



## St. John the Baptist

**Feast Day: June 24th**

**John was the first man to publicly identify Jesus as the coming Messiah.**

### **BEFORE HE WAS BORN**

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant [John the Baptist] leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, knew that Mary was carrying the Messiah in her womb.

### **SHORTLY BEFORE HE DIED**

John announced that the Messiah was coming soon, then baptized Jesus in the Jordan. After this, Jesus went into the desert for 40 days. When He returned, John pointed Him out to the first of Jesus' disciples. Shortly after, John was arrested and Jesus' public ministry took off.

### Prayer

O, God, You raised up Saint John the Baptist to prepare a perfect people for Christ.

Fill Your people with the joy of possessing his grace and direct the minds of all the faithful in the way of peace and salvation.

Grant us, as Saint John was martyred for truth and justice, so we may energetically profess our faith in You and lead others to the Way, the Truth and eternal Life. Amen