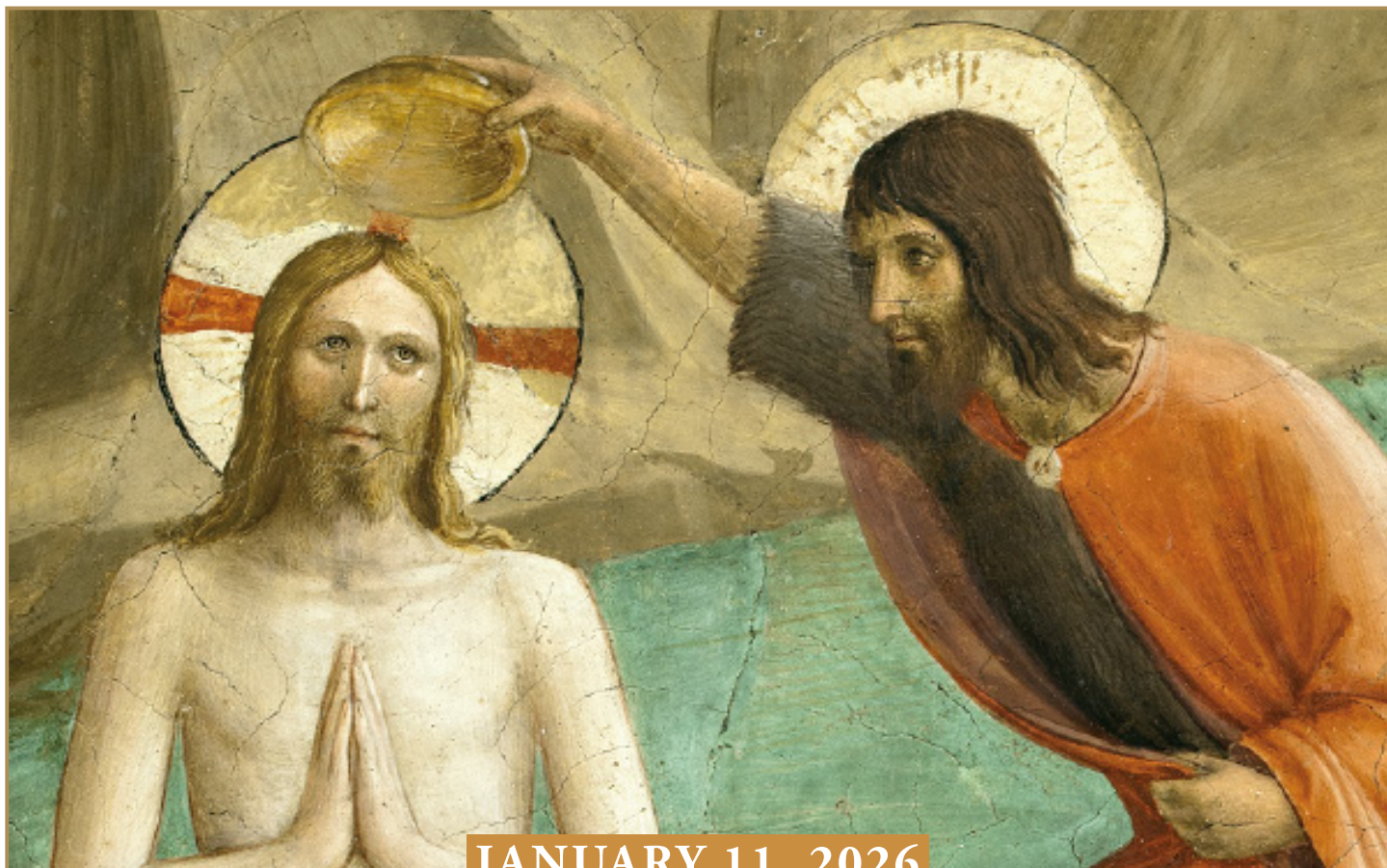


# SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

69 VALLEY STREET, HILLSDALE NJ 07642 • STJOHNHILLSDALE.ORG



JANUARY 11, 2026

## THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

*"After Jesus was baptized, he came up from the water and behold, the heavens were opened for him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, saying, 'This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.'"* —Matthew 3:16-17

### 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  
Dee Ford, Youth Ministry

#### • 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

## The Baptism of the Lord — January 11, 2026

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

Our prayers and liturgies on this Baptism of the Lord Sunday conclude our liturgical celebrations of Christmas in our parish and in the Roman Catholic Church throughout the world. During this special Season we have decorated our church and our homes with lights, flowers and Christmas trees. We have also “decorated” our ordinary lives with faith, joy, love, goodness and generosity. As those external decorations are now being removed and our surroundings will once again look more ordinary, the challenge to keep our very beings and our souls “decorated” with faith, joy, love, goodness and generosity remains for the rest of our lives.

I am very grateful to all of you for making this Season special through your participation, sacrifices, donations and every act of kindness, concern, and generosity toward our Parish, your loved ones, or any other human being. When, a few days prior to Christmas, we lit our “tilted Christmas tree of Saint John’s” we also raised a visible symbol of our common conviction that despite all challenges of our present days and all “tilted” and imperfect realities of our everyday lives, we want to be always enlightened by the light of Christ. Our Very Broadway Christmas Concert on December 14 was truly a spectacular celebration of Christmas, faith, hope, and community, as well as a fitting “spiritual appetizer” prior to our parish Christmas celebrations. We are very grateful to Ciarán, Heather, Rachel, Michael and Laird for a beautiful evening, but every one of us, about 650 present at the Concert, was an essential part of that “spectacular.” And, when even in various communities far beyond Hillsdale people continue to talk until this day - with joyful spirit - about an event which took place some time ago, as it is in the case of the Saint John’s Very Broadway Christmas, then one knows that what we had witnessed was not only spectacular but also life-giving. Our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day liturgies brought about 2,600 of our parishioners and friends to our spiritual home, our beautifully decorated church, so that we could pray, sing, and celebrate together as a parish family. We have truly celebrated the supreme revelation of God’s love to us, the gift of His Son.

As we are beginning this new year and the liturgical Season of Ordinary Time, let us continue to gather, pray, and celebrate this special and precious gift, Jesus in our midst. Thank you so very much for your faith, kindness, generosity, and support.

-Fr. Peter

### *Prayers for Healing and Peace:*

Kim Costa, Rose Lyons, Thomas Tobin, Anthony K., Peter Spaccarotella, Frank Angioletti, Ryan Artinger, Ronnie Verra, Florence Sacco, Daniel Tintle, Jr., Jim Derbyshire, Chuck Wintermute, Terry Medino, James Carbone

### *Remembering Those Who Have Passed:*

Kenneth Gibney, Ann (Nancy) Ford, Robert Francis Mercandino, Jeremiah Mullins, Jack Pallatta, Brian Keating, Anne Marie Barry, Sr. Ann Veronica Bivona, RSM, Michael Delehanty, Patricia Bonomolo

## *Mass Intentions*

*We remember our loved ones  
and community*

### **SATURDAY, JANUARY 10**

5:00 PM Gina & Joe Susek  
(50th Anniversary)

### **SUNDAY, JANUARY 11**

8:00 AM Mary Ellen O’Connell  
10:00 AM Patricia Lucia  
12:00 PM Sonny Lugo

### **MONDAY, JANUARY 12**

8:00 AM Joseph Kneafsey

### **TUESDAY, JANUARY 13**

8:00 AM Fred Cardacia

### **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14**

8:00 AM Teckle Scheele

### **THURSDAY, JANUARY 15**

8:00 AM Jeremiah Mullins

### **FRIDAY, JANUARY 16**

8:00 AM Raymond Breitenbach

### **SATURDAY, JANUARY 17**

8:00 AM Ken Gibney  
5:00 PM Ann Marie Ford

### **SUNDAY, JANUARY 18**

8:00 AM Helen Markey  
10:00 AM Craig Kellem  
12:00 PM Kenneth Cucchia

The **Votive Candle** burns  
in memory of

**JEREMIAH MULLINS**

*at the request of The O’Shea Family*

The **Bread & Wine** are given  
in memory of

**JEREMIAH MULLINS**

*at the request of The O’Shea Family*





A place to pause,  
pray, and reflect

The Blessed Mother,  
like every mother,  
loves her  
children's visits.

7am – 7pm

Mother's doors open  
365 days a year.

- ✠ Stop by
- ✠ Say a prayer
- ✠ Light a candle.

*Our Loving and Eternal God,  
thank you for this new year,  
2026.*

*May everyone in our families  
be willing to begin anew.*

*We know that you are always ready to  
forgive us, embrace us and guide us.*

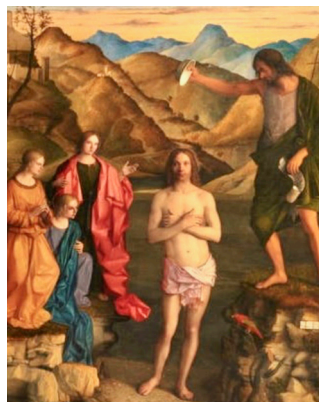
*Help us to be willing to forgive ourselves  
and to forgive one another.*

*As we begin a new year, remind us of our  
truest values and our deepest desires.*

*Help us to live in the goodness and internal peace  
that comes from doing what you want us to do.*

*Help us to put aside anxiety about the future  
and the past, so that we might live in peace  
with you now, one day at a time, knowing  
that on our earthly journey, despite difficult  
daily tasks and many of life's challenges,  
we are never alone.*

*Amen*



**Baptism is the  
Most Beautiful  
and Marvelous  
of the Gifts  
of God**

At Christmas we contemplated with wonder and interior joy the *appearance* of “the grace of God...for the salvation of all men” (Ti 2:11), a grace that took the physical features of the Child Jesus, the Son of God born as man of the Virgin Mary by the power of the Holy Spirit. And then we discovered the first *manifestations* of Christ, “the true light that enlightens every man” (Jn 1:9), which first shone for the shepherds on the holy night and then for the Magi, the first of the peoples called to faith, who set out by the light of the star that they had seen in the sky and who came to Bethlehem to adore the newborn Child (cf. Mt 2:2).

At the Jordan, together with the manifestation of Jesus we also see the first *manifestation* of the Trinitarian nature of God: Jesus, indicated by the Father as his beloved Son, and the Holy Spirit who descends and remains over him.

Baptism is called the “*washing* of regeneration and renewal in the Holy Spirit” (Ti 3:5), the birth by water and the Spirit without which no one “can enter the kingdom of God” (Jn 3:5). It is also called *enlightenment*, because those who receive it “are enlightened in their minds” (St Justin, *Apology*, I, 61:12: PG 6:344).

According to St Gregory Nazianzen, “Baptism is the most beautiful and marvelous of the gifts of God.... We call it ... *gift*, because it is given to those who do not bring anything; *grace*, because it is bestowed even on the guilty; baptism, because sin is buried in the water; *anointing*, because it is sacred and royal (as are those who are anointed); *enlightenment*, because it is radiant light; *garment*, because it covers our shame; *bath*, because it washes us; *seal*, because it preserves us and is a sign of the lordship of God” (*Orations* 40:3-4; PG 36:361C).

Today's celebration invites us all to reflect on the commitments made at *Baptism*, to renew our decision to keep the flame of faith always alive, in order to become more and more the Father's beloved children.

*Saint Pope John Paul II, Homily, Baptism of the Lord, January 11, 1998*

# OUR PARISH STEWARDSHIP

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 4, 2026

Envelope & In Pew Giving: \$8,213  
Online Giving via Faith Direct: 5,241

### TOTAL

\$13,454

## 2025

\$ 8,573  
\$ 4,813

\$ 13,386

## BUDGET

\$ 7,900  
\$5,000

\$12,900



## SAINT JOHN'S CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

Our Christmas collection to date is **\$59,242** compared to **\$59,116** on this date last year. Our Christmas budget is \$62,000. We are very grateful for all our parishioners and friends who have so generously supported our parish during Christmas. We are also very grateful to a number of parishioners who gave generous end of year restricted gifts to the parish, which are not included in this total.

Donations to our Christmas collection are still being gratefully accepted, and may be placed in the Sunday collection basket, or mailed (or hand delivered) to the Rectory Office at 69 Valley Street, Hillsdale, NJ 07642.

Thank you and God bless you for your kindness and generosity.

## 2026 WOMEN'S CORNERSTONE RETREAT – March 6 & 7

*A New Year's resolution you'll keep.*

Step away, unplug, and do something just for you. You'll be uplifted, inspired, and surrounded by women walking through the same everyday challenges, growing in faith together, and forming friendships that feel like a breath of fresh air. Every need is taken care of - simply show up, rest, reflect, and soak in God's presence. Come alone or bring a friend.

The retreat is **Friday, March 6 - 7pm to 10pm** and **Saturday, March 7 - 7:00am to 8:00pm** in the parish center. Take an invitation at the door and pray on it. You'll be so grateful you said yes!

### CONTACT INFORMATION:

Suzanne Pearson: 201.267.7502;  
Stefanie Streeter: 201.415.2577 or  
email [SJWCornerstone@gmail.com](mailto:SJWCornerstone@gmail.com)

## HELPING HAND FOOD PANTRY

*Can you help stock the shelves?*

While there is a need for a variety of food items, the following items are always needed:

Sugar, flour, baby food (Stage 1 & 3), coffee, tea, apple juice, shelf stable milk (Parmalat), meat sauce, whole tomatoes, tomato paste, oil, ketchup, mayonnaise, mustard, black olives, mushrooms, grape jelly, canned yams, canned pineapple, canned peaches, canned pears, egg noodles, Ramen noodles, boxed potatoes, cookies, crackers, breakfast bars, shampoo, conditioner, pump soap, deodorant (men's & women's), toilet paper, paper towels, facial tissues, diapers (sizes 5, 6 & 7).

Please ensure all food items are within their expiration dates. In addition, supermarket gift cards are always accepted and appreciated.

Donations may be brought directly to the Pantry which is located at the corner of Magnolia and Hillsdale Avenues - at the South entrance of Hillsdale United Methodist Church. THANK YOU!

[www.HelpingHandFoodPantry.com](http://www.HelpingHandFoodPantry.com)



WE ARE HIS  
**WITNESSES**

Visit [WeAreHisWitnesses.org](http://WeAreHisWitnesses.org)  
for updates, timelines and resources.

*"Every baptized person should consider  
that it is in the womb of the  
Church where he is transformed from a  
child of Adam to a child of God."*

— Saint Vincent Ferrer (1350 - 1419 A.D.)