

## John the Baptist

**Matthew 11:11- Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. (KJV)**

Let us keep in mind always the standing of St. John the Baptist in the Lord's view. We have the opportunity to learn lasting lessons for life from St. John the Baptist. St. John the Baptist had an understanding of himself in relation to the Lord Jesus. The Church ensures that St. John is remembered and very appropriately honored. Divine services are dedicated to St. John and events in his life are commemorated. Learning from and about St. John continues throughout the serious believer's life.

**Mark 6:24- And she went forth, and said unto her mother, What shall I ask? And she said, The head of John the Baptist. (KJV)**

The Holy Gospel preserves facts about the life and death of St. John the Baptist. The Church wants each succeeding generation to know of St. John and his life. St. John's death by beheading is a gruesome act engrained into salvation history. History reveals numbers of Jesus Christ's followers have had gruesome deaths. The blood of Christ's followers serves as a lasting reminder for later generations. Christ's serious followers heed and remember the martyrdom that has taken place.

**Luke 7:20- When the men were come unto him, they said, John Baptist hath sent us unto thee, saying, Art thou he that should come? or look we for another? (KJV)**

The Messiah's coming was anticipated and John's followers sought verification. The question from St. John's followers caused Jesus to speak about His impact. We learn much about the Divinity of Jesus from the actions of St. John the Baptist. Care is required when studying the life of St. John and his relationship with Jesus. Learning about Jesus has lasting effects for the attentive and welcoming believer. Love and appreciation for St. John the Baptist increases with maturity of faith.

**John 1:15- John bare witness of him, and cried, saying, This was he of whom I spake, He that cometh after me is preferred before me: for he was before me. (KJV)**

John noted the very existence of Jesus preceded John's own personal existence. John's personal statements indicate Jesus is held in higher honor than himself. Our very honoring of Christ in heart, mind and soul is affected by John's words. Love for Christ and learning of Christ increase through learning from St. John. Jesus and St. John are inseparably united at certain points in the time of history. The Church commemorates and proclaims lessons from Jesus Christ and St. John.

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Nativity of St. John the Baptist. June 14/July 7, 2021. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic