

**THE ORTHODOX WEEKLY BULLETIN . . . . VESTAL, CLIFFWOOD, NEW JERSEY**

### **BEHEADING OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST**

**A star football player, drafted by a team in the NFL, faced a grave decision. He decided, after much prayer and thought, not to play professional football. His reason was that playing in the league would interfere with his keeping of Sunday as the Lord's day!**

**That is what is called having a standard in life, a value, which a person will uphold at all costs. This is what is so lacking as we look at people in all walks of life today. There has been compromise with God's standards and laws.**

**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST had a high moral standard. When King Herod married his brother's wife, John went to him and protested, saying it was against God's law. The king's standards were different from John's. Though he listened to the Baptist's admonition carefully, the king didn't change. The woman involved, Herodias, also lacked standards. In fact, she was so angry that she wanted John killed.**

**An opportunity for just that came at a birthday party. The daughter of Herodias, Salome, danced for the crowd, and so delighted the king that he promised to give her whatever she asked. After consultation with her mother, Salome asked for head of John. The king ordered the Baptist decapitated, and soldiers carried out this gruesome task.**

**And so each year the Church honors the man with high standards, who refused to compromise his deep-seated beliefs. He paid with his life, for what he believed. That man, "the greatest born of woman," was St. John the Baptist.**

