Principal Feasts and Holy Days According to the Episcopal Calendar

- **August 6 The Transfiguration of our Lord Jesus Christ**

This feast celebrates Jesus' radical change of appearance while in the presence of Peter, James, and John on a high mountain. The Gospel of Matthew records that "he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his garments became white as light." A bright cloud overshadowed them and a voice from the cloud stated, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." Celebration of the feast was not common in the western church until the 9th century. The Transfiguration gospel is used on the Last Sunday after the Epiphany in all three years of the BCP Eucharistic lectionary.

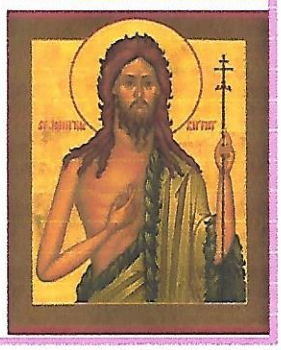
- **August 15 Saint Mary the Virgin, Mother of our Lord Jesus**

Mary the virgin mother of Jesus has been an object of veneration in the church since the apostolic age. The honor paid to Mary goes back to the earliest day of the church even before the birth of Jesus. Her humility and obedience to the message of God at the time of the Incarnation have made her an example for all Christians. In addition to Christmas, feasts associated with Mary include the Presentation, the Annunciation and the visitation. In Mary, Virgin and Mother, God gives us a sign that Jesus is both truly God and truly Man.

- **August 24 Saint Bartholomew**

The name "Bartholomew" appears in the New Testament only on the list of the names of the twelve apostles and is also called Nathanael who was a friend of Philip. Many believe he is the Nathanael mentioned in John. It is said that Bartholomew wrote a gospel, preached to the people of India and died a martyr.

- **August 29 The Beheading of Saint John the Baptist:**



Known as the decollation of Saint John the Baptist, this day commemorates the martyrdom by beheading on the orders of Herod Antipas through the vengeful request of Herod's step-daughter Salome and her mother Herodias. John preached repentance from sins and had the special title of the "Forerunner" of Christ. He was the first martyr during Christ's public preaching.