

St. John Paul II Parish, Sellersburg IN

The First Fifteen

The Spiritual Life and Evangelization Commission has asked that all parish meetings begin with a program we are calling “The First Fifteen.” We are asking all parish meetings to begin with a few minutes of faith sharing. One person in the group reads the reading provided below (which corresponds with this next week’s weekend readings) and everyone is given an opportunity to reflect and share on the readings. The questions below are simply a way to stimulate your reflection. You can use them or anything that strikes you about the word of God.

Sunday, June 24, 2018

Luke 1:5-17

In the days of Herod, King of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah of the priestly division of Abijah; his wife was from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. Both were righteous in the eyes of God, observing all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blamelessly. But they had no child because Elizabeth was barren and both were advanced in years.

Once when he was serving as priest in his division’s turn before God, according to the practice of the priestly service, he was chosen by lot to enter the sanctuary of the Lord to burn incense. Then, when the whole assembly of the people was praying outside at the hour of the incense offering, the angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right of the altar of incense. Zechariah was troubled by what he saw, and fear came upon him. But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid Zechariah, because your prayer has been heard. Your wife, Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall name him John. And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. John will drink neither wine nor strong drink. He will be filled with the Holy Spirit even in his mother’s womb, and he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God.

He will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah to turn their hearts toward their children and the disobedient to the understanding of the righteous, to prepare a people fit for the Lord.”

Questions to Ponder:

1. Who were you named after? Who do you take after in your family?
2. We hear about John the Baptist here and again when Mary comes to visit Elizabeth when she was pregnant with Jesus. When do we next meet Jesus?
3. Did John fulfill the predictions given in this reading? How?

End with the “**Glory Be**”

“Glory be to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen”