

**OUR LADY OF FATIMA (REDVERS)**  
**ST. MAURICE (BELLEGARDE)**  
**ST. ANTHONY (STORTHOKS)**

Fr. Ronald M. Andree  
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Website: olofredvers.ca

**August 27, 2023**

*21st Sunday in Ordinary Time*



**Redvers**

**Pastoral Council Chairperson**

Marc Wolensky 306-840-7282

**Parish Hall Bookings**

Anita Colleaux: 306-452-3868

**Caretaker**

Coralie Wolensky



**Bellegarde**

**Pastoral Council Chairperson**

Guy Poirier: 306-840-7744



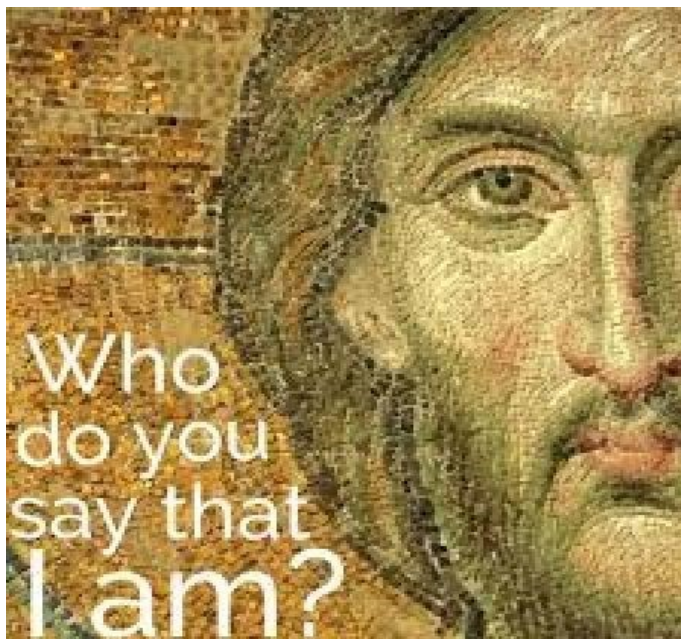
**Storthoaks**

**Pastoral Council Chairperson**

Richard Chicoine: 449-2231

**Parish Hall Bookings**

Monique Dumaine: 449-2237



**Mass Schedule**

**Mon, Aug 28, 9:00 a.m.**

Special Intentions by A Parishioner

**Tues, Aug 29, 9:00 a.m.**

+Marguerite Perreux by The Family

**Wed, Aug 30, 9:00 a.m.**

+Nancy Bauche by Denis/Joanne Quennelle

**Thurs, Aug 31, 9:00 a.m.**

+Henry Martin by Knights of Columbus

**Fri, Sept 1, 9:00 a.m.—First Friday Mass/Eucharistic Adoration**

+Fred Laval by Wauchope CWL

**Sat, Sept 2, 7:00 p.m. (Bellegarde)**

+Lucien Garnier by Aurele/Margaret Moreau

**Sun, Sept 3, 9:00 a.m. (Storthoaks)**

+Grace Griffith by Justin Griffith /Family

**Sun, Sept 3, 10:45 a.m. (Redvers)**

**Pro Populo**

**Liturgical Ministries (Redvers)**

To ensure your name is still on a ministries list or to volunteer contact **Carol Poirier (452-8397)**.

**Sunday, September 3, 10:45 a.m.**

**Hospitality**—Real/Jeanette Wolensky

**Lectors**—Ron/Janelle Martin

**Collection**—Con Carriere/Todd Garnier/Matthew Lemieux/Nathan Poirier

**Communion**—Bernard Bauche

## **Saint This Week...**

### **The Passion of Saint John the Baptist—August 29**

On August 29, we commemorate his death by beheading. The Gospel passage at Mass is taken from Mark's account of a corrupt King named Herod who unlawfully married his own brother's wife. Her name was Herodias. (Mk. 6:17-29) John confronted Herod over the matter. He called him to account for his unlawful and immoral behavior. A true prophet of God, John did not fear the powerful. He cared enough about their souls that he called them to repentance when they exercised their power in a corrupt manner or when they failed to choose what is true and good.

Even after Herod had John imprisoned, the King still listened to him. The Gospel text tells us, 'Herod feared John, knowing him to be a righteous and holy man, and kept him in custody. When he heard him speak he was very much perplexed, yet he liked to listen to him.'

Herod could have met the Lord Jesus Christ, whom he had longed to see in person. However, he gave himself over to a life of immorality and disordered passion. As a result of wrong choices he lost his capacity to see the truth and choose to follow it. It is a sad story, repeated throughout history.

Herodias held a grudge against John because he had the audacity to question her behavior. She wanted him killed. Herod did not grant her request. Instead, he kept him imprisoned. Unsatisfied, Herodias hatched a plot against John. She had her own daughter seduce Herod while he was entertaining guests, through a dance. Overcome with lust, in a drunken fit of grandiosity, Herod promised the girl she could have anything in return for that dance. As a part of a plot which her own mother had hatched, she asked for the head of John the Baptist. After his martyrdom, his disciples took away his body and laid it in the tomb. Most of them became disciples of Jesus.

The last prophet of the Old Testament, the forerunner of the Messiah, was killed by a corrupted King who gave in to lust, pride and grandiosity. John never stopped bearing witness to the truth. He had the eyes to see that Truth was fully revealed in Jesus, the one whom he proclaimed the 'Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.' (John 1:29) Because of this, the Christian tradition has hailed him as a martyr.

St Matthew records these words of Jesus concerning the one who prepared the way for Him: 'I say to you, among those born of women there has risen no one greater than John the Baptist; yet he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.' (Mt. 11:11, 12) Let us consider what the Lord meant by John's greatness. Let us further consider the joy and freedom which it brought to his life.

Our image of John is often as the austere ascetic, the odd fellow who lived in the desert eating an odd diet thundering to Israel about repentance. We forget the joy that was associated with his birth and the happiness which accompanied his prophetic life and vocation. He always pointed the way to Jesus. So must we, in our own age and in our daily lives. When we begin to really understand this we will also comprehend the freedom John the Baptizer experienced in both life and death. He said yes to who he was born to be and said yes to who he was called to become, all the way into eternity. In so doing, he is an example for each one of us. He prepared the way for each one of us to follow.

John the Baptizer was a man of joy precisely because he was a man of humility! The two are connected. He was a man who understood that life wasn't all about him. He emptied himself willingly and was thus able to reveal Jesus to others. His humility opened a space within him for true joy to take root and set him free! John is a sign of contradiction for this present age, which, like Herod, is drunk on self-worship and lost in narcissistic self-absorption. He points to the path to true freedom, living a lifestyle of self-emptying. 'He must increase and I must decrease.' (John 3:30) John is a man to be imitated in both life and death. We learn from him how to live our lives as joyful penitents; ever aware of our utter dependency on God's grace. It is sin which leads us into slavery and takes away our joy. Only by being freed from its entanglement can we become happy. (cf. Romans 6: 6, 7 and Gal. 5:1) John still points to Jesus, in both his birth and his martyr's death.

Today we tend to reject those who similarly publicly decry sin and heresy. Preachers, prophets and clerics who confront sinful policies, bad behavior and false ideologies are decried as trouble makers, fanatics and dangerous "extremists".

St. John the Baptizer was a simple man, not a member of the elite. He was stirred by conscience and the Holy Spirit to throw convention to the wind. He paid dearly for it. As Christians we inherit the abundant fruit of his daring and liberating choices. The way he exercised the great gift of his human freedom instructs us in exercising our own.



#### **On the Web**

**Our Parish**  
olofredvers.ca

**Archdiocese of Regina**  
archregina.sk.ca