

From the Pastor's Printer

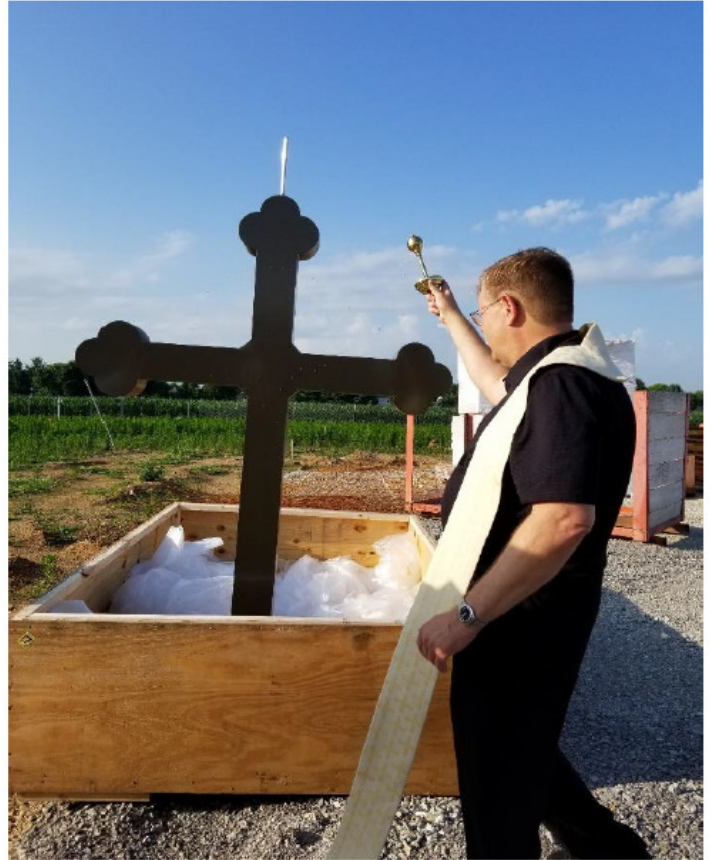
That's a Big Cross to Bear!

This Tuesday I had the honor of blessing the cross that will go on top of our new church.

The cross is made of metal and is actually a dark brown color, which will make it stand out whether the skies are blue, white, or gray. The designs on the end of the cross are called trefoils and represent the Holy Trinity, thus carrying through the design on the main crucifix inside the church. (It should not be confused with the Girl Scout cookie of the same name.) It will be the highest object in the middle of 26 six flat acres, which may be the reason the architects were insistent on it.

Present were some of the members of the Future Home Committee and the 7:30 Mass participants.

I am happy that I only had to bless it and not put it on the roof!



The Feast & The Festival

Today, June 24th, we celebrate the feast of the birth of our parish patron, John the Baptist, as we celebrate our parish festival. There are only two saints for whom the Church celebrates their birth from their mother's womb and that is Mary, Mother of God and St. John the Baptist. (You might think I forgot about the birth of Jesus, but he is God (made man, but still God.) While St. John's birthday is not a holy day of obligation, it is one of the few feasts that, when it falls on a Sunday, takes precedence over the normal Sunday Mass prayers and readings.

Why do we make such a big deal over St. John's birth? First of all, in the hierarchy of the saints, he comes immediately after the the Virgin Mary, even before St. Peter. This is because he is the portal between the Old and New Testaments. He was the prophet who announced the immediate presence of the

Messiah in the world. He is the one who literally points us to the Messiah, the Lamb of God. As his father Zachariah sang, "And you, my child, will be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way, to give people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of sins." John did this not simply by physically pointing and proclaiming - he did it without compromise - and it cost him his head. John's motto comes from his preaching to those who followed him. (Speaking of Christ) John said, "He must increase; I must decrease." (Jn 3:30)

To have such a great patron of our parish is surely a blessing, not only because we have a saint so great and close to Christ who intercedes for us, but also because we have in him an example of total dedication to God, something each of us called to strive for, each in our own way. ✠ Enjoy the festival! -- Fr. Jeff