SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST
ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

69 VALLEY STREET, HILLSDALE NJ 07642 • STJOHNHILLSDALE.ORG



NOVEMBER 29, 2026

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Jesus said to his disciples: "Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come."
— Mark 13:33

PASTOR
Rev. Msgr. Peter Smutelovic

WEEKEND ASSISTANTS
Rev. Bogumil Misiuk
Rev. Frank Lennie

DEACONS
Deacon Jack Gray
Deacon Albert Ganter

- **RECTORY 201.664.3131**
  Cathy Williamson, *Office Manager/Outreach*
  Jennifer Cannon, *Business Administrator*
  Glen Ford, *Plant Superintendent*

- **PARISH CENTER 201.666.2707**
  Donald Caputo, *Director of Lifelong Faith Formation*
  Kathy Breitenbach, *Registrar / CCD*
  Roberto Sabastiani, *Director of Music*
  Paulette Gilchrist, *Safe Environment Coordinator*

- **ST. JOHN'S ACADEMY 201.664.6364**
  Ann Mitchell, *Principal*

MASS SCHEDULE

SATURDAY VIGIL
5:00 PM

SUNDAY, THE LORD'S DAY
8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, 12:00 PM

WEEKDAYS & SATURDAY
8:00 AM

HOLY DAYS
8:00 AM, 12:00 PM, 7:00 PM

CONFESSIONS
- Saturdays 2:00 - 3:00 PM
- After 8:00 AM Mass—Weekdays
- Any time by appointment

Dear Brothers and Sisters of Saint John the Baptist Parish Family,
Dear Friends of our Parish,

On this First Sunday of Advent, we have gathered in the right place to await and celebrate the coming of our Lord. We have come home to our Saint John the Baptist spiritual family, ready to begin this beautiful season of prayer, reflection, hope, and anticipation.

As we enter Advent, we are reminded of three extraordinary figures of faith who lived during the final months and years of the era known as B.C. — before Christ: Our Heavenly Mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary; Saint Joseph; and our great patron, Saint John the Baptist. It was John who humbly yet resolutely proclaimed that he had come into the world to prepare the way for the Messiah. Recognizing the might and splendor of the One who was to come, John declared that he was not even worthy to "stoop down and untie His sandals" (Mark 1:7).

While Mary is the supreme example of Christian longing and joyful anticipation for the birth of the Messiah — we will celebrate her Immaculate Conception on December 8 — Saint Joseph quietly and faithfully took care of all that was necessary to ensure that Mary and her unborn Child would be protected and cared for. In today's language, we might say that he provided all the essential "logistics" surrounding the birth of Jesus.

When Pope Francis, in late 2020, proclaimed the period between the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception on December 8, 2020, and the same Solemnity in 2021 as the Year of Saint Joseph, he particularly emphasized this important mission of Saint Joseph: protector of Jesus, Mary, the Church, and each and every one of us. As Pope Francis reminded us, Saint Joseph fulfills this noble mission discreetly, humbly, and silently, yet with an unfailing presence and unwavering fidelity. In good times and bad, even when circumstances are difficult to understand, he remains present, offering his loving care and protection. The Gospels portray him as a strong and courageous man who faithfully awaits the birth of the Lord and devotes his life to protecting Him. Through his boundless love, tenderness, and faithfulness, Saint Joseph reveals the true greatness of his heart.

As we begin our Advent journey, let us pray that, through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Saint Joseph, and Saint John the Baptist, this season will become a truly blessed time in our lives. May these three spiritual giants, such wonderful examples of waiting for the Messiah and preparing the way of the Lord, intercede for us as we wait, pray, and seek His presence in our hearts and lives.

Together, let us reflect on some important questions: **What am I waiting for? What does my heart long for at this particular moment in my life? What are we waiting for together? What unites our hopes and aspirations? What brings our hearts together in faith and purpose?** May these questions guide us toward a faith and joy filled rediscovery of our Lord and our Catholic faith.

May God bless you and your families throughout this holy season of Advent!

— Fr. Peter

Mass Intentions

May those we remember in prayer rest in the peace and love of Christ.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28
5:00 PM Norman Palmeri

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29
8:00 AM Ray Greve
10:00 AM Salvatore Messina
12:00 PM Eileen Wynne

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30
8:00 AM John A. Henry

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1
8:00 AM Diane Frolich

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2
8:00 AM Salvatore Messina

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3
8:00 AM John Gregory

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4
8:00 AM George Uathavikul

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5
8:00 AM Dolores Santucci
5:00 PM Margaret Coyne

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6
8:00 AM Francis A. Loughlin
10:00 AM Rosario Marrella
12:00 PM Mary Policke

Prayers for Healing and Peace:

Thomas Tobin, Ann Walsh, Baby Rocco, Caroline Bisi, Baby Nellie, Eileen Stasiunis, Bruce Hawkinson, Walter Minx, Mary Lou Wilson, John Manning, Alex Rodriguez, Ruth Dell Valle, Linda Palumbo, Anthony Delasey, Joseph Camilleri, Jamie Calabro, Lorraine Tighe, Steven Kudla, Alice L., Nat Mashini, Terry Medino, James Carbone, Laura Carbone, Joanne Hughes, Salvatore Conti

Remembering Those Who Have Passed.

Dolores Santucci



The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Tuesday, December 8, is a

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION.

OUR MASS SCHEDULE IS 8:00 AM, 12:00 PM & 7:00 PM

Please also know that the

PARISH OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED

on that day. Thank you.

Advent Prayer

Lord Jesus,
Master of both the light and the darkness,
send your Holy Spirit upon our
preparations for Christmas.

We who have so much to do
and seek quiet spaces to hear
your voice each day.

We who are anxious over many things
look forward to your coming among us.

We who are blessed in so many ways
long for the complete joy of your kingdom.

We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy
of your presence.

We are your people, walking in darkness,
yet seeking the light.

To you we say, "Come Lord Jesus!"

Amen.

- Henri J.M. Nouwen





The hope of Christians is turned to the future but remains firmly rooted in an event of the past, the birth of our Redeemer

Advent is a very evocative religious season because it is interwoven with hope and spiritual expectation: every time the Christian community prepares to commemorate the Redeemer's birth, it feels a quiver of joy which to a certain extent it communicates to the whole of society. In Advent, Christians relive a dual impulse of the spirit: on the one hand, they raise their eyes toward the final destination of their pilgrimage through history, which is the glorious return of the Lord Jesus; on the other, remembering with emotion his birth in Bethlehem, they kneel before the Crib. The hope of Christians is turned to the future but remains firmly rooted in an event of the past. In the fullness of time, the Son of God was born of the Virgin Mary: "Born of a woman, born under the law", as the Apostle Paul writes (Gal 4:4). The Gospels invite us to stay on guard as we await the final coming of Christ. "Look around you!", Jesus says. "You do not know when the master of the house is coming" (Mk 13:35). The short parable of the master who went on a journey and the servants responsible for acting in his place highlights how important it is to be ready to welcome the Lord when he suddenly returns. The Christian community waits anxiously for his "manifestation", and the Apostle Paul, writing to the Corinthians, urges them to trust in God's fidelity and to live so as to be found "blameless" (see 1 Cor 1:7-9) on the day of the Lord.

We might say that Advent is the season in which Christians must rekindle in their hearts the hope that they will be able with God's help to renew the world. May Mary Most Holy, Virgin of Advent, obtain that we live this time of grace in a watchful and hardworking way while we await the Lord.

Pope Benedict XVI, Reflection during the Prayer of Angelus, Vatican, 27 November, 2005

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC CHURCH, HILLSDALE NJ

presents

A VERY BROADWAY Christmas 2026

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13

CONCERT AT 3:30PM

Featuring



Heather Bixler



John Cudia



Ciarán Sheehan



James Gregory



Kathy Voytko

Irish tenor and Broadway star **Ciarán Sheehan** *(Phantom, Phantom of the Opera),* returns to Hillsdale, NJ for A Very Broadway Christmas!

Joining him for this special holiday concert are **John Cudia**, *(Phantom, Les Miserables*), **James Gregory** *(Pianist & Singer)*, **Heather Bixler** *(Classical Violinist & Irish Fiddler)*, and **Kathy Voytko** *(Oklahoma!, Nine)*. Enjoy a festive evening of Broadway favorites, timeless Christmas classics, and extraordinary musical talent!

ChristmasConcert.StJohnHillsdale.org

69 Valley St, Hillsdale, NJ • 201-664-3131

St. John the Baptist



Breakfast with St. Nicholas

Join us for a festive breakfast, crafts and goodies!

Sunday, December 6th

— the Feast Day of St. Nicholas! —

Two Seating Times:

After the 10:00 AM Mass & the 12:00 PM Mass

Join us on our Journey to Jesus this Advent!

REGISTER HERE!

OUR PARISH STEWARDSHIP

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday it was necessary to submit our bulletin to the printing company by Friday, November 20. The November 22 collection information will be included in the 2nd Sunday of Advent's bulletin. Thank you for your support and generosity.

As always your financial support enables our parish home to continue the mission of the Church. Thank you and God bless you!

An Invitation to the Women of St. John the Baptist

Please join us for

TEA, TREATS & TOGETHERNESS

Brewing friendships, sharing faith, and building community. Join us for the kickoff of our parish women's group!

Bring a favorite batch of cookies to share.

Wednesday, December 9th at 7:00pm in St. John's Parish Center



GIVING TREES AT ST. JOHN'S

St. John's Human Concerns Committee is diligently working to make the holidays a joyous time for those in need, especially the children. A "Giving Tree" has been placed at each door of the church. On the trees are suggestions for gift cards. If you are able, we ask that you donate one of these cards to help the needy. Checks are also appreciated. We ask that all gifts be placed in the Sunday collection basket or brought to the Rectory Office by December 16.

We thank you in advance for your kindness and generosity.



You & your family are invited for a special Holiday memorial service

A TREE OF REMEMBRANCE DEDICATION

Sponsored by Becker Funeral Home

at Westwood Elks Club
523 Kinderkamack Rd, Westwood

Wednesday, December 9 at 7:00pm

Doors open at 6:30pm
for ornament preparation.

Light refreshments will be provided.
RSVP by Dec. 7: 201-664-0292



ParishSOFT Giving SIGN UP TODAY!

ParishSoft provides the ability to give to St. John's via electronic donations (credit card or direct debit from your bank.) Please use the QR code or visit:

https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/stjohnhillsdale

Once on the ParishSoft giving page, please click on Sign In to begin account.

With online enrollment, you can access your account any time to view or make changes to the account info and gifts.

"Advent is synonymous with hope, not the vain waiting for a faceless god, but concrete and certain trust in the return of Him who has already visited us."

— St. John Paul II (1920 - 2005)