

## Sunday Gospel Scripture Study

June 22/23

### Opening Prayer

Breathe in me, O Holy Spirit, That my thoughts may all be holy. Act in me, O Holy Spirit, That my work, too, may be holy. Draw my heart, O Holy Spirit, That I love but what is holy. Strengthen me, O Holy Spirit, To defend all that is holy. Guard me, then, O Holy Spirit, That I always may be holy.

Prayer of Saint Augustine - Holy Spirit

June is the Month of the Sacred Heart



O Sacred Heart of Jesus, for whom it is impossible not to have compassion on the afflicted, have pity on us miserable sinners and grant us the grace which we ask of you, through the Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart of Mary, your tender mother and ours.

—Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque

Feast of St. John the Baptist - Wednesday



## Gospel According to Matthew

Jesus said to the Twelve:

“Fear no one.

Nothing is concealed that will not be revealed,  
nor secret that will not be known.

What I say to you in the darkness, speak in the light;  
what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops.

And do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul;  
rather, be afraid of the one who can destroy  
both soul and body in Gehenna.

Are not two sparrows sold for a small coin?

Yet not one of them falls to the ground without your Father’s knowledge.

Even all the hairs of your head are counted.

So do not be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

Everyone who acknowledges me before others  
I will acknowledge before my heavenly Father.

But whoever denies me before others,  
I will deny before my heavenly Father.”

## Reflect on the Gospel

- We are in Ordinary Time which will carry us through to the Feast of Christ the King.
  - During Ordinary Time we reflect on the messages and life of Christ.
  - There are some special feasts
    - Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Crowning of the Blessed Virgin Mary in August
    - September 8- the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
    - Sept 14 Exaltation of the Holy Cross
    - Just to name a few
- This Gospel passage speaks of Fear
  - “Fear no one. Nothing is concealed that will not be revealed, nor secret that will not be known”.
  - The Apostles are asking questions of the unknown.
  - Jesus answers with avoiding Fear
  - Fear can crowd our thinking and Fear does not come from God.
- “And do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul”
  - Being afraid of sin.
  - Focus on Heaven as the ultimate goal.
- Gehenna – This is the Jewish place of the dead
  - For the Jewish people there was no concept of heaven only of death.
  - Gehenna is the place of the dead
  - Remember Jesus opens wide the doors of heaven for those who can enter.
- “So do not be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows”
  - Reference to the sparrows
    - Jesus references earlier on that God will take care of us as he would take care of the sparrows.
    - St Francis was so inspired by this that he lived this with total Trust in God.
- Faith in Jesus Christ brings eternal life – referring to denial.

Short Mini Retreat to prepare for the Feast of St John the Baptist

<https://www.loyolapress.com/retreats/seeing-what-we-see-start-retreat/>

### Questions

1. Are there any areas where Fear has overcome your life?
2. Fear is a normal human emotion. How can we refocus our spiritual energy on God.