8, 2019

**R. AMINTA HAWKINS-SALMON,**

# 417

Join us **TODAY**

Sunday, December 8

## Pancake Breakfast with St. Nick

At St. Catherine-St. Lucy Maguire Hall

From: 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Enjoy all you can eat and drink. Pancakes, sausages, juice, coffee and tea. Cost Free. Donations will be accepted. Bring your family and friends. All are welcome!



## Christmas Flower Sale!



Christmas flowers and plants will arrive the week-end of **December 14-15!**

Put Poinsettias, Cyclamen, Christmas Cactus, Green Plants and beautiful baskets on your gift list. Flowers will be sold after all the masses.

## Parish Calendar

### Monday, December 9

9:30 AM - Bible Study - RRT  
2:30-6:00 PM - Day Care - M  
6:30-9:30 PM - F&F Meeting - RD  
7:00 PM - Immaculate Conception Mass - CH

### Tuesday, December 10

2:30-6:00 PM - Day Care - M  
7:00 PM - PPC Meeting - RRT  
7:30-9PM - Praise Choir - MMR

### Wednesday, December 11

1:30 PM - Staff Meeting - RDR  
2:30-6:00 PM - Day Care - M  
7-10 PM - F&F. Meeting - RD  
7:30-9PM - Celebration Choir - CH

### Thursday, December 12

12:30-3:30 PM - F&F Meeting - RD  
2:30-6:00 PM - Day Care - M  
6:00 -8:00 PM - A.A. Meeting - RD

### Friday, December 13

8:00 AM - Flowers delivery & Set-up - CH  
2:30-6:00 PM - Day Care - M

### Saturday, December 14

9 AM - 12 PM - Holiday Basket Distribution - M  
5-11:30 PM - Private Christmas Party - M

## Mass Intentions for the Week

### Mon. December 9

8:30 † **Luke Podraza**  
By: Elaine and Jim Podraza  
7:00 † **Nancy Staunton**  
By: Ministry of Care

### Tue. December 10

8:30 **Gladys Evans (HEALTH)**  
By: Parishioners

### Wed. December 11

8:30 † **Robert Morgenthau**  
By: Tom Nelson

### Thurs. December 12

8:30 † **Winifred Ballew**  
By: Ministry of Care

### Fri. December 13

8:30 † **Etta Gardner**  
By: Ministry of Care

### Sat. December 14

9:00 † **Joseph Hollian**  
By: Ministry of Care  
5:00 † **Yeuk Ping Yee Canama**  
By: Ministry of Care

### Sun. December 15

8:30 **FOR THE PEOPLE OF OUR PARISH**  
8:30 † **Nick Roland Charles, Jr.**  
By: Cynthia Weaver & Jim Bowers  
10:30 † **Deceased Mbrs of the Sloan Family**

## Our Parish Stewardship



### St. Catherine-St. Lucy Church

|                     |              |
|---------------------|--------------|
| November 24, 2019   | \$ 4,679.00  |
| On-Line GiveCentral | \$ 497.00    |
| Weekly Budget       | \$ 7,308.00  |
| <b>DEFICIT</b>      | \$ -2,132.00 |
| December 1, 2019    | \$ 5,011.00  |
| On-Line GiveCentral | \$ 1,147.00  |
| Weekly Budget       | \$ 7,308.00  |
| <b>DEFICIT</b>      | \$ -1,150.00 |

Online donations can be made to St. Catherine-St. Lucy Parish at [www.givecentral.org](http://www.givecentral.org)

Thanks for your continued financial support!

## Today's Readings

**First Reading** — He shall bring justice for the afflicted; the earth shall overflow with the knowledge of the Lord (Isaiah 11:1-10).

**Psalm** — Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever (Psalm 72).

**Second Reading** — Glorify God by living in harmony with one another, welcoming each other as Christ welcomed you (Romans 15:4-9).

**Gospel** — Produce good fruit worthy of your baptism; repent, for the reign of God is near (Matthew 3:1-12).

The English translation of the Psalm Responses from *Lectionary for Mass* © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

## Readings for the Week

Monday: Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1-4; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38  
Tuesday: Is 40:1-11; Ps 96:1-3, 10ac, 11-13; Mt 18:12-14  
Wednesday: Is 40:25-31; Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10; Mt 11:28-30  
Thursday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Jdt 13:18bcde, 19; Lk 1:26-38  
Friday: Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Mt 11:16-19  
Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80:2ac, 3b, 15-16, 18-19; Mt 17:9a, 10-13  
Sunday: Is 35:1-6a, 10; Ps 146:6-10; Jas 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11

## Saints and Special Observances

Sunday: Second Sunday of Advent  
Monday: Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
Tuesday: International Human Rights Day  
Wednesday: St. Damasus I  
Thursday: Our Lady of Guadalupe  
Friday: St. Lucy  
Saturday: St. John of the Cross

## LITURGICAL MINISTERS - 12/15/19

### 5:00 PM

### 8:30 AM

### 10:30

### Altar Servers

|            |              |               |
|------------|--------------|---------------|
| Dan Brown  | Kevin Morgan | Esteban Perez |
| Mark Thoms |              |               |

### Ministers of the Word

|                    |             |                    |
|--------------------|-------------|--------------------|
| Christine Wedekind | Ken Blair   | Kim McGuire        |
| Paul Knight        | Ginny Jones | Bill Sullivan, Jr. |

### Ministers of the Eucharist

|                       |                      |                       |
|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Chemetha Baker</b> | <b>Thom Schouten</b> | <b>Terry Sullivan</b> |
| Pat Koko              | Annie Rowan          | Scarlett Evans        |
| Grace Bishop          | Walter Washington    | Patricia Long         |
| Brenda Fojtik         | Fannie Cooper        | Jan Kieckhefer        |
|                       | Bill Cragg           | Doris Brown           |
|                       | Claudia Zinanni      | Yuna Kim              |



## Praying for the Sick In Our Parish

Coletta Ali, Mike Ballew, Shelby Boblick, Eloise Brown, Lillian Czaplicki, Scarlett Evans, Dwayne and Paula Evans, Dave Grayson, Kathy Feulner, Phillip Jones, Donna Kanapes, Paul Koko, Kathleen Kroker, Georgine Mullen, Kathy Paoli, Albert Parker, Jr., Raul Perez, Jennifer Saldukas, Annette Varga, and Jeanne Visteen

The name of your close relative will remain on this list for four weeks. After that you will have to call us again to reinstate it into the list. If you wish to include a name of a sick member of your family here, please call Amanda at the rectory during office hours. Thank you.

1st & 2nd Readings for the Upcoming Sunday are offered. Their sole purpose is to help us all of us "receive" and "hear" the word of God.



### DECEMBER 15, 2019 - 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**First Reading: Isaiah 35: 1-6, 10**

TV coverage of events in the Middle East has familiarized us with the empty expanse of arid desert described in today's reading. Therefore, we can appreciate the unbelievable transformation which Isaiah promises. The prophet says that the desert will become a lush garden, as God's chosen people return singing and dancing from their 70-year exile in Babylon.

**Second Reading: James 5: 7-10**

The letter of James was written approximately 50 years after the death and resurrection of Jesus. It was addressed to a group of Christians who were disappointed that Jesus had not yet returned in glory. Using an agricultural image, the author encourages them, to keep their hope alive as they face the day-to-day trials of life.

## Advent Reconciliation Services

**Monday, December 16th at 7 PM**

**At St. Giles Parish**  
1045 Columbian Ave.  
Oak Park, IL

*Prepare for the coming of  
our Lord!!*



### Bible Study - Mondays 9:30 AM

Our Bible Study group meets on Mondays ~ 9:30—11:00 AM in the Rectory.

We use the New Collegeville Bible Commentary from Collegeville, Minnesota. We read the scriptures, weekly psalms, and the commentary. Then we discuss it. It is an enlightening experience and is totally free.

### Communion & Anointing of the Sick

Please call the Rectory at 708-386-8077 to let us know if you or a member of your family is in need of the sacrament of anointing of the sick or would like to have Holy Communion brought to your house or nursing home or both.

### Remember a Loved One

We still have many weekday Masses available in our 2019 Mass Book. **We also have the 2020 Mass Book open for your requests.** Come to the Rectory to request your Masses. Remember your loved ones or any other special occasion. Mass intentions are only \$10.00.

### Bequests

PLEASE consider remembering our parish in your will or trust. We have been blessed in the past by the generosity of so many parishioners and I am hopeful this will continue into the future. —*Father George*

**This Week our 2nd Collection is for:**



### Retirement Fund for Religious

The Retirement Fund for Religious provides support for thousands of senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests. Your efforts encouraged people of the Archdiocese of Chicago to donate over \$1 million to the 2018 National Retirement Religious Office's Retirement Fund for Religious.

[www.catherinelucy.org](http://www.catherinelucy.org)  
708-386-5286



### School Scoop

...# On Wednesday, December 18th at 10:15 there will be School Christmas Liturgy in Church, and you are invited!

### Pray For Our Deceased



*Carolyn Pough  
Michael Parker  
Nancy Staunton*

**May they rest in peace!**

*We lift her up with our  
prayers while we embrace  
their children and extended  
family in a prayerful  
embrace.*

**May the angels lead them  
into Paradise**



## The Giving Tree

As you shop this season, please remember the children whose wishes go unanswered by bringing a toy or children's book to put under the tree. They will be delivered to Catholic Charities for their toy showers in mid-December. Questions? Please call Linda at 708-386-6389.

—The Peace & Justice Committee

## Gift Cards Information

- « #Gift cards for Christmas will be sold for all Masses this weekend.
- « #Pick up is 2 two weeks after the order, December 14/15 and December 21/22.
- « #The gift card form will be in the back of church.

## XIV Annual Posada Seeking Immigration Reform

Friday, December 13 || 7-9 AM

101 Ida B. Wells Parkway  
(formerly Congress Parkway)

Join us to walk and pray in solidarity with our immigrant sisters and brothers who — as the Holy Family sought a place to stay — are seeking legislative shelter, - *posada* the route will begin at the Metropolitan Correctional Center (71 West Van Buren Street) and continue to DePaul University Loop Campus (11 East Jackson Boulevard), Federal Plaza and St. Peter's (110 West Madison Street).

For more information, contact Mauro Pineda at [mpineda@archchicago.org](mailto:mpineda@archchicago.org) or 312.534.8103 or Yazmin Saldivar at [ysaldivar@archchicago.org](mailto:ysaldivar@archchicago.org) or 312.534.8106.

## Volunteers Needed

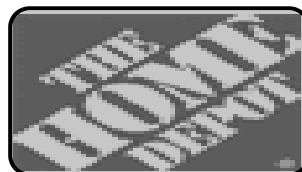
As has been our tradition, all in the parish are invited to help in the preparation of our beautiful church for Christmas!

Perhaps you can help out on one or all (!) of the following dates:

- ..# “Decorating the church” (trees, wreaths, crèche) Sun. Dec. 22nd immediately after 10:30 mass
- ..# “Placement of Christmas Flowers in the church” Monday, Dec. 23rd between 10:00 am and 12 noon.
- ..# “Cleaning of the church” Monday, December 23rd after 1:30 pm.



Buy Your Gift Cards At  
**St. Catherine-St. Lucy**  
This Christmas  
(or cards for your personal use)  
In the Church Gathering Area  
(See information above-mentioned)



grocery- restaurant - retail - specialty.....Choose from over 200 cards!  
Read our Gift Card article on this page of the bulletin!

## The Long-Awaited One

As the Sundays of Advent unfold the scriptures shift focus from the final coming of the Lord to his historical birth. Today's scriptures blend the two. Isaiah's disillusionment with the kings of his own day led him to envision an ideal king who would rule with divine approval and be led by divine wisdom. For centuries the Jewish people anticipated the arrival of that Messiah, who would usher in a blessed age when the whole world would finally dwell in justice and peace.

After centuries of such growing expectation, the preaching of John the Baptist about the imminent arrival of the Messiah could not help but provoke intense interest. The Baptist's message about preparation for "the one who is coming" (Matthew 3:11) makes clear that Jesus is, in fact, the long-awaited one who is ushering in the new age foretold by Isaiah and all the prophets.

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## Attention Young Readers!

younger members of our community in the book cart. There are a variety of books at various reading levels but all appropriate for church. Please feel free to take a book during mass and, as always, return it to the cart at the end of mass.



Give Central allows our parish to provide its parishioners a safe and convenient way to make regular, automatic electronic contributions and can also be used for special events and other collections.

We understand that most transactions today are done electronically. We want to provide you with that same convenient option at church.

You can go directly to our website: [www.stcatherinestlucy.org](http://www.stcatherinestlucy.org) to be able to find the link to *GiveCentral*

## Annual Candlelight Vigil to End Gun Violence - NEXT SUNDAY

**December 15, 4—6 PM**  
here at St. Catherine of Siena—  
St. Lucy Church

St. Catherine-St Lucy Parish will host a Candlelight Vigil to End Gun Violence and Celebrate Hope at 4PM on Sunday December 15th in commemoration of the 7th anniversary of the Sandy Hook Elementary School tragedy. We will honor the lives of the 700,000 Americans killed or wounded by gun violence since December 2012, but will also celebrate HOPE and the efforts undertaken by so many ordinary people and organizations to address the root causes of gun violence. The vigil is in partnership with the Newtown Action Alliance and one of hundreds of vigils nationwide. Locally the vigil is sponsored by St. Catherine-St. Lucy Parish, MOMS Demand Action Oak Park-Austin, Waging Peace of First United Church of Oak Park, Congregations Committed to Peace, Gun Responsibility Advocates, and the Ascension Peace and Justice Committee. The children's choir of St. Catherine-St. Lucy school will lead us in songs of HOPE and PEACE. All are invited. For more information, contact Celine Woznica at [cwoznica.illinois@gmail.com](mailto:cwoznica.illinois@gmail.com) or 708-383-8619.

## Update Personal Info

Please DO NOT FORGET to update us with your new cell phone number, e-mail address, or any other change of status. Please contact Amanda at 708-386-8077 or via e-mail at [apomaredascsoffice@comcast.net](mailto:apomaredascsoffice@comcast.net)

## St. Lucy

December 13th is the feast day of St. Lucy. Saint Lucy was a virgin martyr during the earliest centuries of Christianity under its worst persecution at the hands of the Roman Empire, therefore making her one of the most glorious saints in heaven.



She is of such renown that she is one of the saints mentioned by name in the Roman Canon of the Mass, one of only seven female saints listed.

Lucia means "light," a fitting name for a young woman who was known to visibly glow and radiate in her love for her spouse, Jesus Christ. Falling during the Advent season—and thus a long, dark winter—there are many beautiful traditions associating this saint with the meaning of her name, the story of her life, and her glorious position in heaven. Her feast day is celebrated with candles, torches, and even bonfires.



## Food for Thought...

### The Baptizer

John the Baptist's birth came with a message in its plan:  
Jesus was to come to set the world on fire.  
His followers were an oppressed, excluded clan;  
To both John's goals of faith and hope did they aspire.

Sadducees and Pharisees thought they were special.  
The former quite conservative in their beliefs,  
With the latter quite liberal;  
A real mixed grill,  
and both ship-wrecked on their theological reefs.

John's followers today would protest climate change,  
and march supporting rights of LGBTQ.  
His message was as clear as a majestic mountain range:  
Prepare the way of the Lord—  
with His love imbue.

12/8/19 - TGL