

The Spirit of St. John's

Spreading the good news of our parish family

St. John the Baptist Parish Community

Hillsdale, NJ

Vol. 23, No. 1

July 2019

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

We parishioners of St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church are called by Jesus to be a community of his disciples, growing in faith and worshipping together in Eucharistic celebration. Nourished by God's transforming love and blessed by gifts of the Holy Spirit, we are empowered to live the gospel message and to witness it to others. Thankful for God's many gifts, as Christian stewards we commit to share our time, talent and treasure in Christ-like service within our parish community and beyond. We seek God's blessing and guidance to be faithful to this mission.

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Another year has sped by and we are happy to report on the many ways in which our parish and its parishioners have worked to further the work of Christ and contribute to the good of our community.

A special "Thank You" to all our faithful parishioners who keep supporting our parish and making it possible to keep our doors open. The last few years since the Great Recession have been difficult. Collections have dropped as people conserved their resources, but hopefully now we can work on returning our income to its former levels. Our existence depends on it!

Through the various activities herein recorded, you can see the many area of life affected by people of faith. Our new website will endeavor to be more current and inspire others to join in the activities of our parish.

New volunteers are coming forward to help replace those who have served for years in liturgical ministries; facilitators for our religious instruction programs continue to help and inspire; physical improvements to our Church and campus will soon be underway and new members join us in worshipping God each week.

All are welcome to be a part of our active and prayerful community as we seek to become better and better in serving God and neighbor. We hope to see you soon at one of our many activities. God bless you all!

Rev. John J. Korbelak



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH STATISTICS

JULY 1, 2018—JUNE 30, 2019

- As of **June 30, 2019** our registration stands at **2361** households. We welcomed **44** new adult parishioners during the last year. (page 36)
- **One** adult was received into the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil on April 20, 2019 and received the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist.
- We additionally welcomed **41** infants through the **Sacrament of Baptism**. (page 37)
- **82 Children** received their **First Holy Communion** at the 12 Noon Liturgies on May 5 and May 19. (page 17—18)
- A total of **430** children were enrolled in the **2018-2019 K-8 Children's Faith Formation Program**. The **2019 Summer Program** enrolled **180** children.
- **108** young parishioners received the **Sacrament of Confirmation** following completion of their two year Formation Program. Two Liturgies were celebrated at 10:00 AM & 2:00 PM on June 15, 2019 by Rev. Msgr. Robert Emery, J.C.L., M.A., Vicar for Essex County in the Archdiocese of Newark, NJ. (page 19—20)
- **39** 8th grade students graduated from St. John's Academy on June 11, 2019. **19** are members of St. John's Parish. The Baccalaureate Mass at 9:00 AM and Graduation Ceremony at 7:00 PM were both held in St. John the Baptist Church. (page 12—15)
- **11** couples received the **Sacrament of Matrimony**. (page 37)
- **47** parishioners, current and former, were called by God to eternal life. **64 Funeral Masses/Memorial Services** were celebrated by St. John's Clergy. (page 38)

BLESSING OF EASTER BASKETS



A Traditional Polish Easter Basket and Its Contents

Świeconka (shy-en-son-kah) is the traditional blessing of the food to be eaten on Easter Sunday. While the tradition varies from region to region and village to village, it is a tradition dear to the heart of every Pole. Today, this blessing takes place in church on Holy Saturday. All the items are placed in a wicker basket that is sometimes lined with an ornamental cloth or traditional folk fabric. The filled basket is then covered with a linen cloth which should be white, but can have a colorful crocheted or embroidered design. The basket is decorated with sprigs of boxwood (bukszpan), the typical Polish Easter evergreen. "Polish Palms" which are created from dried flowers, can also be used for decoration.

Listed at the right are Polish Easter Foods that are most commonly placed in the Easter Basket for the traditional blessing, along with the symbolism of each item.

Bacon - Boczek / Ślonina (boh-cheek / slon-nee-nah)
Symbol of the overabundance of God's mercy on us.

Bread - Chleb (chleh)
Home baked bread, the staff of life.

Easter Bread - Babka (bah-kah)
A special round loaf, made of rich dough and raisins, and decorated with a cross, reminds us of Jesus, the Risen Lord.

Butter - Masło (mas-wlo)
The butter should be shaped into the figure of a lamb or cross. Dairy products are included to celebrate the end of Lent and the richness of Salvation which flows from the Death and Resurrection of Jesus.

Candle - Świeca (sh-wee-tsa)
The only non-edible item in the basket, the candle symbolizes Jesus, the Life and Light of the World. The candle can be lit during the blessing.

Cheese - Ser (sar)
A symbol to remind Christians of moderation.

Colored Eggs - Pisanki (pee-san-key)
Both colored and uncolored eggs, indicate hope, new life and Resurrection. Because of their special meaning, it is fitting that the eggs to be blessed are decorated with symbols of Easter.

Ham - Szynka (shin-kah)
This popular main dish is symbolic of great joy and abundance.

Horseradish - Chrzan (chran)
This represents the bitter herbs prescribed in the original Passover meal as a reminder of the bitterness and harshness of the life of slavery in Egypt. It also reminds us of the bitterness of the Passion of Jesus, by which he entered glory. Horseradish is often prepared with red beets in the dish "czwikła."

Salt - Sól (soll)
Symbolizes wisdom and preservation from corruption, it is included to remind us that Jesus did not undergo corruption in the grave.

Sausage - Kielbasa (kel-bah-sah)
This is an old Slavic tradition. Its links remind us of the chains of death that were broken when Jesus rose from the dead as well as God's favor and generosity.

Happy Easter! - Wesołego Alleluja! (ves-so-weh-ga ah-ley-ty-jah)





*We can all enjoy this beautiful tradition.
It is a great way to teach new generations
of Polish-Americans about our common heritage.*

For the 4th year Fr. Tad presided at the Blessing of Easter Baskets brought to the Church on Holy Saturday, April 20 at 12:30 pm. A good number of children and adults brought festive baskets filled with items for their Easter dinner. It is a beautiful Catholic tradition originating in Eastern Europe and practiced mostly by Polish descendants. Thank you to Kimberly Gatto who suggested the event and prepared the layout shown above!

BIBLE STUDY GROUP FORMED

Last fall, an announcement was made that a **Bible Study Group** was forming. The first session was held October 4-November 14 and covered two stories from the Old Testament on **Jonah and Ruth**. In January—February 2019 another session explored the unwavering faith of **Abraham and Sarah**. On April 25-May 30, the group focused on **Revelation: God's Gift of Hope**, the unraveling of the mysteries beyond the symbolic language of the book of Revelation. A big thank you to **Olivia Carbonaro** and **Linda Parisi** for leading the study groups!

WE ACKNOWLEDGE WITH GRATITUDE

- The Story of the **Stained Glass Windows** artfully described by parishioner **Mary Elbert** in a two-part graphic presentation. Power Point slides depicting **The Salvation Story, Part 1** and **The Salvation Story, Part II** are posted on St. John's website under www.stjohnhillsdale.org/about-us. See next page for more information.
- **Lisa Gordon's** design and concept of **St. John's New Website**. Check it out at www.stjohnhillsdale.org. Note: the address is the same except for the extension which is **.org** instead of **.com**. Stay connected with the weekly bulletin, upcoming events, timely announcements and much more! **Like us** on the Website and Facebook!
- Our **Parishioners** who contributed to the **Christmas** and **Easter Flowers** that adorned our Church.
- To all our **Liturgical Ministers** who assist during the celebration of the Eucharist—Altar Servers, Children's Liturgy of the Word, God's Tots, Lectors, Intercessions Committee, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Music Ministry, Choirs and Instrumentalists, Liturgical Environment, Liturgy Planners and our Ushers of Hospitality.
- **Virginia & Jeffrey Wiles** who donated the cost of the **2019 Paschal Candle** in loving memory of their husband and father, **Henry S. Wiles**. The Paschal Candle signifies the light of Christ and is lit for the first time at the Easter Vigil. It remains in the sanctuary throughout the year.
- A **New Purple Vestment and Stole** was donated to the parish by Ralph & Connie Muggeo, in loving memory of **Benedict C. Muggeo**, who passed away on October 31, 2018. Purple vestments are worn during the Lenten Season.
- The parish gratefully received a **New Red Vestment** from the Caico, Carillo, Cutruzzula, Pellegrino & Shaw Families in loving memory of **Ermelindo "Eddie" Carillo**, who passed away August 24, 2018. Red vestments are worn on Palm Sunday, Good Friday, Pentecost, Confirmation and other days.
- The parish was gifted with new **Collection Baskets** with green liners by **St. John's Rosary Society**. Thank you to our **Rosarians** and of course, our **Collection Counters**, led by **Lee Meyer**, who gather every Monday morning to tally the weekend contributions!

STAINED GLASS WINDOWS

One of the many joys of daily Mass is the Liturgy of the Word. The lector traces our Jewish legacy—from Abram's call, through Isaac, Jacob's sons, Moses and the Exodus, other Old Testament stories, the prophets and their promise of a savior, and through the evangelizing activities of the apostles and disciples in setting up church communities throughout the Roman world. The priest reads from the Gospels the beginnings of Jesus' ministry, to his final journey to Jerusalem.

Daily celebration also commemorates feast days of the saints from the first century to the twenty first century. This fabulous history of our faith story is told not just in the readings, but also in the setting--through the beautiful stained glass windows in our church. I have been intrigued by these windows since moving to Hillsdale. When I located a book that had been published for the dedication of the new church in May 1969, I knew I would have to share my discovery.

I have recently completed two slide presentations; one covers the windows in the Sunday Sacristy, the upper windows in both the east and west wings, and the five clerestory windows that feature major events in the life of Jesus (thanks to my son, A.J. and his wife Ali, and drone photography). The second presentation covers the lower windows in the east and west wings, the lower clerestory windows in the back of the center aisle, and the sacramental windows in Our Lady's Chapel. If you go to our parish website, www.stjohnhillsdale.org and click on "**About Us,**" you will find links to both presentations: The Salvation Story, Part I and The Salvation Story, Part II. I hope you enjoy them and recognize your own importance in our continuing story.

In Gratitude, Mary Elbert



THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD BY ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

PARISH OUTREACH

- **The Annual Mass of Anointing of the Sick** was celebrated on Saturday, October 13, 2018 at 11:00 AM in the Church. The Anointing takes place during Mass to remind us that it is the Whole Church who is praying for her sick members and who asks the Spirit to strengthen and support those who are suffering from any kind of illness. Anyone seriously or chronically ill, convalescing or preparing for surgery in the near future are welcome to attend and receive the Sacrament. A complimentary luncheon was served in the Parish Center at the conclusion of Mass.
- A BIG THANK YOU to **Julie Zanini** who accepted leadership of the **Ministry to the Sick and Homebound/Parish Visitors** which includes preparation for the **Annual Mass of Anointing**. Julie can be reached at (201) 666-2707, Ext. 215.
- The **27th Annual Kids' Fishing Contest** sponsored by the **Friends of the Pascack Brook** took place on Saturday, April 27, 2019. All children between the ages of 4 and 16 are invited to fish the Pascack Brook between St. John's Church in Hillsdale and Brookside Place in Westwood. Children helped to stock the Brook early on the day of the event. First place overall winners were Morgan Moska and Dylan Dominguez, best of girls and boys respectfully. The Westwood Elks Lodge #1562 served hamburgers, hot dogs and soda from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM. There is always a good turnout and everyone has a great time!
- St. John's continues to support the **Helping Hand Food Pantry** with over **50** volunteers, many who have been serving for years. In addition to helping during open hours, several do supplemental shopping and others are on hand to receive the items collected during many food drives held by community organizations during the year.
- The **Pantry** is also fortunate to have a good number of youth and teens who help out, including our Confirmation Candidates. During Catholic Schools Week Academy students donated more than **700** items to the Food Pantry. We also participated in the annual **Thanksgiving Turkey Drop-Off Day** held last year on November 17, 2018. The parish is currently represented on the Board of Trustees by **Jody Soluri** and **Susan Gleeson**.

- The **Hillsdale Volunteer Ambulance Service** held its **5th Annual Beefsteak Dinner and Tricky Tray** on Saturday, May 18, 2019 at 6 PM in the Parish Center. The room was almost filled to capacity; everyone enjoyed “all you can eat beefsteak” prepared by Nightingale Catering along with dessert, beer, wine, and soda, 50/50 raffles, Trivia and Tricky Tray. **Capt. John Beatty** is happy to report that an order for a **new ambulance** has been placed, funded largely by the proceeds from the five annual Dinners. It is expected in September!
- The Annual **HVAC Installation of Officers** dinner was held January 26, 2019 at Seasons in the Township of Washington. Among the awards presented at the dinner, three were honored for years of service. **Capt. John Beatty** was recognized for 10 years/Life Membership; **Glen Ford** for 20 years and **Lori Famoso** for 25 years. Officers sworn in for 2019 included Capt. John Beatty, First Lt. Bridget Sottile, Second Lt. Cassie Gehan, President Joe Patti, Vice President Tara Tamburro, Secretary Nicole Nebbia, Treasurer Marty Ward, Trustee chairman Rick Savino and Trustees at Large Lori Famoso, Mark Richards and Jeff Alboum. A big thank You to all who serve answering calls and participating in community activities. In turn, the **HVAC** thanked “all for keeping us in service through donations and for giving us purpose and inspiration by being incredible patients, neighbors and friends.”
- A special **Interactive Presentation on Anxiety** was offered in the Parish Center on Monday, December 3, 2018 featuring Guest Speaker **Stacy Cancelarich**. The event was sponsored by the Parish Confirmation Program. The speaker is an experienced social worker who specializes in psychotherapy for children and adults of all ages who experience anxiety. She discussed common triggers, stressors and different types of anxiety. Most importantly Stacy included ways to know when anxiety becomes a problem and what can be done to manage and lessen anxiety. Many thanks to **Nikki Mahncke**, Confirmation Coordinator, who arranged the event.
- This year’s collection of **First Communion Outfits** was a wonderful success. Again, we were able to dress **50** children with the beautiful dresses, suits, jackets, shirts, headpieces, shoes and monies that were donated by generous parishioners. Outfits were first distributed to needy children in the local area, then to St. Rose of Lima Parish, parishioners of the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark, to the New Community organization in Newark and to Oasis, a haven for women and children in Paterson. Thank you to all who helped to make a difference in the lives of so many children on this important day in their faith journey.

PARISH EVENTS



- Sunday, December 9, 2018 at 2:00 PM was the beginning of St. John's **3rd Annual "Pageant, Pasta & Fa la la" Pre-Christmas Event**. A **First Grade Christmas Pageant** was held in the Church. Everyone then adjourned to the Parish Center for a pasta dinner along with a musical program—**Fa la la**—for the adults led by Roberto Sabastiani, Director of Music and our Cantors. Lyrics for all the favorite Christmas Carols were provided for singing. There were children's activities including crafts and face painting.

- A good number of our Confirmation Candidates assisted at different stations by helping with the children, serving refreshments and collecting donations for the Knights of Columbus who served the food. They also assisted Santa, Mrs. Claus and Buddy the Elf who brought presents for the children. Cake and beverages were available for all at the conclusion of the afternoon. It was a wonderful start to the Holiday Season!



Christmas 2018 FA LA LA Celebration with Santa & Guests

- **ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER CELEBRATION** was held in the Msgr. Morris Parish Center on March 9, 2019 immediately following the 5 PM Liturgy. Billed as an "Adults Only Event" the cost of \$35 per person included the traditional Irish dinner with beer, wine and assorted beverages. Irish Soda Bread and marvelous desserts were graciously donated by attendees. Irish Step Dancing was performed by students of the award winning **Broesler School of Irish Dance**. Music for dancing was provided by the **Taylor Event Group**. Thank you to **Jennifer Cannon, Sarah Huvane** and all the volunteers who planned our annual St. Patrick's Day party!





ST. JOHN'S 1ST ANNUAL BEEFSTEAK TRICKY TRAY was held on Saturday, October 20, 2018 at the Knights of Columbus Council 2188 Hall in Westwood. It was a great affair with wonderful food from Nightingale Catering, DJ Music and Dancing, a 50/50 Raffle and a Tricky Tray with loads of wonderful prizes. It was a very successful fundraiser for the Parish. Thank you to **Theresa Henry** and all the volunteers for coordinating this event.

- **SAVE THE DATE** for the 2nd Annual Beefsteak and Tricky Tray—**NOVEMBER 2, 2019, 6:30—10:30 PM** at the same venue—Knights of Columbus 2188 Hall in Westwood.

- The Annual **Blessing of the Animals** took place on Sunday, October 7, 2018. Many animals and owners came for the Blessing as can be seen from the photo below! It is always a fun time. Photo on the left shows Fr. Tad blessing one of the animals with Fr. Tom helping!



- **Sports Sunday** was celebrated at St. John's on November 11, 2018. As you can see from the photo, it always gets a big crowd! Hosted by **St. John's Sports Association** it is evidence of the recognition shown to all the young athletes who participate in the different sports. The Association organizes and coaches the basketball, volleyball, bowling, track and cheer-leading teams for parish children as well as children enrolled in the Academy. Approximately **300** children participate in the programs with over **150** parish families represented. **Brian Molta** is President of the Association. A big **THANK YOU** to everyone involved in providing the youth with experience and fun in team sports!



WOMEN'S CORNERSTONE

- Women's Cornerstone will be celebrating the **25th Anniversary** of the Retreat experience at St. John's in **2020**. All women who attended a Retreat between 1995 and 2018 were invited to an evening of remembrance, reflection and celebration of sisterhood. This special **Reunion** took place on Friday, March 1, 2019 in the Parish Center. There were four Leaders who coordinated the event—**Linda Parisi, Janis Mayo, Joyce Martin and Jennifer Wilkin**. There was a good turnout with an abundance of fellowship and an appreciation of having shared in the Cornerstone experience. There will be more celebrations of this special anniversary in the upcoming months.
- A few months later on June 4, 2019 a **Fundraiser "Dining for Dollars"** was held at Domani's in Hillsdale. The restaurant donated **15%** of each meal's ticket excluding tax and gratuity to the Women's Cornerstone of St. John the Baptist Church. The Fundraiser was held to support the actual **25th Anniversary** Celebration of the Cornerstone Retreat to be held on **March 20 & 21, 2020**. This will not be an overnight retreat. Mark these dates on your calendar!
- A **One Day Cornerstone Retreat for Women** was held on November 10, 2018. The day began at 7:00 AM with a welcome, an early breakfast and an outline of the day's program which included time for prayer and small group discussions. Lunch and dinner were provided along with snacks during the day. At the end of the day, Cathy Wollyung announced that **Kathy Breitenbach** has been appointed **Spiritual Director** for Women's Cornerstone. The Retreat closed with a Mass celebrated by Fr. Tad and Fr. Tom at 7:00 PM in the church.



Opening prayer service at March 2019 Reunion



Women's Cornerstone Retreat November 2018



ST. JOHN'S ACADEMY CLASS OF 2019

The Academy's Baccalaureate Mass and Graduation Ceremony were both held at St. John the Baptist Church on June 11, 2019. Rev. Sean Manson, Pastor, Our Lady Mother of the Church was Celebrant and Homilist at the 9:00 AM Liturgy. The Mass was followed by a Breakfast, Award Ceremony and slide show for the 8th grade graduates and their parents.

The Graduation Ceremony was held at 7:00 PM in the Church. Rev. John Korbela gave the Opening Prayer. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by **Katherine Lindquist** and **John Pakalnetis**. The Salutatory Address was given by **Mark McClair**. The Address to the Class of 2019 was given by **Declan Henry**— Class of 2016. Awards were presented by 8th grade teacher Joan Luciano and 8th grade teacher and Assistant Principal Sharon Gallagher. Diplomas were awarded by Suzanne Socha, Principal; Rev. John Korbela and Rev. Tadeusz Jank, St. John the Baptist; Rev. Sean Manson, Our Lady Mother of the Church; Rev. Msgr. Peter Smutelovic, St. Gabriel the Archangel. The Valedictory Address followed the awarding of diplomas and was given by **Carolyn Sandt**. Rev. Sean Manson gave the Final Blessing.


Awards presented included the **Sisters of St. Joseph of Chestnut Hill Award**, presented to **Sean Coll**; the **Ellen Sue Webber Award**, traditionally presented to the Class Valedictorian, was presented to **Carolyn Sandt**; the **Martin J. Schaeffer Fireman's Citizenship Award** was presented to **Mary Kathryn Sweeney**; the **Sr. Rita Miriam Award for Music**, sponsored by Our Lady Mother of the Church, was presented by Irma Chazotte and awarded to **Camellia Brown**; and the **Laura Carey Memorial Award** was presented by Sean Carey and awarded to **Camryn Maloney** and **Brant Vicini**. In addition to these awards our graduates were offered scholarships totaling up to \$151,300.



39 8th grade students graduated in the Class of 2019. **19** are members of St. John's Parish. **Congratulations** to: Jacqueline Angione, Amelia Bazzanella, Michael Bocchino, Sophia Carroll*, Olivia Costa, Joshua Epstein, Robert Gatto, Evan George, Julia Graham*, Fintan Henry*, Sonia Hinojosa-Sostre, Camryn Maloney*, Mark McClair*, Nicholas Molta, John Pakalnetis*, Carolyn Sandt*, Kiera Vicini, Brant Vicini*, Brady Williams.* *Denotes NJ Honor Society

Thank you to Sharon Gallagher, 8th grade Teacher and Assistant Principal for the information on the Class of 2019 and to Gayle Scirocco, 8th grade Teacher for the great photo!

ST. JOHN'S ACADEMY—2018-2019 ACTIVITIES, HONORS

- **National Catholic Schools Week** took place January 27-February 2, 2019. Students spoke at the weekend Masses about receiving a Catholic education and invited all to visit one of the open houses held during the week. A special liturgy for Catholic Schools Week was held on Thursday, January 31 in St. John's Church. This year's theme continued **Learn, Serve, Lead, Succeed**.
- The **William Mundhenk Award** is a long standing tradition at St. John's Academy, established by the parents of William who passed away at an early age. This year's award was presented to 8th grader **Julia Graham** at the Academy's December 19 Christmas Concert by Larry Mundhenk, William's father. The Award acknowledges a student's good manners, respectful attitude, cooperation, generosity with time and talent, and good school spirit. Comments from Mrs. Sharon Gallagher, Assistant Principal included: *"In religion class she is not only spiritually insightful, she also is eager to share her light of Christ with others."* **Julia** was also President of the National Junior Honor Society. Shown above at the award ceremony with **Julia** are her parents, William and Rosanna Graham and Presenter Larry Mundhenk.
- **SJA GIVES BACK!** While reflecting on the many blessings we have received in our lives, the SJA community helped others during the **Thanksgiving Season**. Each class donated food items for baskets to be distributed to needy families in the parishes of St. John the Baptist, St. Andrew's and St. Rose of Lima in Newark.
- At the **Thanksgiving Prayer Service**, the students offered monetary contributions to **Several Sources Shelters**, an organization that assists homeless women, young mothers and their babies and families in need.
- **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION**—The entire **SJA** student body celebrated a special Mass with our first Communicants on May 23, 2019 in St. John's Church. Our second graders and their guests were treated to a lovely reception in the Parish Center following Mass.
- Also on May 23, students wore red in support of **Red Nose Day**, a campaign to end child poverty.

- Class Valedictorian **Carolyn Sandt**, was named **2019 Outstanding Catholic School Graduate** at an event held at the Sacred Heart Chapel in Kearny. This honor was chosen by the Academy Faculty and Administration for being an example of Christian Values in all aspects of life.



- Academy 8th graders participated again in the **St. Joseph's Regional High School Academic Decathlon in 2018**. Congratulations to second place winner in **History—Christopher Dolan!**
- Academy students in grades 5-8 took part in the annual **National Geographic Bee** on January 30, 2019 using materials prepared by the National Geographic Society. The contest is designed to encourage teachers to include geography in their classrooms, spark student interest in the subject and increase public awareness about geography. Congratulations to this year's winners: **Christopher Dolan, Eva Jurcevic** and **Keith Corcoran** who placed 1st, 2nd and 3rd respectively!
- The **8th Grade Fashion Show** was held at the Park Ridge Marriott on February 5, 2019. As usual the turnout was wonderful and all the models were fantastic!
- Academy 5th to 8th grade students participated in the **Third Annual STREAM (Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering Art and Mathematics) EXPO** on February 13, 2019 from 12 noon to 2 PM in the Academy Gymnasium. Solutions designed by the students to address the United Nation's 15 Sustainable Development Goals were on display. Students were involved in researching the needs of other countries and devising ways to help them such as Cleaner Water Filtration Systems, more Efficient Farming Methods and ideas to Promote Better Education.



- The **SJA Red & White Tricky Tray** held their **20th** annual event on April 3, 2019 at the Rockleigh Country Club. It was an amazing success thanks to many volunteer parents, donors and parishioners! Over 600 attendees placed tickets in baskets for over 500 prizes valued from \$50 to \$5000. Academy Dads delivered the prizes to the lucky winners. As the biggest fundraiser of the year the event raised over \$100,000!

Special thanks to the Gala Committee for a job well done!

- Drawing for the **SJA Money Ball 50/50 Raffle** was held at the **Red & White Gala**. Raffle sales were limited to 300 tickets at \$100 each. All were sold with the proceeds designed for the benefit of Academy students.
- 7th and 8th grade students in the **SJA Drama Club**, under the direction of **Joanne Ramella**, presented **Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat** in April. The play opened on April 11 with three successive evening performances and one afternoon production on April 14, 2019.
- The **SJA Spring Plant Sale** was held in time for spring planting and especially in time for Mother's Day! Plants could be ordered up to April 24 and were available for pick up on Saturday, May 11.
- The **12th Annual Fine Arts Festival** was held on Friday, May 10 from 4:00-7:00 PM. Hors d'oeuvres and refreshments were served and the School Band performed at 6:00 PM. The SJA students are always excited to display their art work which receives excellent reviews!
- **Teacher Appreciation Week** was gratefully observed by the students with home made cards and flowers in honor of SJA Teachers! Students also celebrated the careers of four long time teachers who retired at the end of the school year. **Mrs. Rita Algieri, Mrs. Sharon Gallagher, Mrs. Gayle Scirocco and Mrs. Donna Smith** were honored at a special school Liturgy.
- The **SJA Prayer Partner Program** is very unique and special. It is a privilege that pairs kindergarten students with 8th grade students. Every year, the students excitedly await the day their prayer partners are assigned. From then on, they attend Mass, celebrate the holidays and work on special activities together.
- Members of the **SJA Advanced Honor Band** joined students from schools throughout New Jersey to play at a concert on the Midway at Dorney Park.
- **SJA** students commemorated Memorial Day with a special assembly honoring our Veterans.

CHILDREN'S FAITH FORMATION (CCD) PROGRAM

- The Parish K-8 grade Children's Faith Formation (CCD) Program enrolled **430** children for the 2018-2019 year. This includes all three programs—Summer, Sunday Weekly and the Home Study Program. The 2019 Summer Program enrolled **180** children consisting of 13 classes. Each child will return monthly for a class followed by participation in the 10 AM Sunday Liturgy, September through April 2020.
- The CCD Program again sponsored a fundraiser in October, 2018 for **Table to Table**. Parishioners were invited to participate in the **"Bag a Lunch Project."** Brown lunch bags were placed in the pews for parishioners to donate the cost of one lunch. A total of **\$3310** was collected and sent to **Table to Table** to help feed those most in need in northern New Jersey.
- Last year's Christmas Eve Liturgy at 4:00 PM featured a group of **Angel Dancers**, girls from the CCD programs. The dance was choreographed by Confirmation Coordinator Nikki Manx, who directs HeART in Motion Studio in Ridgewood. The dancers opened the liturgy, dancing up the aisle to the Sanctuary with jingle bells and then joined the procession to the Creche. This included the CCD families who carried the Creche figures to the manger. Fr. John then blessed the Creche and the Manger.



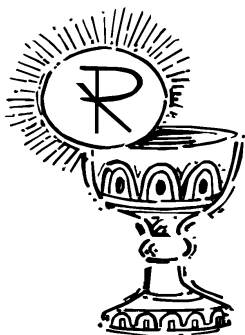
- On Palm Sunday, April 14th, 2019 CCD students led the procession into Church that included an enactment of Jesus' Entry into Jerusalem. 1st grader **Jeffrey Roberto** rode a wooden donkey in the procession. They were joined by children from the other CCD programs, wearing garments of the times and waving palm branches in welcome. On Easter Sunday, April 21st the Angel Dancers returned for more liturgical dances of praise. Led again by Nikki Manx, they opened the 10:00 AM Liturgy.
- **GOD'S TOTS** is for 3 to 6 year old children. It takes place every Sunday during the 10 AM Liturgy in the Parish Center Library. This Pre-K to Kindergarten program is based on the Sunday CCD Program **"Gospel Weeklies"**. This is the children's first opportunity to explore their faith through prayer and bible readings. **God's Tots** is under the direction of **Krizia** and **Tolga Sungu**. Volunteers and aides are needed to lead the readings and assist with the little ones. This gives parents an opportunity to attend Mass without distraction.

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST FIRST COMMUNICANTS—2019

“Whoever comes to me will never be hungry” John 6:35

***82 children received their First Holy Communion
at the 12 noon liturgies on May 5 and May 19, 2019***

Joseph Alam	Kenzie Genuino	Sienna Moreda
Michael Alam	Charlotte H. Germain	Ryann Muller
Olivia Ariyan	Dominick A. Ginestra	Brayden Mulligan
Madelyn J. Babcock	Ryan J. Good	Alex R. Napolitano
Riley Barbaro	Marcello Grippo	Andrew J. Napolitano
Arthur P. Batista	Olivia E. Gucciardi	Abigail R. Osso
Piper Bocchino	Bridget R. Haffler	John T. Panagopoulos
Connor Brannigan	Tyler Hannigan	Ava E. Perez
Abigail C. Brodsky	Giuliana Hess	Nicole Pinto-Spiegel
Drew Cacavella	Aidan C. Hyland	Ryan Pinto-Spiegel
Tyler Cacavella	Giacomo Innocenti	Harlow R. Pomygalski
Gianna Caldwell	Noah A. Jarosz	Michael B. Porco
Sophia R. Candelarai	Michael H. Jilleba	Travis J. Prunk
Matthew J. Carvelli	Nathan J. Jones	Jade P. Ribler
Joseph Celenza	Avery Jurik	Arthur F. Richieri
Kristina Celenza	Vincent N. Killion	Jason Rilli
Andrew R. Costa	Jackson M. Kirkby	Ciara P. Ruane
Katherine Cummings	Gavin M. Krause	Leonardo W. Salamone
Kellan Dalton	Brayden Krenn	Christopher Salvatore
Lianna Damiano	Kayla Krenn	Lily Sammarco
Michael L. Di Fabio	Ryan Krenn	Lea F. Sigona
Ella Diorio	Robert Leotti	Maxim C. Soukhanov
Joseph Diorio	Gianna LoBello	BryanValente
Mia Dy	Marco Luisi	Noelle Varoli
Hope Falesto	Jackson A. Martin	Alexandrea E. Viggiani
Jaxson Falto	Jordan Martin	Christopher Wells
Taylor Gallucci	Taras S. Martiuk	
Andrew Gardiner	Jamie Meier	



Loving God, on this First Eucharist Day, may these our children continue to come to your table to be fed for the rest of their lives. We ask you to fill their hearts with love for you and for one another. Bless their parents as they continue to form these children into good and holy followers of your Son, Jesus, who lives with you and the Holy Spirit forever and ever.

- **The St. Thomas More Council 2188 of the Knights of Columbus Westwood/Hillsdale** hosted a pancake breakfast following the 10 AM Liturgy on March 31 for the First Communion Candidates and their immediate family members from St. John the Baptist and St. Andrew Parishes. It was held at the Council Hall in Westwood. Thank you to the Knights for recognizing this important step in our young peoples' faith journey. Shown with the children is Frank Mariconti, Sr., Grand Knight.



- The First Communicants and Parish Community would like to thank all who had a part in preparing the children to receive their First Holy Communion. Beginning with our Clergy and Deacons, the First Sacraments Coordinators **Stefanie Streeter** and **Vincenza Bruno**, Pastoral Staff, Music Ministry, St. John's Academy Principal, 2nd Grade Teacher **Marlene Kanter**, all our Catechists, Creators of First Eucharist Banners and all Liturgical Ministers. A special thanks to **Fr. John, Robin Hamman and Dee Ford** for Church Environment.
- **Stained Glass Window depicting the Eucharist—Chalice, Bread**
Red flames always symbolize the Holy Spirit

- **Marie Rocco**, President of St. John's Rosary Society with **Ciaran Henry** after the Crowning of the Blessed Mother on May 5, 2019. (See page 35) **Ciaran** received his First Holy Communion in 2017.
- Each new First Communicant was presented with a gift of **Rosary Beads** from St. John's **Rosary Society**.





ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CONFIRMATION CLASS 2019

"Be Sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit"

On June 15, 2019 St. John the Baptist Church warmly welcomed Rev. Msgr. Robert Emery, J.C.L., M.A., Vicar for Essex County, who celebrated two special Liturgies at 10 AM and 2 PM. Msgr. Emery conferred the Sacrament of Confirmation on **105** youth of our parish. **3** additional parish youth were confirmed in another ceremony as noted below.*

Isabelle Abou-Daoud	Alexandra Catherine Fulco	Vincent Montalbano
Viena Josephine Aiello	Conner Patrick Gagliano	Lauren Patricia Morrissey
Shannon Anastasia Allen	Colin George	Marco Nazor
Kelly Alexis Andreasen	Paige Gorman	Liam Nocella
Alexander Francisco Angione	John Hachadourian	Jessica Nicole Nocero
Caitlyn Annunziata	Alexa Mary Hamilton	Orlando Ocelotl
Rebecca Rose Beltram	Sean Michael Hannigan	Mary Oliveri
Julianna Teresa Bermudez	Janine Grace Hartman	Daniel Andrew Olson
Thomas Betsy, Jr.	Ryan Haskell	Luke Thomas Palamidis
Valentina Maria Blundo	Margaret Grace Imperiale	Vanessa Pecora
Alex Bodnar	Christopher Johnson	Nicole Marie Perrone
Caroline Bridgette Bonner	David Ezekiel Jones	Elizabeth Adela Pinto-Shaw
Justin Richard Brady	Nicole Kaldus	Marina Sara Pitrelli
Caitlin Catherine Brannigan	Gabriella Karcz	Michael Poulos
Thomas Brophy	Sean John Kearns	Steven Joseph Ramirez
Joseph Giovanni Bruzzi	Ellie Elizabeth Kim	Luke Rizzi
Steven Walter Bussanich	Chiara Grace Krebs	Keith Thomas Roberts
Salvatore Anthony Caporale	Cailee Patricia LaFrance	Anthony Rossomando
Marisa Rosalie Carbone	Carol Frances Laux	Felicia Anne Rowan
Jake Joseph Caruso	Benjamin Nicholas Linton	Gianna Cecilia Sabatella
Amelia Teresa Cevoli	Benjamin Michael Long	Kaila Saladino
Joseph James Christiano	Salvatore LoPiccolo	Anna Cecilia Schneider
Christopher Anthony Cole	Kyle Francis Loughlin	Julia Scozzofava
Delia Brigid Collis	Lauren Rose Lugo	Evan Michael Shiber
Bridget Elizabeth Coyle	Emma Madeline Maffetone	Charlie Joseph Slevin
Jake Peter Cramer	Isabella Joan Maffetone	Samantha Therese Sloane
Julia Rose Cuti	Quinlyn Hope Maloney	Jeffrey Scott Synder
Adriana Cymerman	Matias Mancheno	Emily Anne Sohl
Megan Rose Deady	Michelle Maria Marino	Michael Solazzo
Paul Deady	Henry Martinez	Matthew Squilanti
Thomas Patrick Dean	Tyler Martin Marzano	Anthony Richard Velasco
Josephine DeRosa	Nichole Massey	Desmond Sebastian Von Tobel*
Reese Driscoll*	Colin Joseph McCabe	Kendall Williams
Ryan Patrick Dunn*	Aidan McNamara	Julia Catherine Wrenn
Owen Pace Eberson	Timothy John Meier	Michael Francis Zaza
Jessica Faith Evans	Matthew Molta	Isabella Angelique Zuluaga



- Thank you to **Rev. Msgr. Emery** for conferring the Sacrament of Confirmation on our youth. Thank you to **St. John's Clergy** and to the **Parents** of the Candidates for their spiritual support, guidance and love as their children continue their faith journey as fully initiated Catholic Christians. Additional gratitude is expressed to:
- St. John's **Confirmation Ministry** led by Ms. Nikki Mahncke, Coordinator; to the Core Team Members Kathleen Breitenbach, Catherine Wol-lyung and Robert Personette. Thank you also to the many Community Leaders and Volunteers who mentored these wonderful young people during their service ministry.
- **20 Adult Facilitators:** Michelle Andreasen, Marianne DeRosa, Thomas & Carol Krebs, Kristine Squilanti, Jen Carvelli, Dyan Cuti, Kathy Bonner, Chris Annunziata, Gaby Cervantes, John Marzano, Tammy Rossomando, Maria Cole, Carol Caruso, Brenda Laux, Rich Williams, Liliann Hartman, Joely Wrenn, Marciela Bermudez and Grace Cymerman.
- To **St. John's Music Ministry** under the direction of Roberto Sabastiani, Cantors Stephanie Carr and Lisa Gordon; Choir and Instrumentalists; to our **Liturgical Ministers** and **Decorators** and all who helped make our Confirmation Day memorable.



**Stained Glass Window depicting the
Sacrament of Confirmation—
Holy Spirit (Dove), Flames**



MINISTRIES SERVING WORSHIP

Fr. Tad and **Altar Servers** just before the 10 AM Mass on June 30, 2019. L-R: Stephanie Vitale (New Server), Christina Vitale, Amelia Sileo, Fr. Tad and Jake Marusic. We also are pleased to welcome three additional new servers—Mary Laux, Matthew Carvelli, and Gianna Mauriello.

As you may have heard, we are in need of additional Altar Servers. Any child in the 4th grade or higher is invited to contact Luigi Vitali at email: ***luigi.vitale@outlook.com***.

Graduating Server Recognition took place at a 10 AM Liturgy in June for two servers leaving this year for college. They were recognized and presented with a token of appreciation from the parish for their service.

- **Matthew Addvensky** has been a server for **9** years. He graduated from Bergen Academies where he attended the Academy of Engineering. This fall he will begin studies in Chemical Engineering at Georgia Tech University in Atlanta. He was active in student councils at the Academies as well as Boy Scout Troop 91, sponsored by the parish. He received the **Eagle Scout Award** in December 2017.
- **John Henni** is a third generation parishioner of St. John's and has also been a server for **9** years. He received the **Eagle Scout Award** from Troop 91 this year. (See page 24). John's favorite memory is being the book bearer on one occasion. Being taller than the Presider, he blocked his view of the congregation. **John** graduated from Pascack Hills High School and will attend Purdue University to study Construction Management.

Welcome to new **Lectors—Julia Graham** and **Kody Barton**. Thank you for serving in this important **Ministry of Worship**.

GIRL SCOUT NEWS



- **Girl Scout Sunday** was observed at St. John's on March 10, 2019. It is an annual event taking place in parishes throughout the state. The girl scouts in the picture on the left were all different ages, troops and levels of scouting, from Daisy kindergarteners to Cadet 7th graders. Fr. Tom Norton and Deacon Al Ganter give the girls a blessing at the 10 AM Mass.

- Several brownie scouts in Brenda Laux's Troop 97139 earned an award called **"My Promise, My Faith."** The award invites girls in grades K-12 to experience a faith journey through exploration of the Girl Scout Law and teachings from their faith. Girls can earn this national pin each year.
- One of our parishioner Girl Scouts, **Julia Scozzafava**, earned her Gold Award Certificate, patch and pin at an award ceremony on June 11, 2019. To complete her project **Julia** hosted a dog show and adoption event at the Hillsdale Festival on September 15, 2018. **Julia** spoke at the event about overpopulation in Animal Shelters and ways to prevent it. She also did an educational outreach program at the Hillsdale Library about her project as the final requirement for the Award. She brought a therapy dog with her to the Library and explained how dogs can be trained to help people.



- Contact information to Join Girl Scouts in Hillsdale has been received from Linda Foster. Email at ***Spaladyfoster@yahoo.com*** or go to: ***www.gsnnj.org/join***. Become a Girl Scout Daisy and make new friends, earn cool badges and patches, be creative with crafts, go on outdoor adventures, run a cookie business and help the community!
- Volunteers are needed to assist and lead new troops. Training and support are provided. Make a difference in the lives of girls in your community. New troops will begin in September. For more information contact Linda Foster as above or Pam Singer at ***psinger@gsnnj.org***.

EAGLE SCOUT AWARDS

Two Boy Scouts from Hillsdale **Troop 109** received the rank of **Eagle Scout** at a Court of honor held at St. John's Parish Center in May 2019. The Troop is sponsored by Holy Trinity Episcopal Church. Congratulations to **Declan Henry** and **Maxymilian "Max" John Fiorino** for their dedication to Scouting and to helping others.

Declan sent a letter to the parish that was printed in the bulletin. Here it is

Dear St. John's Parishioners,

I want to extend my thanks to all of you for your tremendous generosity in helping me to help others. For my **Eagle Scout** project, I collected toiletries, men's and women's socks and underwear and umbrellas for two shelters—Hoboken Shelter and Covenant House, NJ. The outpouring from my parish community was tremendous and I more than exceeded my project goals. I delivered 103 umbrellas and a check for \$615 to Covenant House, Newark, NJ on June 21, 2018. I then delivered 15 large boxes of toiletries and men's and women's socks and underwear to Hoboken Shelter on June 23, 2018. I am extremely grateful to everyone for their support in helping me to help others. May God bless all of you for your kindness.

Sincerely,

Declan Henry, SJA 2016, SJR 2020

Max has completed his freshman year at the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, NY. His love of food and cooking began at home that led to his attending Bergen Technical High School for Culinary Arts; working in the kitchen at a scouting camp for one year and as Steward the next year. While cooking pancakes at **Troop 109's Annual Memorial Day Breakfast Fundraiser**, **Max** saw the kitchen was in need of renovation so his Eagle Project was born. He managed to procure used oak cabinets, held a bake sale to raise funds for materials, organized his troop, friends and family to move and retrofit the cabinets, cut and build shelves and complete the renovation. The Church kitchen now has ample storage which please the many groups using the facility. His love of camping and the outdoors led him to Troop 109. **Max** is thankful to all who guided him through his journey in Scouting and to his family who supported him in all his interests and activities.

***Eagle Scouts
Max Fiorino & Declan Henry***



Three Boy Scouts received the **Eagle Scout Award** recently! Congratulations to **John Henni** and **Matthew Wehmann, St. John's Troop 91** and **Paul Mc Clair, Westwood Troop 350**. Below is a brief story of each scout, their project and a photo!



- **John Henni** followed his older brothers into scouting, beginning in St. John's Cub Scout Pack #91. Five years later he was in **Troop 91**, enjoying winter camping and spending time outdoors at summer camp. He earned most of his 36 merit badges at Camp NoBeBoSco, working his way through to Life Scout.

- The idea for his Eagle Project started while working summers as a lifeguard at Old Mill Pool in Woodcliff Lake. He saw the need for improving the storage space at the pool. **John** took on the task of building a **Storage Shed** whose construction took on many different stages. It had to sit on a level foundation, walls and room needed to be framed, siding and roof shingles installed, and then completed by painting and building interior shelving. The project took approximately 296 man hours and John was grateful for the generous assistance given from fellow scouts, troop leaders, family and friends. He also appreciated that he was entrusted and encouraged by his community officials to help others in Woodcliff Lake.

- **Matthew Wehmann** took on the project of constructing a **Meditation Labyrinth** on the grounds of St. John the Baptist Church. He held a fundraiser for materials on October 29 and 30, 2018 at **Momma's Kitchen** in Montvale. The restaurant donated 20% of each bill to support the project. In addition to the walkway for the labyrinth, **Matt** and his fellow scouts installed the necessary conduits for the water and electric underground. The Church is planning on shrubbery and a center fountain; the hookups will be activated when that happens. The project has been approved and the award ceremony should take place in the coming weeks. **Matthew** will join the military in October, having enlisted in the Navy and will train as a Hospital Corpman.





- **Paul Mc Clair**, Life Scout with **Westwood Troop 350**, began thinking in the fall of 2016 about Eagle Scout projects that would be meaningful to him and the community. After a thoughtful search, **Paul** found his project sponsor, **Spectrum for Living**, that needed two raised garden beds built, landscaping improvements and a bird house at one of their group homes in Westwood.

- His project directly supports Spectrum's **Healthy Living Initiative** by allowing the residents to grow their own herbs and vegetables. Their focus is designed to teach adults with developmental disabilities that making healthy dietary choices for themselves will improve their own health. In order to raise funds for materials, **Paul** held **three Bake Sales** in February after the weekend Masses at St. John's and **two** at Spectrum for Living events. **Paul** is officially an **Eagle Scout**, having passed his Board of Review at Westwood Borough Hall on July 5, 2019! He also wrote a letter to all who helped with his project. **Pictured above L-R:** Mike Vela, Asst. Scoutmaster; Mike Bieri, Troop 350 Chairman; Patricia Mc Clair, Mother; **Paul**, Susan and Rob Stigliano, BSA-NNJC Eagle Rank Advancement.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR EAGLE SCOUTS!

ST. JOHN'S BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

- St. John's **Book Discussion Group** had a very busy reading/discussing year! Books selected are listed below, thanks to Chairperson Angela Ruocco.

Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet *by Jamie Ford*

Small Great Things *by Jodi Piccoult*

The Christmas Blessing *by Donna VanLiere*

Next Year in Havana *by Chanel Cleeton*

Before We Were Yours *by Lisa Wingate*

The Story of Arthur Truluv *by Elizabeth Berg*

Night of Miracles *by Elizabeth Berg*

ST. JOHN'S YOUTH GROUP

St. John's Youth Group had another busy year—both spiritual and social! The official start of the year began with a **Kick-Off Bonfire** on September 23, 2018. Held on the Church grounds behind the Parish Center, it featured games, food, music and more. It was open to all teens in grades 8-12. Following are photos of different activities held during the last year.



Pumpkin Carving Contest October 24



**Bowling Night October 21
At Montvale Lanes**



**Left & above—Friendsgiving Feast November 18
Gratitude for all our blessings and friends**



**Youth Group Christmas Party and
Gift Exchange December 9, 2018**



**Valentine's Day Celebration
February 10, 2019**

GOOD FRIDAY STATIONS



The Living Stations of the Cross, an artistic rendition of the events leading up to the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, presented by the Youth Group on Good Friday, April 19, 2019. Their production is always a beautiful work of faith and art.

One of the highlights of the year was attendance at the annual **New Jersey Catholic Youth Rally** held at Six Flags in Jackson, NJ on May 19, 2019. Youth from all over the state gathered for the day to socialize, share a meal and enjoy the games there. The day ended on a spiritual high note with the celebration of the Mass by Bishop David M. O'Connell of Trenton. As part of his message to the youth, he said: ***"Gifts can come in all kinds of packages," he continued. "You are God's gifts, every one of you. What's on the outside of the package is only the means to cause you to open up and find the gift, to use the gift, to share the gift — your true self. ... Love is our true self. Show your true self to everyone you meet, with all your strengths and even with all your weaknesses. That is the message of our faith."***

A **Pasta Dinner Fundraiser** was held in the Parish Center on May 4, 2019. It was a big success which was acknowledged by Youth Minister **Dee Ford** in a **Thank You** on behalf of **St. John's Youth Group** in the bulletin shortly thereafter. Much appreciation was expressed to the parents, parish staff, parish volunteers/parishioners and to Parish Groups for their time, contributions and support of **Youth Ministry** by encouraging our teens to participate.



The school year was coming to an end and was observed with a Summer Barbeque on June 22, 2019. Some members graduated from High school and were going on to college or other endeavors. All were looking forward to a good summer and the start of a new school year!

Thank you to **Dee Ford**, Youth Minister and **Fr. Tad** for his spiritual guidance and great photos!

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Congratulations to St. John's parishioner **John Burns** who was sworn in as **Woodcliff Lake Police Chief** on March 5, 2019. Quoting from the Pascack Press article: "**John Burns** brought the house to its feet in a standing ovation after he expressed deep gratitude for the borough's trust in him and pledged to work for a safe, strong and proud Woodcliff Lake as the borough's Police Chief." At his swearing in, **John** ceremonially took the role he had been filling since January 1 when he replaced Chief Anthony Janicelli who retired. **John** begins his 31st year in the department as Police Chief!

Last November, Hillsdale Police Chief **Robert Francaviglia** and Captain **Sean Smith** volunteered to help out at the Senior Luncheon at the Parish Center. While there they donated a **Christmas-spirited fireplace backdrop** to the Center which added to the season's Christmas decorations and cheer.

HUMAN CONCERNS

- The Annual **Christmas “Giving Trees”** were placed at the Church entrances on the weekend of December 1, 2018 with suggestions for store gift cards pinned to the trees. Once again our parishioners generously responded to help families in need. A **Thank You** message was included in the bulletin after the holidays: **“The Human Concerns Ministry would like to extend our sincere gratitude to all the parishioners at St. John’s who donated so generously to the ‘Giving Trees’ this Christmas. We were able to assist many families in making this a happy holiday season. May God bless you and grant you peace in the New Year.”**
- As in past years St. John’s participated in the **Super Fifty/Fifty Cash Raffle** sponsored by **FAMILY PROMISE of Bergen County** on the weekend of March 23-24, 2019. Our parish sold **59** tickets at **\$100.00** each and additionally raised **\$600 in donations**. One of our parishioners—**Marie Rocco**—was a third prize winner. The First Prize winner receives 25% of proceeds up to \$25,000; Second Prize winner gets 10% of proceeds up to \$10,000 and there are 15 third prizes awarded at 1% of proceeds up to \$1000 each. The raffle is held to support and empower homeless working families who may not be able to afford a decent place to live, but because they are employed, do not qualify for government assistance.
- **FAMILY PROMISE** provides comfortable accommodations, meals, companionship and a variety of necessities for homeless working families in partnership and cooperation with congregations around Bergen County. Members of **Human Concerns** have supported the program in the past through preparation of meals, companionship or monetary donations with Temple Beth Or in the Township of Washington who serve as a host home.

GOOD SHEPHERD MINISTRY

- St. John’s **Good Shepherd Ministry** was founded over **20** years ago to raise awareness and to assist those suffering with HIV/AIDS. One of their activities is providing dinner once a month for eight residents of **Harrison House**, a home for people living with HIV/AIDS. Originally the house served as a place for many to live out their lives in dignity. As the face of the disease has changed so have the needs. Now the house serves as a house of new beginnings for those who are hit hard by the virus. Here they are able to rebuild and given a chance to restart. To them **Harrison House** has become a **House of Hope**. **If you could help provide a meal, please call Kerry Ganter for more information at 201 666-0435.**
- Other activities that bring awareness to the disease are **World Aids Day, Aids Compassion Sunday and NJ AIDS Walk**. Although progress has been made in treating HIV/AIDS, there are still great numbers of New Jerseyans battling the disease. More needs to be done to cure the stigma associated with it.

SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY - VOICES THAT CHALLENGE

- St. John's weekly bulletin includes a column—***Voices That Challenge***—that attempts to raise awareness on Social Justice issues along with appropriate source and website for additional information with Action Alerts. Some of the issues include: A Consistent Ethic of All Life, Poverty, Health Care, Immigration, Migration and Refugees, Religious Freedom, Racial Justice, Gun Violence, Solitary Confinement, Trafficking in Persons, Climate Crisis—Care for our Common Home. Sources of information include the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, New Jersey Catholic Conference, National Catholic Reporter, Catholic Climate Covenant, America, Franciscan Action Network and Maryknoll Office of Global Concerns.
- A **Fair Trade Community Order Sale Event** was held after all the Masses on November 24 and 25, 2018. A variety of products were available for same day purchase along with catalogs for easy ordering of gifts in time for Christmas giving. Purchase of **Fair Trade** items promotes human dignity by ensuring fair wages, decent working conditions and long term partnerships. Catholic Relief Services Ethical Trade and their non-profit partner, SERRV, have worked together since 1995 to offer high quality, fairly traded handcrafts and gourmet food items from struggling artisans and farmers around the globe.

Respect Life!

- **The Fourth Annual WALK FOR LIFE** was held on Saturday, September 22, 2018, sponsored by St. John's and St. Andrew's. The walk was hosted by **New Hope, Inc.**, an outreach organization for single mothers and their babies. It began at St. John's and ended at St. Andrew's with prayers in the church. The **Knights of Columbus Color Guard** of the **St. Thomas More Council 2188 of Westwood/Hillsdale** led the walk along with Fr. Tadeus Jank, St. John's and Fr. Wojciech, Our Lady of Victories, Harrington Park. Fr. Tad led the prayers in St. Andrew's Church. It was a beautiful day and the walk raised awareness about the sanctity of all life.
- Ministry members joined the **Annual Right to Life March** in Washington, D.C. on January 18, 2019. Through collaboration with other parishes, members joined the buses that left from St. Elizabeth's Parish in Wyckoff. Bagels and coffee were available after their 6 AM Mass and a box lunch was provided. The walk is always inspirational and well attended.
- Joan Saoud and Edna Lord met with Mrs. Suzanne Socha, Academy Principal in October 2018 to discuss the possibility of 7th and 8th grade students participating in a **Respect Life Junior League**. Two students indicated an interest and held a **Drive for Diapers** in the school for the Baby Shower held in May 2019. We will continue to invite Academy students to events such as the **Walk for Life** in September 2019.



- The **Annual Baby Shower** was held May 4-12, 2019. Decorated playpens were placed at the Church entrances for donations of NEW clothing, bottles, wipes, disposable diapers and gift certificates. In addition to generous donations from parishioners, the parish **Cozy Corner Knit/Crochet Group** created over **50** beautiful baby blankets along with a knitted doll or hat for the shower. The shower gifts were delivered to New Hope, Inc. in Westwood. We received a grateful letter of Thanks which was published in the bulletin. The letter included their website, www.newhopeprc.org where one can learn about their volunteer program and the Pregnancy Resource Center. Thank you to **Mary Ellen Breen** for the cute photo!
- St. John's continues to support the **2020 PROJECT** with notices in the bulletin inviting individuals and/or Parish Ministries to sponsor a Mass for the "Protection of babies in the womb and their families." In addition, **Car Magnets** can be ordered by email at **BabyFeet-Magnet@gmail.com**. The **2020 Project Coalition** which includes **LIFENET** and the Respect Life Office of the Archdiocese of Newark is a collaborative effort to ban abortion past 20 weeks by the year 2020.
- A **Postcard Campaign**, approved by the New Jersey Conference of Catholic Bishops, designed to ask our NJ State Senators and Assembly Members to support legislation banning abortion after 20 weeks, was held at St. John's January 19-20, 2019. **Bryan Ennist** spoke at all the Masses just prior to the postcard collection. Over **900** postcards were sent to our Legislators asking them to support the **Pain Capable Unborn Child Protection Act**. Over **47,000** postcards were sent from people in the Archdiocese of Newark!
- **Respect Life Ministry** publicized several Archdiocesan events including the **Rachel's Vineyard Retreat** held September 7-9, 2018 in the Kearny Retreat Center. The retreat is offered for post-abortion healing. The **Annual Pro-Life Mass** at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart was held on Sunday, January 13, 2019. **A Morning of Healing** on Saturday, February 17, 2019 at St. Thomas the Apostle Church in Bloomfield included topics specific to prenatal loss.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS



- **The St. Thomas More Council 2188** sponsors **Friday Night Dinners** at their Hall in Westwood April through November each year. The dinner is always sold out and the monies raised provide funds for the Council's charitable activities/contributions. And the food is great—cooked by the Knights themselves! In March they held a special Lenten Pasta/Shrimp Dinner.
- In honor of **Columbus Day** the Council sponsored a 13-item buffet at The Estate at Florentine Gardens, complete with beer, wine & soda. Cash Bar was also available. Seating was limited to 110; reserved table seating was offered.
- On November 17, 2018 the Council hosted a **Charity Poker Tournament** at the Hall in Westwood. The tournament was conducted by Mike's Poker Tables with regulation Texas Hold'em rules. The event was catered by Flynn's Deli; a Cash Bar was available.
- The Council sponsored their **Annual Super Bowl Party** on February 3, 2019 at the Estate at Florentine Gardens. The game was shown on two giant screens with two buffets—Starting Line Up and Half Time. Various games were available along with a 50/50 raffle. Monies collected were for the benefit of the **200 Club of Bergen County** and **St. Jude's Children's Hospital**. The 200 Club supports families of Law Enforcement, Fire Protection and EMS personnel by providing scholarships and monetary assistance. The 200 Club received a check for **\$5000** and St. Jude's Hospital received **\$1000**.
- The Council's **Annual Golf Outing** took place on June 10, 2019 at the River Vale country Club. The charge of \$150 per golfer included all-inclusive golf, door prize, thank you bag and a luncheon at the Estate at Florentine Gardens. Golf contest prizes were also awarded. The fundraiser allows the Council to provide educational awards to worthy students.
- The **Annual Winter Clothing Drive** is held through the end of February. Requested are clean adult and youth coats, jackets, hats and gloves. Through the generosity of parishioners the Knights were able to distribute **178 bags** of winter clothing to **five area centers** who care for those in need.



- The Council conducted a **Baby Bottle Drive** at St. John's during February 2019. Bottles were distributed on the weekend of February 9-10 after all the Masses and collected two weeks later, filled with monetary donations. Through the generosity of our parishioners the Council was able to contribute **\$950** each to **Several Sources Shelters** and **Siena House**, organizations that provide hope, assistance and shelter to pregnant teens, needy families and homeless women and children.
- Members of Council 2188 attended the **2019 Archdiocesan Catholic Men's Commission** at Seton Hall in March 2019.



- As part of its effort to promote Vocations, the Council provides annual monetary support to Seminarians attending the Immaculate Conception Seminary at Seton Hall University. Pictured from L-R: Seminarians **Bryan Bangs** and **John Garabedian**, **Grand Knight Francis Mariconti**, **Deputy Grand Knight Joseph Bisi** and Seminarian **Tom Palanza, Jr.** Not pictured is also Council-supported Seminarian **Pedro Jose Soriano**, studying for the priesthood in Mexico.

- The St. Thomas More Council 2188 awarded **scholarships** to five students in the area to assist with their educational expenses and to recognize their educational, community, social and religious accomplishments. The winners were awarded **\$1000** each and they include **Theresa Abou-Daoud**, William Paterson University of NJ; **Collin Tofts**, Purdue University; **Sebastian Bortz**, Susquehanna University; **Timothy Gallagher**, University of Scranton and **Jessica Milne**, Seton Hall University. Congratulations to all!



ST. JOHN'S HOLY NAME SOCIETY

- The Society's **Annual Memorial Mass** was celebrated on September 9, 2018 at 8:00 AM. **52** departed members were remembered. Relatives and friends were welcomed to the Mass and to a continental breakfast in the Parish Center following Mass.
- A one-day Retreat was scheduled for November 10, 2018 at the Marian Shrine and Don Bosco Retreat Center in Stony Point, New York. An hour of adoration was included and the men appreciated the homilies presented during the day.
- The **Nativity Creche** was repaired in time for the Christmas season and placed just outside the Vestibule Door on the East Side of the Church. **Holy Name** members and volunteers were on hand to set up the statues on the inside and make it ready for the season.

- Guest speakers during the year included **Emad**, who was at the parish selling religious handcrafted items from Bethlehem. The proceeds are given to the churches in Jerusalem. He discussed the decrease in tourism and the tensions existing in the area.
- **Fr. Tad** and **Dee Ford** spoke about the activities of the **Youth Group** during the year and related that attendance has grown from about 30-40 to current attendance of about 70. See page 26 – 28 for more information about the Youth Group.
- Kerry Ganter and Deacon Al Ganter spoke to members at the January 2019 meeting about the parish **Good Shepherd Ministry** and the ways the ministry helps the residents of Harrison House in Paramus. See page 29 for more information on this ministry.
- The **Holy Name Society** supports the ministries and activities of the Parish from their fundraising efforts. This past year Human Concerns and Good Shepherd each received \$250; the Youth Group received \$200 and \$150 was donated toward the collection of First Communion Outfits for a total of \$850.
- Members attended the **Archdiocesan Catholic Men's Conference** at Seton Hall on March 16, 2019. As always the speakers and the program were inspirational and faith filled.
- Members led the **Stations of the Cross** on the first Friday of Lent.
- President Charles Benante attended the yearly meeting of the **Bergen County Federation of Holy Name Societies**. Group discussion included a decline in membership in most parish Holy Name organizations. Ideas on how to attract new members were discussed. Deacon Al attended the **Annual Holy Name Societies Spiritual Director Dinner** on April 30.
- The **Annual Entertainment Raffle** tickets were drawn after the 8 AM Mass on June 9, 2019. This year's winners were **Terry McDonald** who won first prize to a **Broadway Experience For Two**. Parishioner **Sheila Heron** won the second prize of a **Dinner for Two** at a Restaurant of Choice.
- The **Holy Name Annual Breakfast** immediately followed the raffle drawing at the Iron Horse in Westwood. It was well attended by members and invited guests.

ST. JOHN'S ROSARY SOCIETY



- St. John's **Rosarians** celebrate the Blessed Mother Mary through prayer, observance of special feast days and participation in the spiritual and social activities of the parish. The first Sunday of each month is **Rosary Sunday** when members attend the 8 AM Mass with recitation of the rosary following in Mary's Chapel. The **Blessing of the Roses** took place at the 12 noon Mass on October 4, 2018.

- Immediately after the recitation of the rosary on May 5, 2019, the traditional crowning of the Blessed Mother took place in Mary's Chapel. **Ciaran Henry**, son of Theresa and Patrick Henry did a beautiful and spiritual crowning of Mary. It made the day!
- Their **Annual Communion Breakfast** took place after the crowning in the Parish Center. Having the breakfast on site has really worked out well for everyone. Delicious food was catered by Lepore of Westwood.



- Returning to the fall of 2018, the **Rosarians** held a **Public Square Rosary Rally** on Saturday, October 13, 2018 on Hillsdale Avenue. This event is scheduled in thousands of cities at noon every year to commemorate the anniversary of the Miracle of the Sun, also known as the Miracle of Fatima. Although the day was rainy, as the banner was carried out to begin the Rosary the sun came out and warmed everyone's heart. Many thanks to all who participated including Frank Mangano and John Sanchez. Thanks also to **Elizabeth Sanchez**, Vice President of the Rosary Society, for the photo and the above information.

- On April 5 the **Rosary Society** held a **Lenten Dinner** in the Parish Center just before the Stations of the Cross. A monetary donation was accepted for the benefit of the Helping Hand Food Pantry which totaled **\$250**. The **Rosarians** led the **Stations of the Cross** the following Friday on April 12.



Rosary Sunday October 2018



Christmas Party



St. Patrick's Day Party

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S

TWP. OF WASHINGTON

07676

EMERSON

07630

Anna & Nick Piccinich, 14 Linden Avenue

Roula & Richard Alam, 630 Washington Ave.
Nancy & Michael Espinosa, 75 Hampshire Rd.
Donna & Sean Morrison, 232 Beech Street
Kara & Matthew Totaro, 691 Colonial Blvd
James Walsh, 713 Burke Street

FORT LEE

07024

Jamie & Jorge Blacido, 1 Horizon Road, #1018

WESTWOOD

07675

HAWORTH

07641

Megan Gibney, 144 Lakeside West

Sandy & Joseph Daniele, 10 O'Donnell St.
Stephanie & David Tropea, 22 Stratton Ave.

WOODCLIFF LAKE

07677

HILLSDALE

07642

Alaine & Christian Chavez, 67 Stever Ave.
Lauren & Mark Cubrilo, 96 Alpine Terrace
Michelle & Mark Dipisa, 12 Avon Court
Kristin & Christopher Flynn, 72 Melville Road
Robyn & Anthony Garofalo, 39 Wilts Ave.
Erica & Kevin Godlewski, 88 Ralph Ave.
Vanessa & Michael Hlavaty, 26 Hunters Ct
Meredith & Michael Leighton, 4 Country Lane
Cristione & Fernando Richieri, 176 Riverdale

Lisa & Bruce Trottere, 84 Pinecrest Drive

***Please take a moment to extend a personal
Welcome to new neighbors on your street!***

60th WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Congratulations to Joan & George DeRosa who celebrated their 60th anniversary on June 6, 2019. Two days later they renewed their vows and received a blessing from Fr. Tom Norton at the 5 PM Mass.

MAGNOLIA, DELAWARE

19962

Giulia & Adam Kirsch, 191 Payson Lane

OLD TAPPAN

07675

Danielle & John Buntak, 9 Foxwood Square S.

RIVER VALE

07675

Nicole & Curt Banichi, 313 Hanna Road
Antonieta & Jeremy Rosario,
525 Cleveland Avenue



SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

The following children were baptized at St. John the Baptist during the months indicated. Welcome to our parish family!

July 2018: John Daniel Fornazor, Shea Nicole Roberts, April Rose Zakhary. **September:** Johnnie Patrick Adimando, Lily Rae Arricale, Avery Penelope Bas, Joseph John Dembowski, Luca James Garcia, Brianna Lynn Luciano, Alex Michael Noeth, McKensie Grace Strickland. **October:** Lorenzo Domenico Bonfrisco, Maxx Angelo Fiore, Hailey Brooke Jordan, Isabella Rose Mattessich. **November:** Madison Noelle Bernard, Everett Richard Dorr, Avery Marie Klingele, Alexander James Reiprich, Dante Angelo Rosario. **January 2019:** Matthew Carter Chavez. **March:** Theodore Jesse Brown, Julia Maria Daniele, Olivia Angela Daniele, Isabella Grace Lisa, Cara Marie Quinn, Chloe Rose Quinn. **April:** Isabella Anne Rosen, Kayla Nicole Barbarino, Brielle McKenzie Bradley. **May:** Logan Charles Bell, Kelsey Rose Harrison, Lorenzo Steven Lora, Theodore John Swierk. **June:** Stuart Frank Cubbon, III, Brayden Liam Ingoglia, Jaxon Peter Kouvel, Shawn Patrick McMackin, Jr., Rowan James Melville, Riley Sloane Simon, Alexander Brian Tofel. **July:** Lucy Olivia Avondoglio, Fiona Elizabeth Blacido, Robert Patrick Connolly, Mary Elizabeth Hendrickson, Luke Matthew Salvatore, Rylie Jade Slattery.

Thank you to Virginia Gray for providing the names of our newly baptized children.

SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

Congratulations to the following couples who were married at St. John's since June 30, 2018.

Jacqueline St. Clarie Doria & Joseph Ensmann—July 1, 2018
Amy Kathleen Scordato & Nicholas Di Paola—July 13, 2018
Jessica Schoales & Jason Amaral—July 28, 2018
Kendy Diaz & Eric Perez—July 29, 2018
Caitlyn Strype & Christopher Hendrickson —August 18, 2018
Alyssa Rivera & Sean Filon—11/3/18
Ashley Bergholtz & Matthew Grath—2/16/19
Kristen Moss & Marco Schiazza—4/6/19
Danielle Cauvet & John Buniak—4/27/19
Renee Vidal & Michael Killian—5/26/19
Danielle Perez & George Kelly—7/19/19

Thank you to Jenifer Carvelli, Wedding Rehearsal Coordinator!

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

A special Liturgy for all couples celebrating their **50th** anniversary was held at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart on April 28, 2019. Two of our parish couples attended—**Diane & Gerard Farley** were married on June 28, 1969 and **Angela & Joseph Colello** were married on February 9, 1969.

Congratulations to all our parish couples who are celebrating a wedding anniversary!

IN LOVING MEMORY

We remember the parishioners and other loved ones who have been called by God to Eternal Life during the last year.

Joseph Albracht, James Abrams, Emily Andrews, Alfred Baffa, Steven Borchers, Sr., Josephine Bradshaw, John Buldo, Giuseppe Calcara, Eddie Carillo, James A. Collins, Mary Corcoran, Thomas Corcoran, Frank Costello, Virginia Daly, Luke Daly, Gloria M. Davino, Frank D'Alessandro, Jordan DeFlora, Winifred Farrell, Vincent Faustini, Paul Fionda, Suzanne Franco, Josephine Giorgio, Eileen Gregory, Matthew J. Gros, Jr., Julia May Hermann, Brian Hughes, Joseph Kamfor, Helengrace Kerr, Santa Legano, James T. Leman, Phyllis Lyons, Theodore Masotti, Anna Mastracche, Muriel McCarthy, Marie McCarthy, Catherine McGrath, Thomas McSpedon, Catherine Mirabella, Benedict Muggeo, Anne O'Brien, Marcelle Oggenfuss, William Panno, Robert Perini, John Picciotto, Joseph Puchalik, John Quigley, Therese Rekow, William Ring, Elba Roque, Frank Ruh, Agnes Schwab, Jeanette Siciliano, Dawn Siciliano, Vincent Spinella, Joan R. Stephen, Timothy Sullivan, Epifania Suarez, Dorothy Thompson, Robert Tighe, James Vandervalk, Teresa Vazzano, Diane Verebey, David Weigel, Alan Weisman, Brian Williams, Jr.

"We have loved them during life; let us not abandon them until we have conducted them by our prayers into the House of the Lord."

St. Ambrose

ST. JOHN'S BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY

Our Bereavement Ministry sponsored the **Annual All Souls Mass of Remembrance** on Friday, November 2, 2018 at 8:00 PM in the Church. On this feast of **All Souls**, the names of parishioners and other loved ones buried from St. John's are remembered at this Mass.

The parish also dedicates a **Novena of Masses** for departed parishioners, family and friends at the 8:00 AM Mass on November 1-9, 2018.

The Bereavement Ministry sponsored the **Annual Mass of Comfort** on Saturday, May 4, 2019 at 12 noon in the Church. The Mass is celebrated for the families and friends of St. John the Baptist who are grieving the loss of a loved one. Refreshments were available in the Parish Center following the Mass.

ARCHDIOCESE FAMILY LIFE MINISTRY

Information was made available through the weekly bulletin regarding the **32nd Annual Liturgy for Parents Whose Child Has Died** at the Notre Dame R.C. Church in North Caldwell on May 3, 2019. They also held an **Emmaus Ministry: One Day Retreat for Grieving Parents** on June 8, 2019 at Notre Dame Church.

"Blessed are they who Mourn for they shall be Comforted."
Matthew 5:4



CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
69 Valley Street, Hillsdale, NJ 07642
201 664-3131
www.stjohnhillsdale.org

Msgr. Morris Parish Center	201 666-2707
1 Valley Street, Hillsdale	
St. John's Academy	201 664-6364
460 Hillsdale Avenue, Hillsdale	
Human Concerns	201 664-3131
Faith Formation	201 666-2707
Fax Number	201 664-0772

CLIMATE BLESSING

We hold the Earth.
We hold brothers and sisters who suffer from storms and droughts
intensified by climate change.
We hold all species that suffer.
We hold world leaders delegated to make decisions for life.
We pray that the web of life may be mended through courageous
actions to limit carbon emissions.
We pray for right actions for adaptation and mitigation to help
our already suffering earth community.
We pray that love and wisdom might inspire my actions and our
actions as communities . . . so that we may, with integrity,
look into the eyes of brothers and sisters and all beings and
truthfully say, we are doing our part to care for them and
the future of the children.
May love transform us and our world with new steps toward life.

Source: *Faith Climate Action Week, Interfaith Climate Prayer*
Earth Day, April 22, 2019