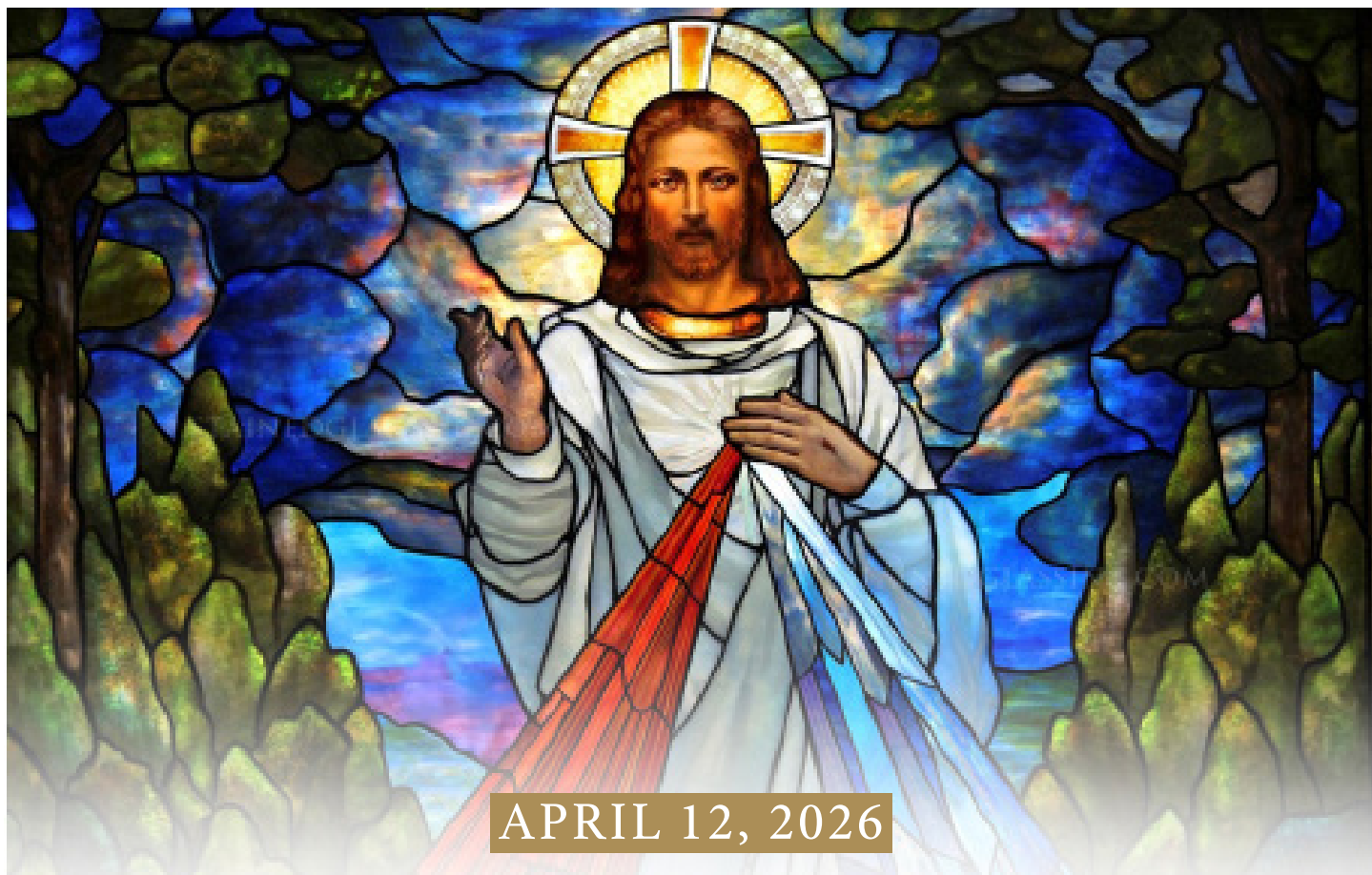


SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

69 VALLEY STREET, HILLSDALE NJ 07642 • STJOHNHILLSDALE.ORG



APRIL 12, 2026

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

*"You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me," says the Lord;
"blessed are they who have not seen me, but still believe!" — John 20:29*

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

Second Sunday of Easter / Divine Mercy Sunday — April 12, 2026

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

Dear Friends of our Parish,

As we celebrate the Second Sunday of Easter, our gatherings and prayers remain abundantly filled with the outpouring of blessings and joy which our parish family of Saint John the Baptist experienced throughout Holy Week, during the Easter Vigil, and during the Easter Sunday celebrations. About 2400 of us gathered in celebration of the Risen Lord during the Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday and many other members of our parish were with us through prayer from their homes, family gatherings or places of their Easter travels. Thank you for your personal witness of faith, your generosity, and for making our Easter so special.

This Second Sunday of Easter is in the Catholic Church throughout the world dedicated to the remembrance and celebration of boundless Divine Mercy towards each one of us. Perhaps it is not a coincidence that on this Divine Mercy Sunday we listen to a passage from the 20th chapter of John's Gospel where the Apostles, and among them especially Saint Thomas, make (eventually) their declaration of faith in the Risen Lord. As we read those post-Resurrection Gospel stories so filled with joy, surprise, faith, doubt, disbelief, perplexity and hope, we are all either tempted to pass judgment on Saint Thomas' doubts and disbeliefs, or to feel good about ourselves because we have no doubt about the marvelous reality of the Lord's Resurrection. Meanwhile, that story is actually presented to us as "a spiritual mirror" so that we all can - with peace and sincerity of hearts - confront our own moments of joy, surprise, faith, doubt, disbelief, perplexity and hope in our relationship with the Risen Savior. Once we recognize in that "Gospel mirror" both the moments of our own beliefs and disbeliefs, we begin to acknowledge and appreciate even more the extraordinary gift of God's boundless mercy and forgiveness. Symbolically, three times within that short passage Jesus greets and encourages the Apostles - as well as all of us - with his "Peace be with you." Even in the most difficult and trying moments, when it is so difficult to recognize Him, Jesus reassures us with that unwavering "Peace be with you." And right after these reassuring words we receive a very personal commission, directly from our friend Jesus: "As the Father has sent me, so I send you." It is our Savior's invitation to go back to our everyday lives and ordinary realities and bring a piece of that Lord's mercy and boundless love to our brothers and sisters around us.

May the Risen Lord be our light, our guide, and the eternal source of our peace and mercy - which we all need - on that wondrous journey of our friendship with Him.

— Fr. Peter

Mass Intentions

*We remember our loved ones
and community*

SATURDAY, APRIL 11

8:00 PM Autumn Rose Mallet

SUNDAY, APRIL 12

8:00 AM Mary Jane O'Reilly
(14th Anniversary)

10:00 AM Francesco Leto

12:00 PM Remy Librinca

MONDAY, APRIL 13

8:00 AM Eileen Conrad

TUESDAY, APRIL 14

8:00 AM Aurelio Iran

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15

8:00 AM Mary Ellen Scanlan

THURSDAY, APRIL 16

8:00 AM Joseph Coletti

FRIDAY, APRIL 17

8:00 AM Joseph Coletti

SATURDAY, APRIL 18

8:00 AM People of the Parish

5:00 PM Ellen & Daniel

Caulfield

SUNDAY, APRIL 19

8:00 AM Joan Thalmann

10:00 AM Joseph Macchione, Jr.

12:00 PM Alice & Frank

Colonese

Prayers for Healing and Peace:

Kim Costa, Thomas Tobin, Anthony K., Peter Spaccarotella, Florence Sacco, Jim Derbyshire, James Carbone, Terry Medino, Anita Lawrence, Ann Walsh, Elaine McBreen, Baby Rocco, Edward Sandt, Jr., Caroline Bisi, Baby Nellie

Remembering Those Who Have Passed:

Gabriel Rohaidy, Brett Kelly

UPDATE: PARISHIONER 2025 TAX STATEMENTS

As we have shared over the past several weeks, our weekly contribution envelopes are processed by an external company, Cathedral Corporation. The letter below outlines the challenges they experienced and the resulting delay in mailing tax statements.

Many of our parishioners received their contribution statements this past week and have informed us that they contain inaccuracies. Unfortunately, it appears that Cathedral Corporation has not yet resolved the underlying database issues.

We sincerely apologize for the inconvenience and ask that you review your check registers or personal records to estimate your 2025 contributions to St. John's Church.

And, as described on the right side of this page, please strongly consider Parish Soft Giving.



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.

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.

St. John the Baptist Parish

MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT

From Newlywed to 20 Years of Marriage

OUR FUTURE — OUR BELIEF — OUR TIME



Join us for this unique opportunity designed to enhance your relationship and strengthen your marriage! This Marriage Enrichment initiative is geared towards empowering couples with proven strategies and key marriage skills developed by renowned marital counselors from around the country. Whether you are a newlywed or married for 20 years, these sessions were created with you in mind!

Our sessions will begin Tuesday evenings in May at St. John the Baptist Parish Center and conclude with a retreat day on Saturday, June 27th. We ask all participants to commit to attend all five sessions plus the mini-retreat in order to fully benefit from the program. We will gladly do our best to assist with childcare, if needed, so you can attend the sessions. The cost will be \$50 per couple, as our parish will cover all additional expenses and refreshments. Any help or sponsorships are very welcomed.

TUESDAYS • 7:30PM - 9:00PM

- May 19 - Why Are We Here?
- May 26 - Communication
- June 2 - Intimacy
- June 9 - Family of Origin
- June 16 - Forgiveness and Anger
- Saturday, June 27, 12pm - 6pm - Reflective Mini Retreat Day

Scan to Register!



QUESTIONS?

Contact Cathy Williamson by emailing cathy.williamson@stjohnhillsdale.com or call the rectory at 201-664-3131.



Steven Serafin, D.Min.

MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT PROGRAM FACILITATOR

Adjunct Professor of Pastoral Theology

Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology

Dr. Steven Serafin is the Executive Director of Faith & Family Life Catholic Ministries (fflcm.org), which looks to equip dioceses, parishes, and families with resources to form others using the catechumenal process. In this role, Dr. Serafin is helping the Church transform its methods of formation to be more process-driven, lifelong, and intentional. He has worked with numerous dioceses as they have transformed their faith formation structures, creating experiences that lead families to engage more deeply with the local parish and build habits of faith at home. He is also the Director of Formation

at St. Vincent Martyr Parish in Madison, NJ, where he leads the Emmaus Coalition of Lifelong Formation. He has served in several ministerial positions: pastoral associate, Associate Director for Catechesis for the Archdiocese of Newark, director of faith formation, youth minister, campus minister, and teacher. His treatise focused on *Accompanying the Next Generation of Newlyweds: A Parish Model for Perfecting the Love of Marriage Through a Peer Collaborative Dialogue*.

Education

D.Min., The Catholic University of America, 2022

M.A., University of Notre Dame, 2014

B.A., The Catholic University of America, 2012



Peace be with you! These are the words of the risen Jesus as he encounters every human weakness and error.

Today the risen Lord appears to the disciples. To those who had abandoned him he offers his mercy and shows his wounds. The words he speaks to them are punctuated with a greeting that we hear three times in the Gospel: “Peace be with you!” (Jn 20:19.21.26). Peace be with you! These are the words of the risen Jesus as he encounters every human weakness and error.

God’s mercy gives the joy of knowing that we have been freely forgiven. When, on the evening of Easter, the disciples see Jesus and hear him say for the first time, “Peace be with you,” they rejoice. They were locked behind closed doors out of fear; but they were also closed in on themselves, burdened by a sense of failure. They were disciples who had abandoned their Master. They had good reason to feel not only afraid, but useless; they had failed. In the past, certainly, they had made courageous choices. They had followed the Master with enthusiasm, commitment and generosity. Yet in the end, everything had happened so fast. Fear prevailed and they committed the great sin: they left Jesus alone at his most tragic hour. Now they have hit rock bottom.

In this climate, they hear for the first time, “Peace be with you!” The disciples ought to have felt shame, yet they rejoice. Why? Because seeing his face and hearing his greeting turned their attention away from themselves and towards Jesus. Christ did not reproach them for what they had done, but showed them his usual kindness. And this revives them, fills their hearts with the peace they had lost and makes them new persons, purified by a forgiveness that is utterly unmerited. That is the joy Jesus brings. It is the joy that we too feel whenever we experience his forgiveness. He gives us his peace, through a good Confession, through the words of someone who draws near to us, through an interior consolation of the Spirit, or through some unexpected and surprising event... In any number of ways, God shows that he wants to make us feel the embrace of his mercy, the joy born of receiving “pardon and peace.” The joy God gives is indeed born of forgiveness.

Pope Francis, Homily — Divine Mercy Sunday, April 24, 2022

OUR PARISH STEWARDSHIP

SUNDAY, APRIL 5, 2026 (Easter Sunday)

		2025	BUDGET
Envelope & In Pew Giving:	\$33,479	\$ 33,104	\$ 48,000
Online Giving via ParishSOFT:	<u>7,630</u>	<u>\$ 5,980</u>	
TOTAL	\$41,109	\$ 39,084	\$48,000

The above is a preliminary report of our Easter collection. Over the next weeks we will provide you with a more complete report as additional donations are received.

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

AN INVITATION TO PRAYER

Join us every **Thursday from 3:00 - 6:00 PM** for Eucharistic Adoration. We gather for **Benediction & Community Prayer** just before **6:00 PM**.

Daily Mass is celebrated each morning at **8:00 AM**.

The Blessed Mother delights in the presence of her children.
Her doors are open **365 days a year** — come in, linger awhile, say a pray, and light a candle in hope and love.



ARCHDIOCESE of NEWARK ANNUAL ²⁰²⁶ APPEAL

PLEASE HELP US REACH OUR GOAL!

So far we have received \$74,551 in pledges and donations for the 2026 Archdiocesan Annual Appeal. We are very grateful to the 170 families and individual parishioners who have helped us with this campaign. Every donation gets us closer to our goal of \$98,750.

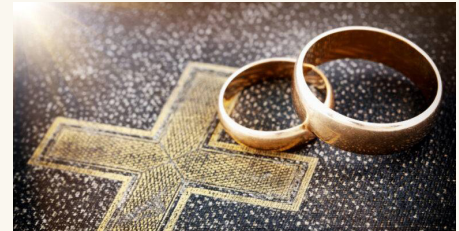


Please complete a pledge envelope — they are at the doors of the church. The envelopes may be returned in the collection basket or to the Rectory Office or even mailed directly. You may also make your pledge online by using the QR code or by visiting www.rcan.org/sharing. **Please indicate on all pledges and donations that you are a member of St. John the Baptist Parish in Hillsdale.**

May God bless you always for helping those less fortunate than ourselves.

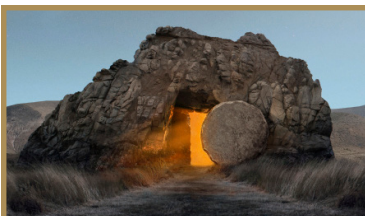
2026

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.



“Let no one mourn that he has fallen again and again; for forgiveness has risen from the grave.”

— Saint John Chrysostom (347- 407 A.D.)