

LIVING FAITH

TWELFTH SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME
THE NATIVITY OF ST. JOHN
THE BAPTIST
June 24, 2018



ROMAN CATHOLIC
ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. JOHN'S

THE GOSPEL
FOR TODAY
Luke 1:57-66, 80

Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. Her neighbours and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her.

On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father. But his mother said, 'No; he is to be called John.' They said to her, 'None of your relatives has this name.' Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him. He asked for a writing-tablet and wrote, 'His name is John.' And all of them were amazed. Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God. Fear came over all their neighbours, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea. All who heard them pondered them and said, 'What then will this child become?' For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him.

The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day he appeared publicly to Israel.

TAKING THE GOSPEL HOME

Today is St. John's Day and Discovery Day in Newfoundland and Labrador. There will be celebrations and parties in many places. Remember that the heart of today's celebration is the birth of a little boy who was a miracle. He was born to elderly parents who had given up all hope of bearing a child of their own. He grew up to be the messenger who prepared the people to receive Jesus Christ and his message of liberating love.

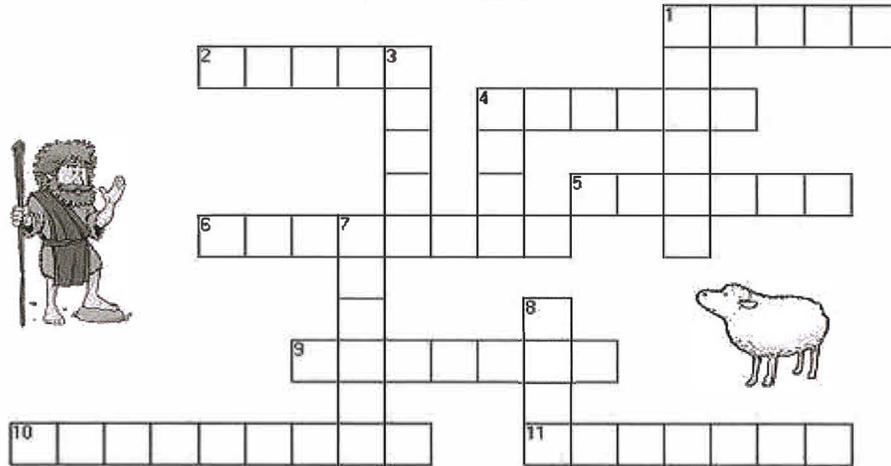
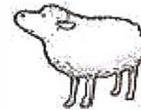
CONVERSATION STARTERS....

- How do you announce the Good News of Jesus Christ?
- How are you a person or Family of Hope?

www.rcsj.org

John the Baptist Crossword Puzzle

Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!
John 1:29



ACROSS

1. The Son of God.
2. John baptized with _____.
4. A dry, barren plain.
5. The place where God lives.
6. A strict observer of Jewish law.
9. The promised one; the Christ.
10. The mother of John the Baptist
11. To immerse by water or fire.

DOWN

1. The river where John baptized.
3. A Jewish title of respect for a teacher.
4. The Spirit landed on Jesus in the form of a _____.
7. To turn away from sin.
8. Behold, the _____ of God that takes away the sins of the world.

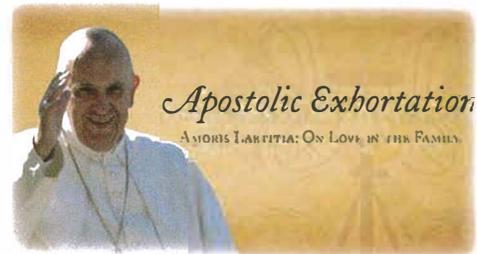
desert	Jesus	repent	Messiah
lamb	heaven	Jordan	
baptize	dove	water	
Elizabeth	Pharisee	Rabbi	

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<http://www.eepurl.com/cimD0L>

THE CHURCH TEACHES

LOVE IN THE FAMILY EXPLORING POPE FRANCIS' APOSTOLIC EXHORTATION, *AMORIS*



Chapter six: "Some pastoral perspectives" (paragraph 199-258)

In this chapter, Pope Francis highlights various pastoral perspectives which assist in forming solid and fruitful families according to God's plan. Pope Francis insists that families should not only be evangelized, they should also evangelize. He suggests that the formation of seminarians needs to be improved in order to teach the skills necessary for relating to families and accompanying them appropriately. He says that families need to be more involved in the formation for of seminarians for ministry (paragraph 203). Pope Francis then talks about the preparation of engaged couples for marriage; the accompaniment of couples in the first years of married life, including the issue of responsible parenthood; and also some complex situations and crises. He says, "each crisis has a lesson to teach us; we need to learn how to listen for it with the ear of the heart" (paragraph 232).

At this point, Pope Francis writes of the necessity of accompanying abandoned, separated or divorced persons. He stresses the importance of the recent reform of the procedures for marriage annulment. He highlights the suffering of children in situations of conflict and concludes: "... our most important pastoral task with regard to families is to strengthen their love, helping to heal wounds and working to prevent the spread of this drama of our times" (paragraph 246).

Pope Francis concludes this chapter by looking at some particular realities faced by families. He touches on the realities of marriages between a Catholic and a Christian of another denomination (mixed marriages), and between a Catholic and someone of another religion (disparity of cult). Regarding families with members with homosexual orientation, Pope Francis reaffirms the necessity to respect them and to refrain from any unjust discrimination and every form of aggression or violence. The last, pastorally poignant part of the chapter, "When death makes us feel its sting", is on the theme of the loss of loved ones and of widowhood.

For a copy of Amoris Laetitia click here:

http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_exhortations/documents/papa-francesco_esortazione-ap_20160319_amoris-laetitia.html



WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES DUBLIN, IRELAND AUGUST 21-26, 2018

“The Gospel of the Family: Joy for the World”

The *Amoris: Let's Talk Family! Let's be Family!* Programme will offer a range of resources. These are all available for no cost at www.amoris.ie

PARISH CONVERSATIONS

The Joy of Love is a six-part programme based on Pope Francis' “The Joy of Love”. Using engaging short videos, animations and activities to encourage discussion, it offers families, parishes and wider society an opportunity to think about our vision and hopes for family and marriage, and a chance to rediscover the gift that family is to the world.

PRACTICAL ACTIVITIES FOR POPULAR MOMENTS

This is a set of practical engaging activities which draw from and build on the parish-based programme and aim to celebrate and support marriage and family life. Some of these activities are for families to carry out in their own homes, and others can be run by parish communities or groups of parishes, from a simple prayer before meals, to a family picnic for all the parish.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH:

Resources are available for primary and secondary school children.

STUDIO PROGRAMMES:

A series of half-hour television programmes in which short video inserts are followed by panel discussions with experts from Ireland and around the world, as well as in-studio audience participation, offering an opportunity for people to engage online with the message and challenge of *The Joy of Love*. Programmes will also be produced by and for young people.

DIGITAL ANIMATIONS:

A set of short digital animations based on key *Amoris* themes aimed at a general audience and children and available in different languages.

YOU CAN FIND THE
AMORIS PROGRAMME AT:

<https://www.worldmeeting2018.ie/en/Resources/Amoris-Programme>