

SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

69 VALLEY STREET, HILLSDALE NJ 07642 • STJOHNHILLSDALE.ORG



LENT
A BLESSED TIME
OF SPIRITUAL
GROWTH &
DISCOVERIES

DO YOU KNOW
WHERE THE STAINED
GLASS WINDOW OF THE
MIRACLE AT CANA IN
GALILEE IS IN OUR
CHURCH?

MARCH 8, 2026

3RD SUNDAY OF LENT

Jesus said, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again; but whoever drinks the water I shall give will never thirst; the water I shall give will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." — John 4:13-14

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**
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
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

3rd Sunday of Lent — March 8, 2026

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

Thank you for giving witness to our Catholic faith and celebrating with us the Liturgies of this 3rd Sunday of Lent. This is truly a Season of renewal, repentance, and reconciliation and I am very grateful that a growing number of us continue to gather, pray, and praise God here at St. John's.

Prayer, fasting, and almsgiving are three important spiritual realities deeply connected to Lent. As we reflect on their significance for us, we realize that while the first two allow us to deepen our own personal relationship with God, the third one, so deeply connected to those first two, immediately challenges us to express that connection, discipleship and friendship with the Lord in our concern for others. Practicing this concern, kindness, generosity, and charity during Lent, we strive to bring a ray of Christ's light and love into the lives of people around us.

Thank you to all of you who have already responded to our request for assistance to those in need in the broader community of our Archdiocese of Newark, through the 2026 Annual Appeal. The Appeal, which we officially launch this weekend, provides an opportunity for a caring community like St. John's to support a broad variety of charitable efforts of our local Catholic Church. It funds essential programs and ministries at the heart of our Catholic mission - namely to proclaim the Gospel, to pass on the faith to future generations, particularly through the celebration of the Sacraments, and to care for the poor and those on the margins.

In order to assure that our sacrificial gift will get exactly where you want it to go, we are free to restrict our contributions on the back side of the Annual Appeal donation envelopes and direct them to our most favorite charitable causes, while always noting that we are members of St. John the Baptist Parish in Hillsdale. Let us all join our efforts and our God-given resources in this important charitable initiative. Among those who will benefit from our generosity are children, young people, adults, and elderly who need our human concern and assistance.

As always, I am very grateful for your support, your kindness, and the goodness of your hearts. Please know that on this challenging but beautiful journey of Lenten renewal I pray for each one of you, as well as for all your loved ones. And, as always, I humbly ask you to pray for me and for all those who serve and minister to you in our wonderful Parish Family.

— Fr. Peter

Prayers for Healing and Peace:

Kim Costa, Rose Lyons, Thomas Tobin, Anthony K., Peter Spaccarotella, Florence Sacco, Daniel Tintle, Jr., Jim Derbyshire, James Carbone, Terry Medino, Anita Lawrence, Deacon Jack Gray, Ann Walsh, Elaine McBreen, Baby Rocco, Tommy Ivancich

Remembering Those Who Have Passed:

Aurelio Iran, Bernadette Zacharda, John Thievone, Mary Ellen Scanlan

Mass Intentions

*We remember our loved ones
and community*

SATURDAY, MARCH 7

5:00 PM Gerri Hickey

SUNDAY, MARCH 8

8:00 AM JoAnn Greene

10:00 AM Claire Donaghy

12:00 PM Alessandro Valenti
(Grandfather/Grandson)

MONDAY, MARCH 9

8:00 AM People of the Parish

TUESDAY, MARCH 10

8:00 AM People of the Parish

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11

8:00 AM Elizabeth Kenny

THURSDAY, MARCH 12

8:00 AM Eileen Gehan

FRIDAY, MARCH 13

8:00 AM Gilda McDonald
(30th Anniversary)

SATURDAY, MARCH 14

8:00 AM People of the Parish

5:00 PM Gabino F. Roche

SUNDAY, MARCH 15

8:00 AM Matthew Straut, Jr.

10:00 AM John Brogan

12:00 PM Christopher Tucker

The **Votive Candle** burns
in memory of

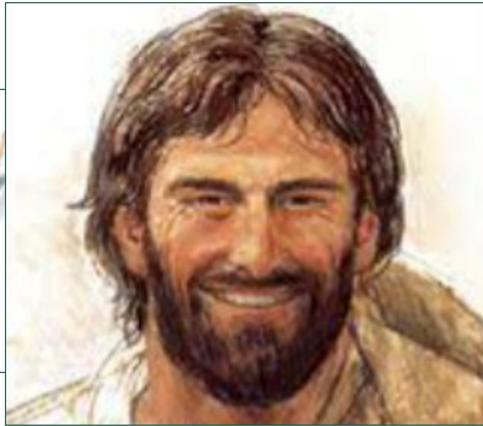
THOMAS HIGGINS

at the request of
the Higgins Family

The **Bread & Wine** are offered
for the intentions of

MSGR. PETER SMUTELOVIC

at the request of The Higgins Family



"Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of the least brothers of mine, you did for me" – Matthew 25:40

THIS IS OUR IN-PEW PLEDGE WEEKEND: MARCH 7 – 8, 2026



Saint John the Baptist Parish Family in Hillsdale, NJ, reaches out to those in need in our local Church of the Archdiocese of Newark. Please join the effort of this loving and caring community of faith.

- ✘ **Proclaiming the Gospel**
- ✘ **Passing on the Faith**
- ✘ **Caring for the Poor and Vulnerable**
- ✘ **Forming Future Priests and Supporting Elderly, Infirm and Retired Priests**

Many acts of charity and good deeds in **2026** through our small sacrifices



WOULD YOU PLEASE HELP US HELP THOSE IN NEED?

\$2/DAY: \$730 | \$1/DAY: \$365 | 50 CENTS/DAY: \$182.50



rcan.org/sharing

Please, make a donation online, drop in our Sunday collection baskets, or, if you wish, mail directly to Annual Appeal, Archdiocese of Newark, Gift Processing, PO Box 7146, Kensington, CT 06037-7146, with a special note - "Saint John the Baptist, Hillsdale, NJ."

OUR *Lent* 2026 +



ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARTY!

**SATURDAY, MARCH 21
6:00PM
IN OUR PARISH CENTER**

**A lot of wonderful food &
complimentary GUINNESS BEER,
live music by Mary G and Frankie Lees,
Irish dancers & lots of fun!**

\$50/person

*Reservation forms may be found
by the church doors.*

Please bring your reservation
and payment
to the RECTORY OFFICE at your earliest
convenience, as seating is limited.

Questions? Please call us at **201-664-3131**.

2026 Wedding Anniversary Masses

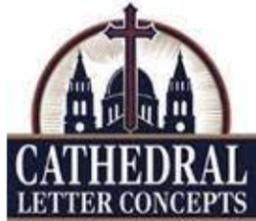
The Office for Family Life Ministry will honor couples celebrating their 5th, 25th, 50th or 60th+ wedding anniversary with a Mass celebrated by Cardinal Tobin on Sunday, May 3, at 3 pm at the Cathedral Basilica in Newark. Registration deadline is April 14. Please contact the rectory at 201-664-3131 during office hours to register.

JOURNEY WITH JESUS

Lent is a journey, it means accompanying Jesus who goes up to Jerusalem, the place of the fulfilment of his mystery of Passion, death and Resurrection; it reminds us that Christian life is a “way” to take, not so much consistent with a law to observe as with the very Person of Christ, to encounter, to welcome, to follow. Indeed, Jesus says to us: “If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me” (Lk 9:23). In other words he tells us that in order to attain, with him, the light and joy of the Resurrection, the victory of life, of love and of goodness, we too must take up our daily cross, as a beautiful passage from the *Imitation of Christ* urges us: “Take up your cross, therefore, and follow Jesus, and you shall enter eternal life. He himself opened the way before you in carrying his Cross (Jn 19:17), and upon it he died for you, that you too, might take up your cross and long to die upon it. If you die with him, you shall also live with him, and if you share his suffering, you shall also share his glory” (Book 2, chapter 12, n. 2).

In Holy Mass of the First Sunday of Lent we pray: “Father, through our observance of Lent, sign of the sacrament of our conversion, help us to understand the meaning of your Son’s death and Resurrection, and teach us to reflect it in our lives” (Opening Prayer). This is an invocation that we address to God because we know that he alone can convert our hearts. And it is above all in the Liturgy, by participating in the holy mysteries, that we are led to make this journey with the Lord; it means learning at the school of Jesus, reviewing the events that brought salvation to us but not as a mere commemoration, a remembrance of past events. In the liturgical actions Christ makes himself present through the power of the Holy Spirit and these saving events become real. Taking part in the Liturgy thus means immersing our life in the mystery of Christ, in his enduring presence so as to follow a path on which we enter his death and Resurrection in order to have life. The Sundays of Lent introduce us to the experience of a baptismal journey, almost as if we were retracing the path of the catechumens, of those who are preparing to receive Baptism, in order to rekindle this gift within us and to ensure that our life may recover a sense of the demands and commitments of this sacrament which is at the root of our Christian life.

Pope Benedict XVI, *General Audience*, March 9 2011



Dear Msgr. Smutelovic,

We sincerely apologize for the delay in the distribution of your tax statements and End-of-Year reports.

As part of ongoing improvements to our services, we implemented a new system this year. During this transition, we encountered several unexpected errors while processing the information, which has unfortunately contributed to the delay. Additionally, part of this extended timeframe is due to the additional quality review measures we have put in place to carefully verify that all figures and reporting details are accurate. Our goal is to ensure complete confidence in the information you receive moving forward.

We are pleased to share that these issues now appear to be under control, and our team is working diligently to finalize and distribute the statements as quickly as possible. Our current goal is to have all tax statements mailed out by the end of next week, March 13, 2026.

We understand how important it is to receive this documentation in a timely manner and truly regret any inconvenience this delay has caused. We greatly appreciate your patience and understanding as we work to ensure accuracy and reliability going forward.

If you have any immediate concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

Billie Jo Sents

Account Manager

632 Ellsworth Road, Rome, NY 13441

The benefits of ParishSOFT[®] Giving



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

Once you are in the Parish Soft giving page, to begin a giving account, please click on Sign In. Thank you.

BENEFITS TO YOU

CONVENIENT: Access your account anytime and anywhere via the internet or your cell phone.

SIMPLE: You manage your own account online. No phone calls or visits to the bank or parish.

FUNCTIONAL: Receive notifications for each transaction made or scheduled.

SECURE: Adheres to strict banking security standards (PCI/DSS) to ensure your account is secure and confidential.

PERSONALIZED: You choose whether you would like to contribute via credit card or direct withdrawal from your checking account. You can also choose between several different funds in order to support electronically the Sunday offering, maintenance, etc. You select from the drop down what you would like to support and at what frequency.

BENEFITS TO THE PARISH

CONSISTENT: Regularly scheduled gifts occur automatically, allowing the parish to effectively manage monthly expenses based on consistent support.

EFFICIENT: Decreases the time and expenses related to bookkeeping for the parish.

CONVENIENT: Easily allows people to contribute to the parish on their terms and update their information as it changes.

SECURE: No need to store parishioner's confidential information.

OUR PARISH STEWARDSHIP

SUNDAY, MARCH 1, 2026

		2025	BUDGET
Envelope & In Pew Giving:	\$7,711	\$ 7,459	\$ 7,900
Online Giving via ParishSOFT:	5,241	\$ 4,813	\$5,000
TOTAL	\$12,952	\$ 12,272	\$12,900

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

ST. JOHN'S ACADEMY'S 26TH ANNUAL RED & WHITE GALA

**THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2026
FROM 6-10PM**

Edgewood Country Club
(449 Rivervale Rd, River Vale)

Tickets on sale now!

\$125 if purchased before March 2nd
after March 2nd tickets are \$150

For tickets: sjahillsdale.org/gala

*Includes cocktail hour, sit-down
dinner and hundreds of amazing prizes!*



ST. JOHN'S EAGLES

ST. JOHN'S SPORTS ASSOCIATION SPRING TRACK & FIELD REGISTRATION

Open to boys and girls in grades K - 8 who are either students at SJA or actively enrolled in the St. John's Parish CCD program. Practices will be held during the week (likely Mon/Thurs 6:00-7:30pm) at Bergen Catholic in Oradell, and there will be several competitive meets. The season starts in mid-March and ends in early June. The registration fee is \$95, plus jersey. Registration is open until March 11 or when full.

**For more info, and to Register, please visit:
<http://sjsports.org>**

HUMAN CONCERNS MINISTRY PLEASE JOIN US!

Please join us at the next meeting of the Human Concerns Ministry: Wednesday, March 11 at 1:00pm in the Parish Center. All are welcome!

The Human Concerns Ministry of St. John the Baptist Church commits to sharing its time, talent and treasure with those in need. It strives to provide for the basic needs for sustaining human life, well-being and dignity. To achieve this goal the ministry: provides financial assistance for food, clothing and shelter - supports the Helping Hand Food Pantry of Hillsdale - hosts and assists at the parish Healing Mass - organizes and assists many other seasonal projects.

If you have an interest, talent or idea that would benefit our community, please contact Marie Rocco, at 201-280-2460. All ideas and comments are encouraged and welcomed. Hope to see you at the meeting!

*“Worldly people say it is too difficult
to save one’s soul. Yet nothing is easier.
To observe the Commandments of God
and the Church and to do good
and avoid evil; that is all.”*

— Saint John Vianney (1786-1859)



WE ARE HIS
WITNESSES

WeAreHisWitnesses.org

for updates, timelines
and resources.