

## JOHN THE BAPTIST

*“St. John the Baptist is the Lord’s immediate precursor or forerunner, sent to prepare his way.<sup>196</sup> ‘Prophet of the Most High,’ John surpasses all the prophets, of whom he is the last.<sup>197</sup> He inaugurates the Gospel, already from his mother’s womb welcomes the coming of Christ, and rejoices in being ‘the friend of the bridegroom,’ whom he points out as ‘the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.’<sup>198</sup> Going before Jesus ‘in the spirit and power of Elijah,’ John bears witness to Christ in his preaching, by his Baptism of conversion, and through his martyrdom.<sup>199</sup>”*

*Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) 523*

<sup>196</sup> Cf. Acts 13:24; Mt 3:3.

<sup>197</sup> Lk 1:76; cf. 7:26; Mt 11:13.

<sup>198</sup> Jn 1:29; cf. Acts 1:22; Lk 1:41; 16:16; Jn 3:29.

<sup>199</sup> Lk 1:17; cf. Mk 6:17-29.

Paragraphs 717-720 of the *Catechism* describe John as a precursor, prophet, and baptist. “John was ‘filled with the Holy Spirit even from his mother’s womb’<sup>90</sup> . . . In John, the precursor, the Holy Spirit completes the work of ‘[making] ready a people prepared for the Lord.’<sup>93</sup>” As a prophet, “John completes the cycle of prophets begun by Elijah.<sup>95</sup> He proclaims the imminence of the consolation of Israel; he is the ‘voice’ of the Consoler who is coming.<sup>96</sup> ... Finally, with John the Baptist, the Holy Spirit begins the restoration to man of ‘the divine likeness,’ prefiguring what he would achieve with and in Christ. John’s baptism was for repentance; baptism in water and the Spirit will be a new birth.<sup>100</sup>”

*CCC 717-720 (Partial Excerpts)*

<sup>90</sup> Lk 1:15, 41.

<sup>93</sup> Lk 1:17.

<sup>95</sup> Cf. Mt 11:13-14.

<sup>96</sup> Jn 1:23; cf. Isa 40:1-3.

<sup>100</sup> Cf. Jn 3:5.

# What Did You Learn About John the Baptist?

for younger saints

1. We can read about the coming of Jesus in
  - a. the Old Testament.
  - b. the New Testament.
  - c. both the Old and New Testaments.
2. John was the son of
  - a. Adam and Eve.
  - b. King David and Bathsheba.
  - c. Zechariah and Elizabeth.
3. Who prepared the way for Jesus to be received into people's hearts?
4. What does a prophet do?
5. Who baptized Jesus?
6. Practice your memory verse.

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## Quiz Answers

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3. Who prepared the way for Jesus to be received into people's hearts?  
John the Baptist
4. What does a prophet do?  
A prophet announces God's Word and gives messages to His people.
5. Who baptized Jesus?  
John the Baptist baptized Jesus

Practice your memory verse. *"A voice of one crying out in the desert,  
'Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.' " Matthew 3:3*

# What Did You Learn About John the Baptist?

for older saints

1. God's people waited about \_\_\_\_\_ years for the Messiah.
2. The Old Testament tells us the Messiah
  - a. would be born in Bethlehem.
  - b. would come out of Egypt.
  - c. would be the Son of God.
  - d. all of the above
3. John's mother and Jesus' mother were
  - a. sisters.
  - b. cousins.
  - c. neighbors.
4. In the book of Isaiah, we can read about the work of John the Baptist.
  - a. true
  - b. false
5. Jesus knew it was time to start His public ministry because
  - a. Joseph told him to begin.
  - b. John announced it.
  - c. an angel told Him in a dream.
6. What does a prophet do?
7. Recite your memory prayer.

# What Did You Learn About John the Baptist?

for older saints

## Quiz Answers

1. God's people waited about 4,000 years for the Messiah.
2. The Old Testament tells us the Messiah
  - a. would be born in Bethlehem.
  - b. would come out of Egypt.
  - c. would be the Son of God.
  - d. all of the above
3. John's mother and Jesus' mother were
  - a. sisters.
  - b. cousins.
  - c. neighbors.
4. In the book of Isaiah, we can read about the work of John the Baptist.
  - a. true (See Isaiah 40:3.)
  - b. false
5. Jesus knew it was time to start His public ministry because
  - a. Joseph told him to begin.
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  - c. an angel told Him in a dream.
6. What does a prophet do?

A prophet announces God's Word and gives messages to His people.
7. Recite your memory prayer. *"A voice of one crying out in the desert,  
'Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.'"* Matthew 3:3