

June 24th: Solemnity of the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist

Gospel text (Lk 1,57-66.80): When the time arrived for Elizabeth to have her child she gave birth to a son. Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy toward her, and they rejoiced with her.

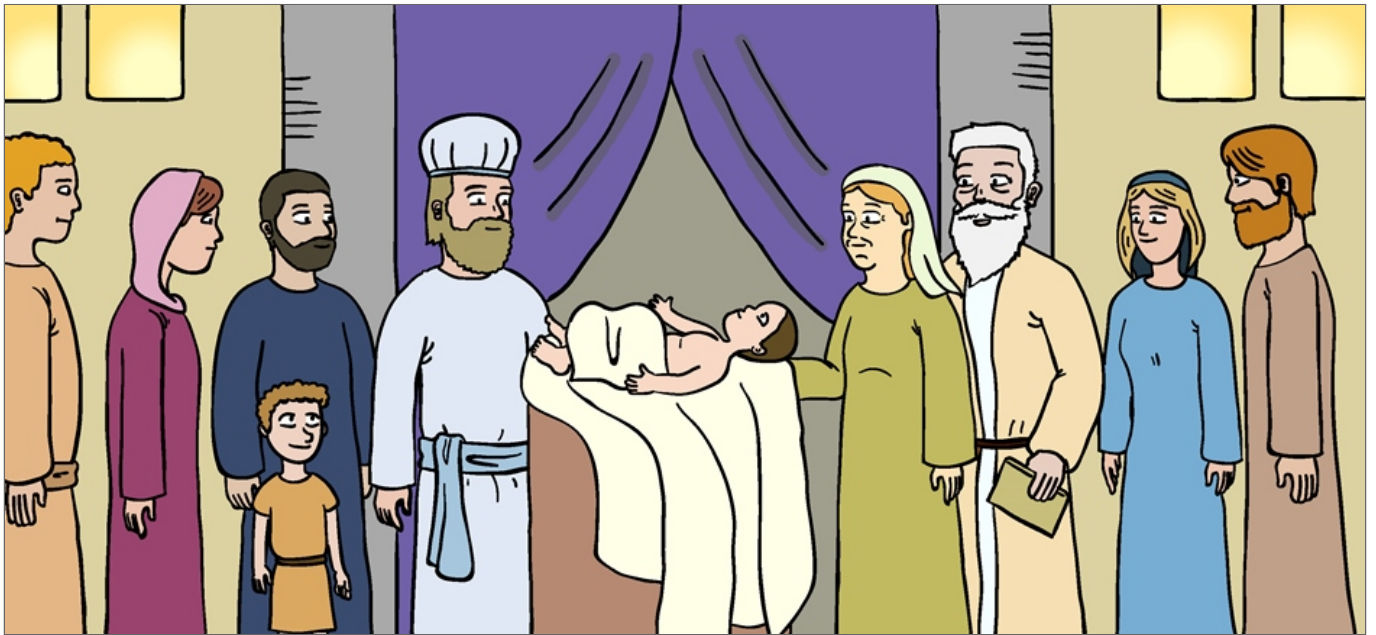


Illustration: Francesc Badia

Today we celebrate the birth of the Baptist. This is exceptional. No wonder! The archangel Gabriel told Zechariah - father of John - that "he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb". This is why, John - while still inside his mother - jumped with joy when the Virgin Mary - already pregnant of Jesus - arrived at St. Elisabeth's home. He was not yet born and he was already jumping for joy at Jesus!

- Do you also jump for joy when you hear about Jesus or Mary?