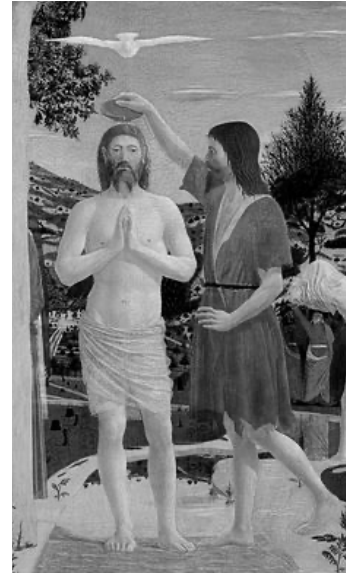


Saint John the Baptist

Directions: Read the biography and answer the questions.

John the Baptist was a prophet who preached the coming of the Messiah and the Kingdom of God in the wilderness. He told his followers to repent and seek forgiveness for their sins through baptism with water. John was the son of Elizabeth and Zechariah, a Jewish priest. His parents did not believe they could have children because of their old age, but the Angel Gabriel appeared to Zechariah and told him that he and Elizabeth would have a son and they would name him John. After Elizabeth became pregnant with John, her cousin Mary from Nazareth visited her. When she saw Mary, the infant John leaped in her womb because Mary was pregnant with Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Months later Elizabeth gave birth to John. Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied that John would be a prophet of the Most High preparing the way for the Lord and leading people to forgiveness for their sins. As an adult John the Baptist gathered a large following of disciples. He fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah as the voice in the desert preparing the way for the Lord. When John first saw Jesus Christ in the wilderness he pointed to him and proclaimed him to be the Messiah and the “Lamb of God.” Jesus asked John to baptize him in the Jordan River and John reluctantly agreed saying Jesus should baptize him instead. John was later killed by King Herod at the request of wife Herodias.



1. What message did John the Baptist preach in the wilderness?

2. What do you know about your own baptism?

3. How can you prepare yourself today to meet Jesus in heaven?
