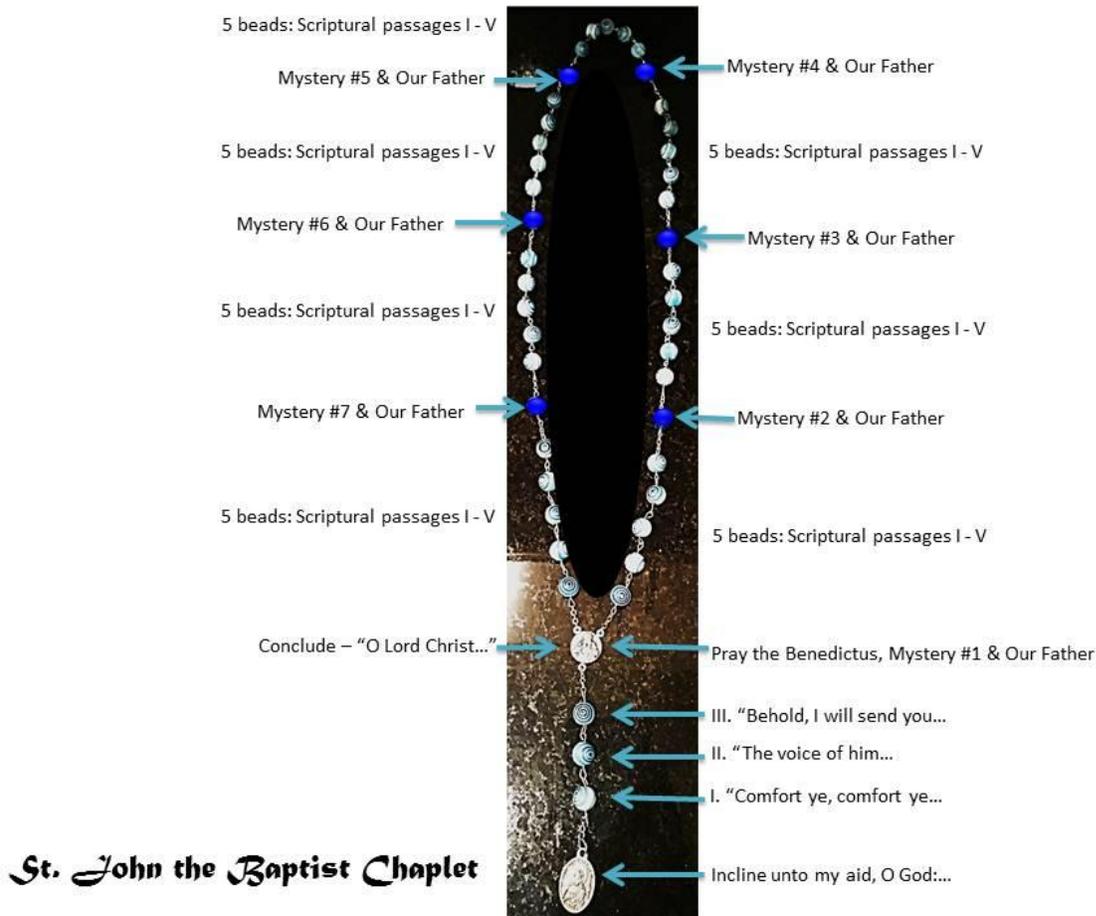


**CHAPLET IN HONOR OF SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST,
THE HOLY PROPHET AND FOREFUNNER**

Structure:

7 groups of 5 beads, with a bead of a different color in between each group. A medal of St. John the Baptist, followed by three beads, is attached for the opening and closing prayers.

The center is a medal depicting the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan.



OPENING PRAYERS ON THE LOWER MEDALLION:

God, come to my assistance. Lord, make haste to help me. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be world without end. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURAL REFLECTIONS ON THE FIRST THREE BEADS

- 1) "Comfort, give comfort to my people, says your God." (*Isaiah 40:1*)
- 2) "The voice of one crying in the desert – prepare the way of the Lord." (*Isaiah 40:3*)

3) “Behold, I send you Elijah the prophet, before the Day of the Lord comes, the great and dreadful day. He will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers.” (*Malachi 4:5-6*)

BENEDICTUS, FIRST MYSTERY & OUR FATHER ON THE CENTER MEDALLION

The Benedictus

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel! He has come to His people and set them free.

He has raised up for us a mighty savior, born of the house of His servant David.

Through His holy prophets He promised of old that that He would save us from the hands of our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us.

He promised to show mercy to our fathers and to remember His holy covenant.

This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham: to set us free from the hands of our enemies, free to worship Him without fear, holy and righteous in His sight, all the days of our life.

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare His way, to give His people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God, the dawn from on high shall break upon us, to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

First Mystery: The Visitation



At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, where she entered Zechariah’s home and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed: “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!”

(*Luke 1:39-45*)

Our Father

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURAL PASSAGE REFLECTIONS ON THE FIVE BEADS

1) “Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand!” (*Matthew 3:2*)

2) “One mightier than I comes after me, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop and untie. I baptize you with water. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.” (*Mark 1:7-8*)

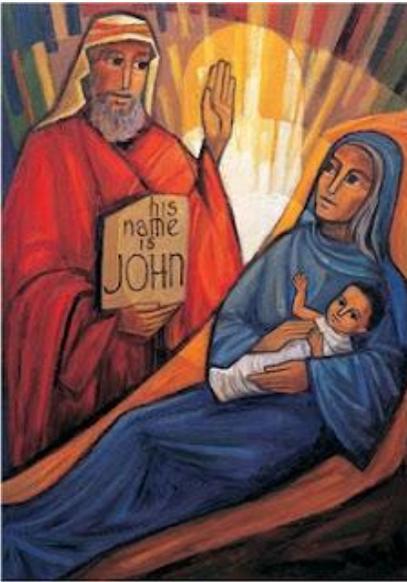
3) ‘Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world!’ (*John 1:29*)

4) “The Bride belongs to the Bridegroom. The Bridegroom’s friend stands and listens, and rejoices when he hears the Bridegroom’s voice. This joy of mine is now complete.” (*John 1:29*)

5) “He [Jesus] must increase; I must decrease.” (*John 1:31*)

REMAINING MYSTERIES TO BE FOLLOWED BY NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURAL PASSAGES ON FIVE BEADS

Second Mystery: The Birth of John the Baptist



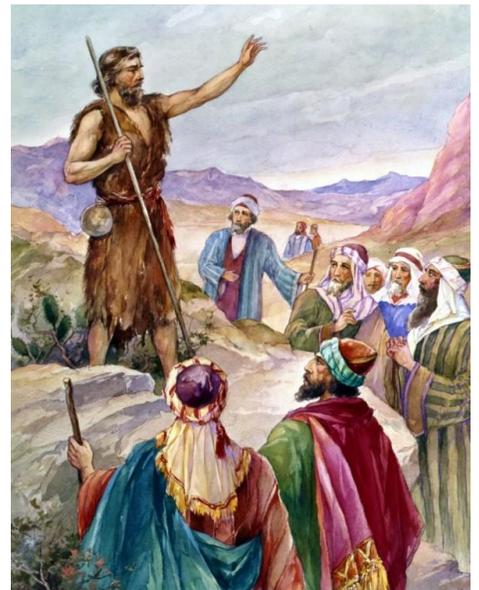
When it was time for Elizabeth to have her baby, she gave birth to a son. Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown her great mercy, and they shared her joy. On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him after his father Zechariah, but his mother spoke up and said, “No! He is to be called John.” They said to her, “There is no one among your relatives who has that name.” Then they made signs to his father, to find out what he would like to name the child. He asked for a writing tablet, and to everyone’s astonishment he wrote, “His name is John.” Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue set free, and he began to speak, praising God. All the neighbors were filled with awe, and throughout the hill country of Judea people were talking about all these things. Everyone who heard this wondered about it, asking, “What then is this child going to be?” For the Lord’s hand was with him. (*Luke 1:57-66*)

Third Mystery: John's Preaching

Now in those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” For this is the one referred to by Isaiah the prophet when he said,

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness, ‘Make ready the way of the Lord, make his paths straight!’ ”

Now John himself had a garment of camel’s hair and a leather belt around his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem was going out to him, and all Judea and all the district around the Jordan; and they were being baptized by him in the Jordan River, as they confessed their sins.



But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? “Therefore bear fruit in keeping with repentance; and do not suppose that you can say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham for our father’; for I say to you that from these stones God is able to raise up children to Abraham. “The axe is already laid at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

“As for me, I baptize you with water for repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, and I am not fit to remove His sandals; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. “His winnowing fork is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clear His threshing floor; and He will gather His wheat into the barn, but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.” (Matthew 3:1-12)

Fourth Mystery: The Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan



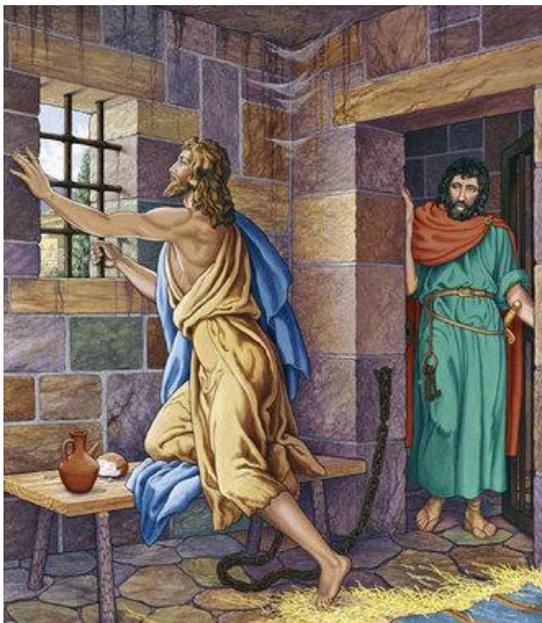
In those days Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. Immediately coming up out of the water, He saw the heavens opening, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon Him; and a voice came out of the heavens: “You are My beloved Son, in You I am well-pleased.” (Mark 1:9-11)

Fifth Mystery: St. John Sends the First Disciples to Jesus

Summoning two of his disciples, John sent them to the Lord, saying, “Are You the Expected One, or do we look for someone else?” When the men came to Him, they said, “John the Baptist has sent us to You, to ask, ‘Are You the Expected One, or do we look for someone else?’ ” At that very time He cured many people of diseases and afflictions and evil spirits; and He gave sight to many who were blind. And He answered and said to them, “Go and report to John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have the gospel preached to them. “Blessed is he who does not take offense at Me.” (Luke 7:19-23)



Sixth Mystery: The Temptation of St. John the Baptist (Mt 11:2-14)



As John’s disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swayed by the wind? If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in kings’ palaces. Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written:

“ I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you. ”

Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been subjected to

violence, and violent people have been raiding it. For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John. And if you are willing to accept it, he is the Elijah who was to come. Whoever has ears, let them hear.

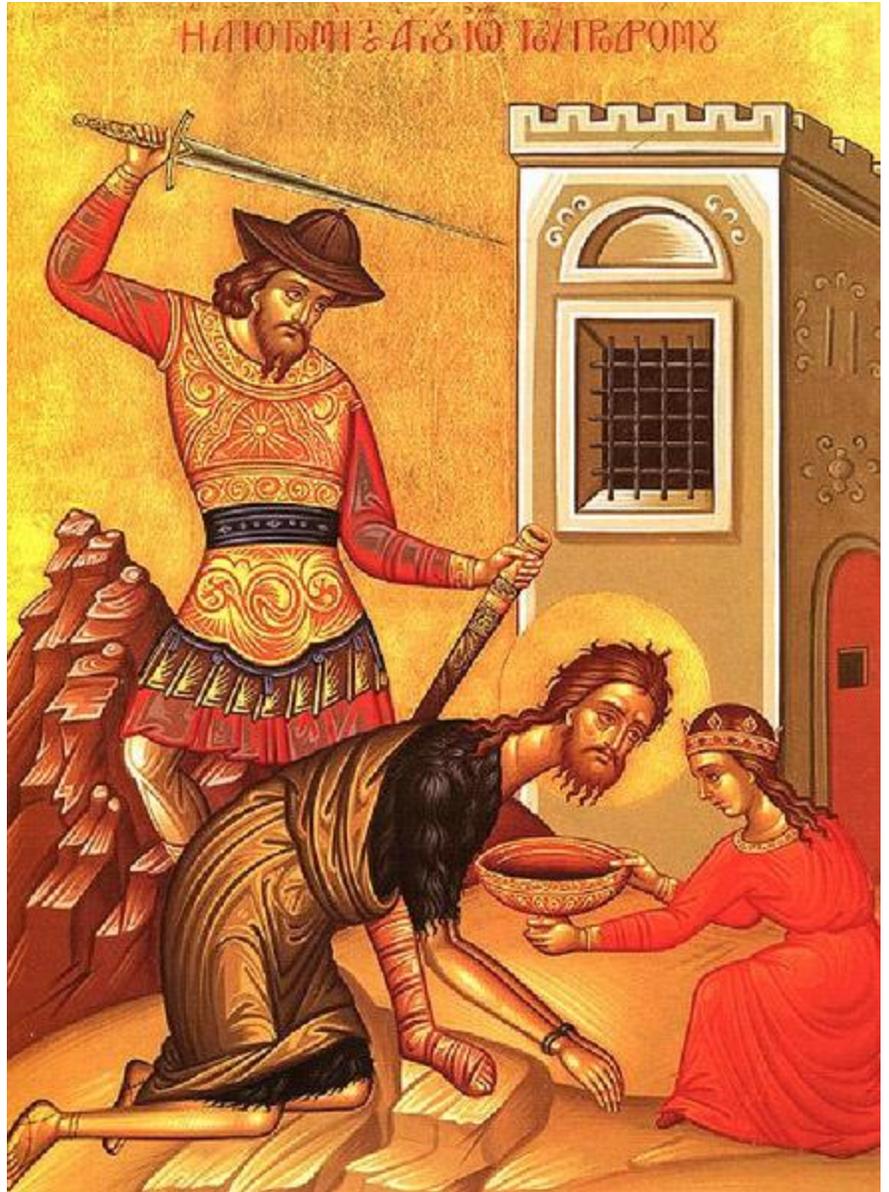
(Matthew 11:7-15)

Seventh Mystery: The Martyrdom of St. John the Baptist

Herod himself had given orders to have John arrested, and he had him bound and put in prison. He did this because of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, whom he had married. For John had been saying to Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." So Herodias nursed a grudge against John and wanted to kill him. But she was not able to, because Herod feared John and protected him, knowing him to be a righteous and holy man. When Herod heard John, he was greatly puzzled; yet he liked to listen to him.

Finally the opportune time came. On his birthday Herod gave a banquet for his high officials and military commanders and the leading men of Galilee. When the daughter of Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his dinner guests.

The king said to the girl, "Ask me for anything you want, and I'll give it to you." And he promised her with an oath, "Whatever you ask I will give you, up to half my kingdom."



She went out and said to her mother, "What shall I ask for?" "The head of John the Baptist," she answered.

At once the girl hurried in to the king with the request: "I want you to give me right now the head of John the Baptist on a platter."

The king was greatly distressed, but because of his oaths and his dinner guests, he did not want to refuse her. So he immediately sent an executioner with orders to bring John's head. The man went, beheaded John in the prison, and brought back his head on a platter. He presented it to the girl, and she gave it to her mother. On hearing of this, John's disciples came and took his body and laid it in a tomb. (Mark 6:17-29)

CLOSING PRAYER ON CENTER MEDALLION



O Lord Jesus Christ, whose way was prepared by St. John the Baptist, grant that through his intercession, our hearts may be prepared for You.

May he teach us to rejoice in your presence, and guide us to true repentance, that we may become your true friends and disciples.

Grant that we, like St. John, may be faithful witnesses to You and share Your glory forever. Amen.