

**Our 2026-2027 Faith Formation and Sacramental Programs Registration Process  
Has Now Initiated  
Join Us!**



Dear Families of our Saint John the Baptist Parish Faith Formation Program,  
Dear Brothers and Sister of our Saint John the Baptist Parish Family,

On Sunday, May 24, 2026, the entire Catholic Church celebrated the conclusion of the Liturgical Season of Easter, as we gathered and prayed together in remembering the glorious moment of the Lord's fulfilled promise that the Holy Spirit will come and dwell in the hearts and minds of his Apostles, and the community of the Early Church. They received the Holy Spirit in order to be guided, strengthened and protected by God on their personal and missionary journeys of life.

This past Sunday we celebrated the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity and gave thanks to the Almighty for the gifts of creation and life, the gifts of our redemption and love, and the gifts of sanctification and growth, hoping that our every action and every prayer will continue to be carried out "In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit." And, this coming Sunday, June 7, 2026, we will once again gather to celebrate the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, a special feast-day highlighting the importance of the Eucharist for each and every Catholic.

**It is very symbolic that in the context of these three precious Solemnities, and the spiritual realities which they highlight in our Catholic faith, we open our 2026-2027 Saint John the Baptist Parish Faith Formation Program Registration.** It is our true hope that during the upcoming school year our Faith Formation Program will not only spiritually and humanly form our children and young people but facilitate the spiritual growth of our entire families, so that the love and grace of God shared always "In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit," may continue to grow in our souls, our minds and our hearts. On that always adventurous journey we will rely on the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and will place the Lord's gift of the Eucharist, and the Sunday Mass - when we gather, celebrate and receive the Eucharist together - into the very center of that true and authentic Catholic faith formation.

In my own name, as your Pastor and Brother on this journey of faith and personal growth, and in the name of our Saint John the Baptist staff, I want to reaffirm that we daily take on these important spiritual and human responsibilities (at least) as seriously as any excellent educational program, extracurricular activities program, sports program, or any first-rate school. That is why **your**

**personal interest, investment of your time and personal talents, and your good example given to our children and young people is not only required but is absolutely necessary in our common task of forming them in faith, love of God and Christian charity.** As you will see, in the attached registration form we sincerely ask you to make that free-will personal decision and commitment before you register your child or children in our SJB Faith Formation Program. Without this personal commitment we will not grow, but will only “tread waters” of mediocrity, disengagement and poor examples given to our children and young people.

In addition, after a thorough review of the participation and completed home online assignments in our SJB Home Formation (Online) Program we realized that a significant number of our children and families - while “enrolled” in the program - have not completed their home study assignments, and some have even totally ignored them. For that reason, **only the children and families who have completed at least 80% of their assignments (16 of 20 home study online assignments for 2025-2026) will be eligible to re-register for our 2026-2027 online home program.**

The month of June every year is so very special for our Parish because *on June 24*, in addition to so many Church feast days and celebrations, the end of the school year celebrations, family gatherings, and the beginning of the summer season and vacations, *the Catholic Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist, or, the Birthday of Saint John the Baptist.* In fact, while we have many celebrations of the saints in our Catholic calendar, the Church throughout the world celebrates only three birthdays: Jesus’ birth celebrated at Christmas, Mary’s birth on September 8, and John the Baptist’s birth on June 24. We pray for St. John’s intercessions and guidance, and, in our commitment to the faith formation of our children and young people we hope to give our heavenly patron our community’s special “birthday gift.”

I, personally, and all of us who serve you here in our beautiful church and Parish, pray that our upcoming new year of faith and human formation will be filled with joy, hope, knowledge and always growing love of Jesus and His Church. If you need any personal assistance during the registration process, please don’t hesitate to contact Kathy Breitenbach, at [kbreitenbach@stjohnhillsdale.com](mailto:kbreitenbach@stjohnhillsdale.com). Although Kathy and all of us spend many hours every day in our offices serving the needs of our many children, young people and families, your questions or requests presented in writing - via email - allow her and all of us to properly and timely review, discern and answer your communications and requests. While the first year Confirmation preparation program for our high school freshmen is not included in the attached online registration form, in the coming days we will roll out those registrations with all necessary attention and promotions.

Grateful for your witness of faith, and with blessings, best wishes and assurances of my prayers,

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Msgr. Peter Smutelovic  
Pastor

More information at: [www.stjohnhillsdale.org](http://www.stjohnhillsdale.org)