

Saint George Maronite Catholic Church

رعية مار جرجس المارونية

1493 Cranston Street, Cranston, RI 02920

Email: stgeorgeri@gmail.com

Website: www.stgeorgeri.com

Office: 401-723 8444



December 10, 2023

Birth of John the Baptist

Meet Your Clergy

Rev. Tony Saab, Pastor
frtonysaab@gmail.com
401-400 1441 (Urgent calls)

Farid Zaarour, Deacon
ffzaarour@yahoo.com

For God is my witness, whom
I serve in my spirit
in the gospel of His Son.

Rom. 1:9

Office Hours

Weds - Friday
from 9am-12pm

Liturgical Schedule

Wednesday 7:00pm,
Thursday and Friday 10:00am

Saturday 4:00 pm
Sunday 8:30 am (Latin rite)
10:30 am

Exposition of the Holy Eucharist

on Thursday 6:00pm

“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.”

(Mt 11:11)



Subscribe to our Parish **You Tube** Channel

<https://www.youtube.com/@saintgeorge7066/streams>

Like our Parish **facebook** page

<https://www.facebook.com/stgeorgemaronitecatholicchurchRI>

New!! Follow us on **Instagram**
[@stgeorgecranston](https://www.instagram.com/stgeorgecranston)

Weekly collections

Saturday 04:00pm
\$794.00

Sunday
08:30am \$249.00
10.30am \$793.00

SACRAMENTS

Baptism & Confirmation: One month in advance with the Pastor.

Suggested Donation: Church: \$200 Priest: Free Will

Matrimony: Arrangements should be made by couples six months prior to the wedding date.

Suggested Donation: Church \$500. Priest: Free Will

Reconciliation:

One hour before liturgies, or by appointment

Anointing of the Sick: Please notify the Rectory if a member of your family is ill, hospitalized, or homebound and would like to receive communion at home.

(Hall rental is available)

(Please call the church office)



Scan. Pay. Go.

Galatians 4:21-5:1

The Allegory of Hagar and Sarah

Brothers and Sisters:

Tell me, you who desire to be subject to the law, will you not listen to the law? For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by a slave woman and the other by a free woman. One, the child of the slave, was born according to the flesh; the other, the child of the free woman, was born through the promise. Now this is an allegory: these women are two covenants. One woman, in fact, is Hagar, from Mount Sinai, bearing children for slavery. Now Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia and corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. But the other woman corresponds to the Jerusalem above; she is free, and she is our mother. For it is written, "Rejoice, you childless one, you who bear no children, burst into song and shout, you who endure no birth pangs; for the children of the desolate woman are more numerous than the children of the one who is married." Now you, my friends, are children of the promise, like Isaac. But just as at that time the child who was born according to the flesh persecuted the child who was born according to the Spirit, so it is now also. But what does the scripture say? "Drive out the slave and her child; for the child of the slave will not share the inheritance with the child of the free woman." So then, friends, we are children, not of the slave but of the free woman. For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. Praise be to God always!

Luke 1:57-66

The Birth of John the Baptist

The Evangelist said:

Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. Her neighbors 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 neighbors, 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. This is the truth. Peace be with you.

Announcement Corner

1- Friday December 8 is the **Feast of the Immaculate conception**, a holy day of obligation.

Liturgy will be celebrated on Thursday 12/7 at 7:00pm in the Church.

2- **Christmas Parish dinner:** Saturday December 9. **Sodality Christmas Party** Saturday 12/16.

3- **Children Christmas Party:** Sunday December 17 after 10:30am liturgy.

Saint Joseph Annual Hafli: March 16, 2024.

4- **Christmas weekend schedule**

Saturday 12/23 Genealogy of Jesus 4:00pm

Sunday 12/24 Genealogy of Jesus 8:30 and 10:30am

Christmas Eve 4:00pm

Monday 12/25 **Christmas Day** 8:30am and 10:30am

5- **New year weekend schedule** Saturday 12/30 4:00pm

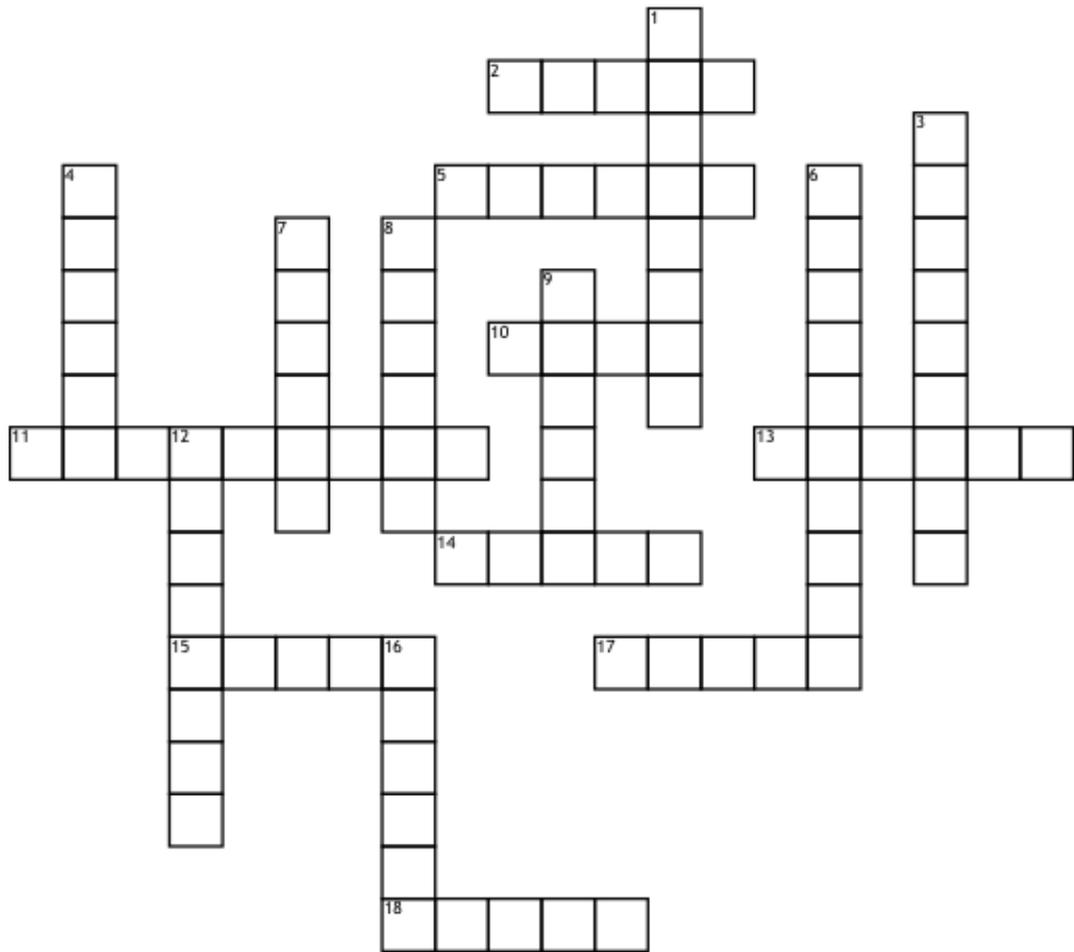
Sunday 12/31 8:30am and 10:30am

Monday January 1, 2024 8:30 am and 10:30am

Liturgical Intentions

12/7 7:00pm	Memorial liturgy for Maria Verdugo and Francisco Covarrubias , requested by their daughter Monica Loskoutov.
12/9 4:00pm	One year anniversary for Anthony Budway , requested by his wife Maureen, his children, his grandchildren, and his Great grandchildren.
12/10 8:30am 10:30am	Remembrance liturgy for Ernest Mari , requested by Maria and Jim Penta. For Georgette Kosseifi who passed away in Lebanon, requested by her loving family. Memorial liturgy for Father Jean Ledu and Lucienne Moraille , and all deceased members of the Chancy family , requested by Marie Chancy.
12/16 4:00pm	Memorial liturgy for Peter and Mary Michael, and Richard Solomon , requested by their loving family. In honor of the Immaculate Conception and for the deceased members of the Holy Rosary Sodality.
12/17 8:30am 10:30am	Memorial liturgy for Mildred Rocchio , requested by her loving family. In memory of our mother and grandmother Melda (Milada) Roukos DiLullo , and our grandson and nephew Joseph Barish , requested by their loving family.
12/23 4:00pm	Eleventh anniversary liturgy for Samira Thomas , requested by her loving family.
12/24 8:30am 10:30am 4:00pm	Memorial liturgy for Donald Solomon , requested by James and Joan Salem. Christmas Eve
12/25 8:30am 10:30am	Christmas Day
12/30 4:00pm	Twenty year Anniversary for Elias Saab and the deceased members of the Saab and Atallah families, requested by their loving families.
12/31 8:30am 10:30am	Memorial liturgy for Ernest Mari JR. , requested by Patricia and Gino Rebussini.
1/1/2024 10:30am	World Peace Day/ Circumcision of the Lord
	ETERNAL REST GRANT UNTO THEM O LORD

John The Baptist



Across

2. Mat 3:4 What animal skin did John wear
 5. Luke 1:41 As Elizabeth greeted Mary, what did her baby do.
 10. Mat. 3:16 As Jesus rose from the water, 'the Spirit of God descended like a _ _ _ _ .
 11. Luke 1:13 What was John's father's name.
 13. Luke 1:5 What was John's father's occupation
 14. Mat. 3:4 What else did he eat

15. Luke 7:33 What did they say John had because he did not eat bread or drink wine.
 17. Mat. 3:11 What item that Jesus wore was John 'not worthy to bear'
 18. Luke 1:56 How many months did Mary stay with Elizabeth.

Down

1. Mat. 14:11 How did John die.
 3. Luke 1:13 What was John's mother's name.
 4. * Who asked for 'The Head of John the Baptist.

6. Mat, 3:1 Where Did John live
 7. Mat. 3:7 What did John call the Pharisees and Sadducees as they watch from the river bank
 8. Mat. 3:6 In which river did John do his baptism
 9. Luke 1:36 What relation was Mary to Elizabeth
 12. Mat. 14:3 Who caused John to be locked up.
 16. Mat. 3:4 What insect did he eat

Word Bank

- | | | | | | |
|------------|-------|--------|--------|-----------|-----------|
| Wilderness | Camel | Locust | Honey | Jordan | Vipers |
| Shoes | Dove | Salome | Devil | Elizabeth | Zechariah |
| Leaped | Three | Cousin | Priest | Beheaded | Herodias |

PARISH REGISTRATION

Many of our parishioners are still not registered with us. Please take a moment and register. Help us to better communicate with you, by filling out the form in the back of the church and returning it to us at your earliest convenience.

كتر من اسماء و عناوين عائلات رعيتنا غير موجودون في سجلات الكنيسة. نحن بحاجة لتعاونكم من خلال تسجيل الاسم، العنوان، رقم الهاتف، و العنوان البريدي من خلال تعبئة الطلبات الموجودة على باب الكنيسة و تسليمها لنا بعد القداس او ارسالها في البريد.



“Gathered in the one spirit, breathing as though with two lungs – of the East and of the West – and burning with the love of Christ in one heart – having two ventricles.”

(Sacri Canones; Pope John Paul II)

DID YOU KNOW that for Catholics united with the Pope in Rome, there is an amazing unity even within the reality of cultural diversity? The **Catholic Church**, comprised of **21 Eastern Churches and 1 Western Church** (Latin Rite Roman Catholic), is a communion of Churches, with the Pope as the visible head. One of the Eastern Catholic Churches is the Maronite Church. She has Her own hierarchy composed of a Patriarch, who is Her father and head, and over forty Bishops who shepherd the many Eparchies (Dioceses) in Lebanon, the Middle East, and throughout the world. The Patriarch governs the Church in a synodal manner with his body of bishops as is customary in the Eastern Churches. Each Catholic Church practices a common faith according to one of the six major traditions.

The Maronite Church follows the Antiochene Tradition. All Churches within the communion of Catholic Churches share the same:

**Dogmatic Faith. Seven Mysteries (Sacraments). Moral Teachings.
Unity with the Pope of Rome.**

All Catholics believe the same truths of the faith, yet worship differently. One could say they share the same essence of faith, but have a different expression of that faith. Each Church embraces its own culture and tradition to express Her faith in Jesus the Risen Lord. Each of the Catholic Churches: Encompasses a unique liturgy, theology, spirituality and discipline; Is characterized by Her own cultural and linguistic tradition; Is guided by a Patriarch, Major Archbishop, Metropolitan or other hierarchy, who along with their Synod of Bishops are in full communion with the Pope, the Successor of Saint Peter in Rome.

Please join us every night starting Friday
December 15 to December 24 for the
CHRISTMAS NOVENA تساعية الميلاد

7:00pm



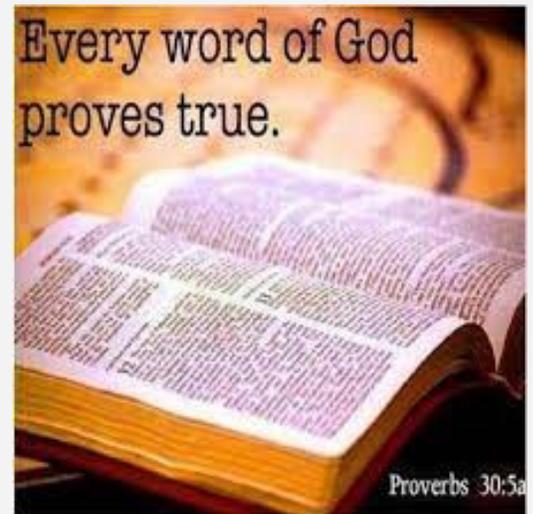
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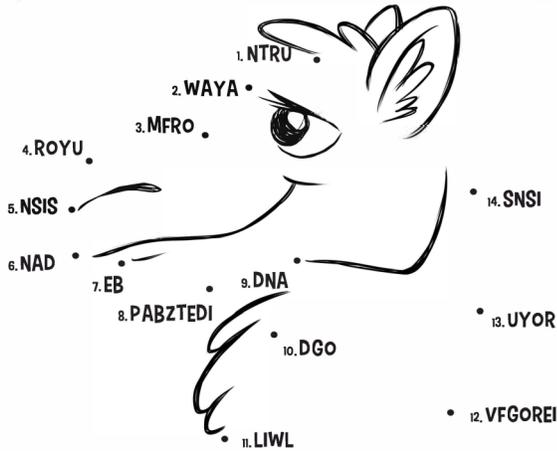
Ten Lessons from this week's Gospel

1. **Divine Intervention in Infertility:** The conception and birth of John the Baptist to the elderly and previously barren Elizabeth highlight God's ability to intervene miraculously, emphasizing the sanctity of life.
2. **God's Perfect Plan:** The timing of John's birth according to God's plan emphasizes the divine order and sovereignty of God in orchestrating events for the fulfillment of His purposes.
3. **The Power of Naming:** The significance of naming John, contrary to family tradition, underscores the importance of names and the role they play in God's plan. In Catholic tradition, names often carry deep spiritual meaning.
4. **Sacrament of Baptism:** John's name means "God is gracious," and his later role as a baptizer connects to the sacrament of Baptism in the Catholic Church, symbolizing cleansing, repentance, and entry into the faith community.
5. **The Joy of New Life:** The joy expressed by Elizabeth and the community at John's birth mirrors the joy experienced in the Catholic Church at the birth of new members through Baptism and the Sacraments.
6. **Role of the Holy Spirit:** The Holy Spirit played a crucial role in John's conception and ministry. This underscores the importance of the Holy Spirit in the life of believers, guiding, empowering, and sanctifying them.
7. **The Importance of Praise and Thanksgiving:** Zechariah's Benedictus (Luke 1:68-79), a hymn of praise, is a significant part of this passage. It teaches Catholics the importance of offering praise and thanksgiving to God for His blessings.
8. **Recognition of God's Signs:** The neighbors and relatives recognized the divine significance of John's birth. This emphasizes the importance of discerning and acknowledging God's signs and wonders in our lives.
9. **Humility and Obedience:** Zechariah's initial doubt and subsequent humility teach the importance of humility and obedience in the face of God's promises, a virtue deeply emphasized in Catholic teachings.
10. **Preparation for Christ:** John the Baptist's role as the forerunner preparing the way for the Messiah aligns with the Catholic emphasis on Advent, a season of preparation for the coming of Christ, both in the celebration of Christmas and in anticipation of His second coming.

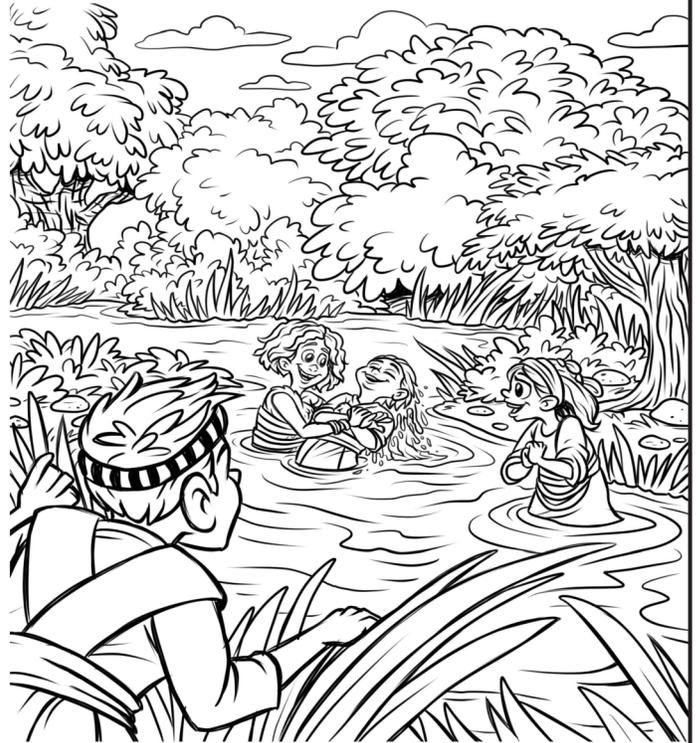


JOHN WORE CLOTHES MADE OF CAMEL'S HAIR, WITH A LEATHER BELT AROUND HIS WAIST. HIS FOOD WAS LOCUSTS AND WILD HONEY. HE HAD A MESSAGE FOR THE PEOPLE, TELLING THEM...

Connect the dots and unscramble the words along the way. Write them in order on the lines below.



[Answer: Turn away from your sins and be baptized, and God will forgive your sins.]



JOHN THE BAPTIST PREPARED THE WAY FOR JESUS. IN THE PUZZLE BELOW ARE WORDS FROM TODAY'S GOSPEL LESSON. SEE IF YOU CAN FIND THEM!

Circle the words found in the Word List below. They can be across, up, down or diagonal (both forward and backward).

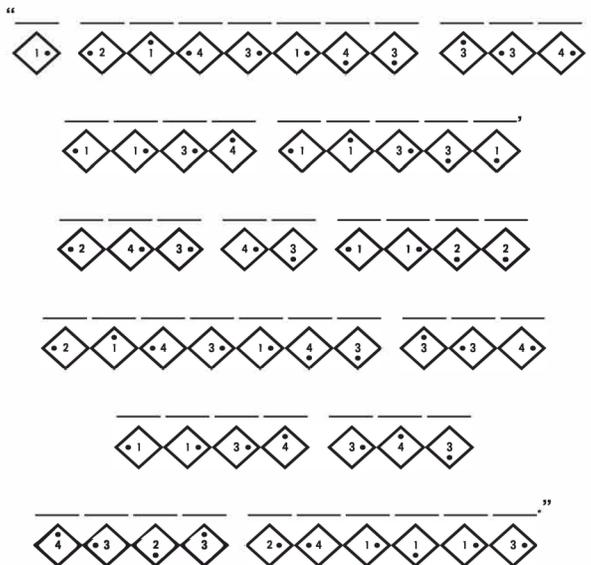
WORD LIST:

- | | | |
|-----------|---------|-----------|
| MESSENGER | LOCUSTS | JUDEA |
| BAPTIZE | HONEY | JERUSALEM |
| PROPHET | JORDAN | SPIRIT |
| DESERT | SANDALS | CONFESS |
| RIVER | WATER | FORGIVE |

R A H O R N F E W C M D
 C E P L A I Z X O S E T
 A X G D O I V N Q A L R
 X E R N T C F E O N A E
 F O D P E E U B R D S S
 J X A U S S D S I A U E
 H B J S J H S K T L R D
 Y E P R O P H E T S E H
 E V I G R O F Y M O J O
 S P I R I T R E T A W N
 I X O Q R G I Z V L Z E
 N W W Q B A C V Y G C Y

JOHN SAID SOMEONE MUCH GREATER THAN HIM WILL BE COMING. WHAT ELSE DID HE SAY?

Use this code to find out.



[Answer: 'I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.']

The Straight Furrow

Key Word: **Furrow**

Verse: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. *Mark 1:3b*

Sam was the envy of all his friends. His dad was a farmer, so he drove a tractor. On rare occasions Sam was allowed to sit in the tractor cab and even help drive. Sam's dad was entering a plowing competition, so he was spending quite a lot of time in the tractor practicing plowing in straight lines. Sam couldn't see why it mattered whether or not furrows were straight. He just liked to sit in the tractor and drive, without keeping a straight line.

When the day of the plowing competition came, Sam found he was as excited as anybody. It was a really great day out, with lots to see and do. Before the plowing competition there were sheepdog trials, the heavy horses, and all sorts of riding and jumping competitions.

At last the time of the plowing competition arrived, and Sam found his heart beating fast for his father. Some of the entrants were very good, with hardly a wavy furrow among them. Even so, Sam knew his father was best of all. Sure enough, Sam's dad drove a perfect furrow, straight and true, and he won the Cup. Sam was so proud and excited. "I knew you'd do it, Dad," he told his father. "Ah," said his dad. "But do you know why?"

Sam shrugged. "Because you were best, that's why," he answered.

His dad smiled, and shook his head. "No, of there were lots of others who were just as good as I was. I won because I believed in what I was doing, and that gave me the edge."

"How do you mean?" asked Sam. "I believe it's essential to drive a straight furrow," explained his dad. "You see, a straight furrow gives the seeds the best possible chance to grow. They're spaced out properly. As soon as you get a wrinkle in the furrow, the seeds get bunched up and can't grow so well. I need my seeds to grow well so that they produce a good crop for harvest. I haven't been practicing driving my tractor just to win this competition, I've been practicing because I need that skill on the farm. Remember, Sam, whatever you're doing in life always drive a straight furrow if you want to produce good growth."

And Sam did remember, all his life.

Questions

Why did Sam's dad really want straight rows on his farm?

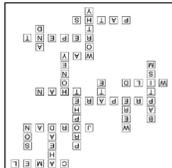
Why did John the Baptist ask us to make a straight path?



Word Search

Letter Find
PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD.
MAKE HIS PATHS STRAIGHT.

Answers



Puzzle Without Numbers

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B2

Letter Find

Match the letters to the numbers under each box to reveal a message from today's Gospel story.

23 25 10 23 14 25 10 22 15 10 3 14 5 16 13

22 15 10 19 16 25 11 2 14 4 10 15 6 30

23 14 22 15 20 20 22 25 14 6 8 15 22

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z
14 9 12 11 10 13 8 15 6 17 4 19 2 21 16 23 18 25 20 22 1 24 3 26 5 7

Puzzle Without Numbers

Fill in the empty boxes with letters that will spell one of the words at the left.

3 Letter Words

SON
WAY
ATE
AND

4 Letter Words

THAN
WITH
WERE
WILD

5 Letter Words

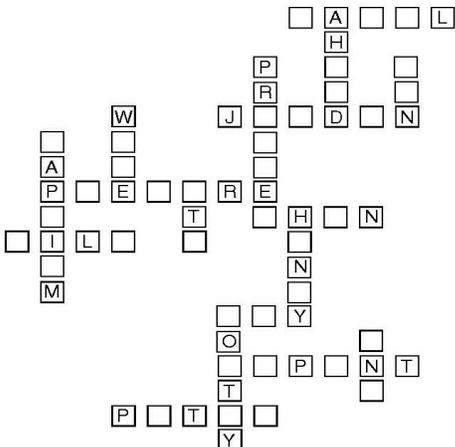
AHEAD
CAMEL
HONEY
PATHS

6 Letter Words

JORDAN
WORTHY
REPENT

7 Letter Words

BAPTISM
PREPARE
PROPHET



Word Search

There are 21 words hidden in the puzzle below. We found the first one. Can you find the other 20?



Word List

AFTER	HE	PREPARE
BAPTIZER	HIM	PROCLAIMED
CLOTHED	HONEY	SOME
COUNTRYSIDE	LEATHER	UNTIE
CRYING	LOCUST	WATER
GOD	ME	WILDERNESS
HAIR	PATHS	WORTHY

B2