John the Baptist. Bridge between the Old and New Testament







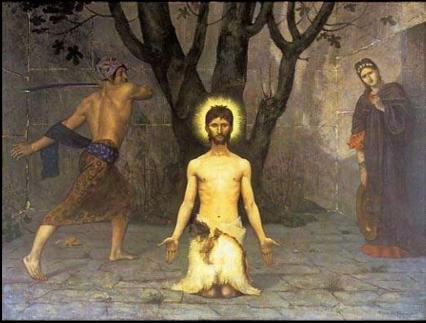






Who Was John the Baptist?

- Cousin of The Virgin Mary, son of Zechariah and Elizabeth. Miraculous birth
- Approximately 3 years older than Jesus
- Announced to the world of the presence of God's son, the Messiah
- Spent years in the desert to learn self-discipline. He was an Essene – separated from the community and lived in desert
- Baptized penitents in the Jordan River
- Resigned ministry after baptism of Jesus
- Beheaded for speaking out against King Herod Antipas



Baptism of John

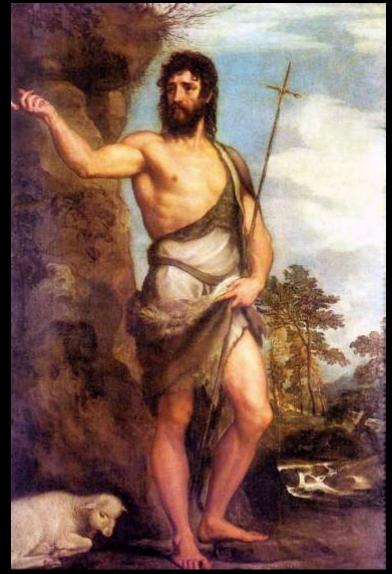
- A baptism of repentance
- A sign of the people's desire to repent of their sins
- It prepared people for the Good News

Sacrament of Baptism

- It washes away man's sin (original and actual)
- Pours grace into the soul
- Jesus preached of the sacrament of Baptism

John the Baptist in Art

- Wears a garment made entirely of hair or fur
- Carries a staff and scroll with the words "Ecce Agnus Dei" or "Behold the Lamb of God"
- The Carob Tree
- Lambs
- The "John Gesture"
- The Serpent of Wisdom



The "John Gesture"



- Commonly accepted to reference God, Heaven or Spirituality
- A more acceptable definition would be: "I foretell the coming of the one from above."

The "John Gesture"



Leonardo da Vinci

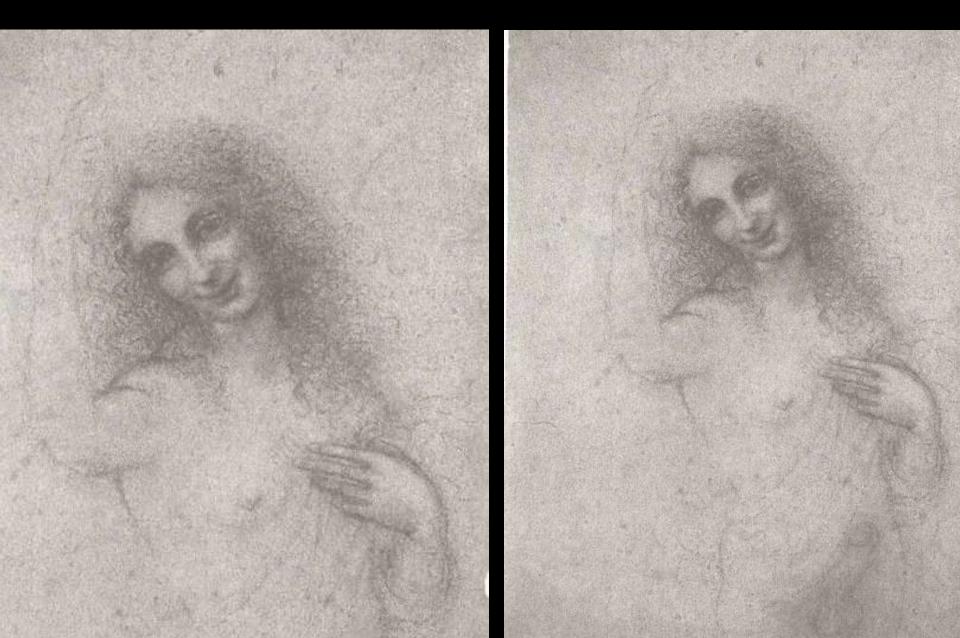
John the Baptist

The Louvre, Paris

Woman?

Leonardo da Vinci

Man?



Adoration of the Magi

By Leonardo da Vinci

• The Carob Tree •'Clawing' at Jesus and Mary •No Gold (kingship) being offered •Eye Gaze? •Leonardo





Van Eyck's Adoration of the Lamb of God

Van Eyck's Adoration of the Lamb of God

- Ghent Altarpiece- no depiction of Jesus at all.
- Center of worship is a lamb
- One central panel devoted to John the Baptist
- John's index finger is touching a templar cross
- Other characters appear to be worshipping the Johns.
- Panel named "Knights of Christ," another name for the Knights Templar.
- "Serpent of Wisdom" is present

