

**June 23-24, 2018**  
**The Nativity of St. John the Baptist**  
**First Diaconal Service at Santa Clara by Deacon Michael Nguyen**  
**Jeremiah 1:4-10**                      **First Peter 1:8-12**                      **Luke 1:5-17**

No sooner has Summer just kicked off, no sooner than the watermelon has just been purchased for your Fourth of July festivities, no sooner has school just ended, no sooner is the air scented with sunscreen... than we start to 'warm' up to the approach of Christmas...through the birth of his precursor, St. John the Baptist. As people of faith we are continually urged to have one foot firmly in the PRESENT with another foot stepping into the FUTURE. While the PAST is useful for having helped us learn, God does not lead us to dwell in the past, nor to waste time with recriminations about its departure, rather, with the Holy Spirit's guidance and assurance we are encouraged to look to the future...to WHAT IT CAN BE....to WHAT WE CAN MAKE IT BE....to WHAT THE GRACE OF GOD, WORKING THROUGH US, CAN TRANSFORM THE FUTURE INTO BEING. Thus, in celebrating the birth of John the Baptist we are not encouraged to start shopping for presents beneath the tree or hanging tinsel, rather, we are urged to prayerfully become aware of what our PRESENT IS NOT...and to deliberately and with sincerity, ask the Holy Spirit to start using us so as to transform our FUTURE into what God desires it to be. Remember, there is no going backwards, the Holy Spirit is not interested in recreating the past, BUT, most of us can clearly see the broken condition of our world: addiction, abuse, homelessness, environmental disarray, divisive politics, flawed leadership, economic disparities, to name a few. Rather than fling up our hands in despair, the arrival of the PRECURSOR of the Prince of Peace and Wonder Counselor, is encouragement to FOLD our hands in prayer and intentionally ask the Holy Spirit to help us conform our lives and our culture to what God desires. Yes, it is Summer...but even with sun lotion on our hands and corn on the cob on our plates we still have hearts and souls that can call upon the name of the Lord...all we are asked to do...is to do it!

Thank you for sharing this anticipatory weekend of looking ahead to Christmas with our Santa Clara community! Thank you as well for gathering in celebration of Seminarian Michael Nguyen (and Daniel Seo) now ordained as Deacons of the Church. CONGRATULATIONS DEACON MICHAEL, we are PROUD and HUMBLED to know we have helped you along your journey. Those of you sharing the 10am Mass are invited out onto the patio afterwards for food, beverage and congratulatory hugs and pictures with Deacon Michael. (Deacon Daniel will be celebrating with us on Sunday, July 15<sup>th</sup> at the 10am Mass.) Next weekend being the ANTICIPATION of the Fourth of July, make sure to break out your red, white and blue for Mass. Please check out the Bulletin for other items and LAST CALL for our Married Couples Retreat (August 3-5) at the Hyatt Regency in Indian Wells. Please visit our website (SCDAYL.ORG) for full information and Registration/Payment. Enjoy this first weekend of Summer and remember, you are loved. FKB