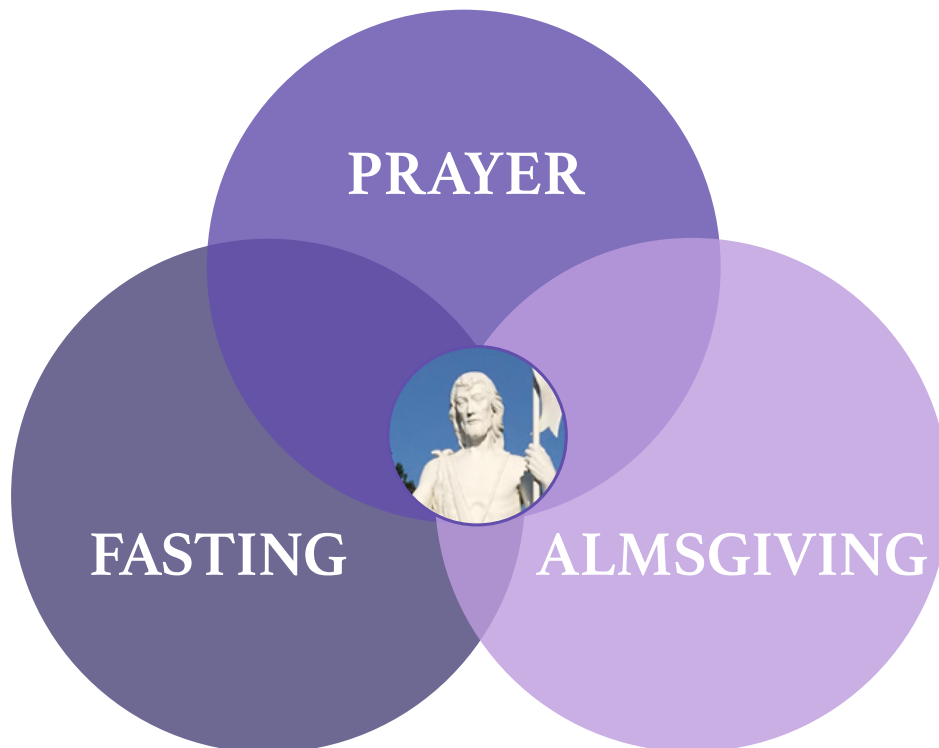


SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

69 VALLEY STREET, HILLSDALE NJ 07642 • STJOHNHILLSDALE.ORG

LENT 2024



Contemplate these disciplines as a family.

Let's continue to journey together to come closer to Jesus in these 40 days.

MARCH 3, 2024

3RD SUNDAY OF LENT

*"God so loved the world that He gave His only Son,
so that everyone who believes in Him might have eternal life." — John 3:16*

PASTOR

Rev. Msgr. Peter Smutelovic

WEEKEND ASSISTANT

Rev. Bogumil Misiuk

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

Cathy Wollyung, Faith Formation
Kathy Breitenbach, Registrar / CCD
Roberto Sabastiani, Director of Music
Dee Ford, Youth Ministry

• ST. JOHN'S ACADEMY 201.664.6364

Ann Mitchell, Principal
Penny Jackson, Tuition Manager / Registrar
Heather Hurley, School Secretary

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

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

Thank you for giving witness to our Catholic faith and celebrating with us the Liturgies of this 3rd Sunday of Lent. This is truly a Season of renewal, repentance, and reconciliation and I am very grateful that a growing number of us continue to gather, pray, and praise God here at St. John's. During these blessed gatherings we receive Christ's precious presence and love, so that we may bring it back into our homes, families, communities, schools, workplaces and to every single place where the Lord sends us. In one of the Scripture passages from Ash Wednesday Saint Paul called the community of the early Christians in Corinth - and also us - "the ambassadors for Christ" (cf. 2 Corinthians 5:20). That spectacular title and recognition should be for us a great affirmation and source of inspiration throughout this entire Lent. We - as a community of the Lord's disciples - are gathered today once again by the Lord, so then we can be sent into the world and act as "His messengers and ambassadors".

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

Thank you, in a special way, to all of you who have so promptly responded to my and our request for assistance to those in need in the broader community of our Archdiocese of Newark, through our 2024 Annual Appeal. Let us all join our efforts and our God-given resources in this important charitable initiative. Among those who will benefit from our generosity are children, young people, adults, and elderly who need our human concern and assistance. As always, I am very grateful for your support and all your kindness, witness of your faith, and goodness of your hearts. Please know that on this challenging but beautiful journey of Lenten renewal I pray for each one of you, as well as for all your loved ones. And, as always, I humbly ask you to pray for me and for all those who serve and minister to you in our wonderful Parish Family.

-Fr. Peter

SENDING HEALING PRAYERS TO:

Victoria Davis, John Luke Bechtold, Angela Visentini, Sonia Spagnoli, Lucas Kelly, Al Spiegel, Sr., Debbie Kral, Michelle Mangano, Martin Filon, John Bibby, Michael McKay, James Carbone, Susan Denise, Mary Schubert, Carole Ann Bersano, Tim Mangano, Lourdes Munson, Jim Lyons

REMEMBERING THOSE WHO HAVE PASSED:

Margaret Perscico, Fred Franco

Mass Intentions

SATURDAY, MARCH 2

5:00 PM Martin & Margaret Lyons (Living)

SUNDAY, MARCH 3

8:00 AM Eileen Davis
10:00 AM Rev. Msgr. Philip Morris
12:00 PM Amy Kantowitz

MONDAY, MARCH 4

8:00 AM Nick Donato, Sr.

TUESDAY, MARCH 5

8:00 AM Nick Donato, Sr.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6

8:00 AM Charlie Curtin

THURSDAY, MARCH 7

8:00 AM Mary Toohey

FRIDAY, MARCH 8

8:00 AM Anne Ciliberti

SATURDAY, MARCH 9

8:00 AM John Worful
5:00 PM Hank Morano

SUNDAY, MARCH 10

8:00 AM Amy Kantowitz
10:00 AM Craig Williams
12:00 PM Eileen Gehan

THE VOTIVE CANDLE BURNS
IN MEMORY OF

NICK DONATO, SR.

AT THE REQUEST OF
HIS LOVING WIFE & FAMILY

THE BREAD & WINE ARE GIVEN
IN MEMORY OF

NICK DONATO, SR.

AT THE REQUEST OF
HIS LOVING WIFE & FAMILY



WHY OUR LENTEN FASTING?

In the early Church and, to a lesser extent still today, there were two fasts. There was the “total fast” that preceded all major feasts or sacramental events. The ancient name for this fast was “statio” from the verb “sto, stare” to stand watch, on guard or in vigil. The second fast was a fast of abstinence from certain foods, e.g., meats or fats. This was more an act of self-discipline and self-control. The statio fast was total and a means of watching and waiting. The fast of abstinence was more general and personal, to help oneself be more disciplined or self-controlled. The Eucharist is always the end of

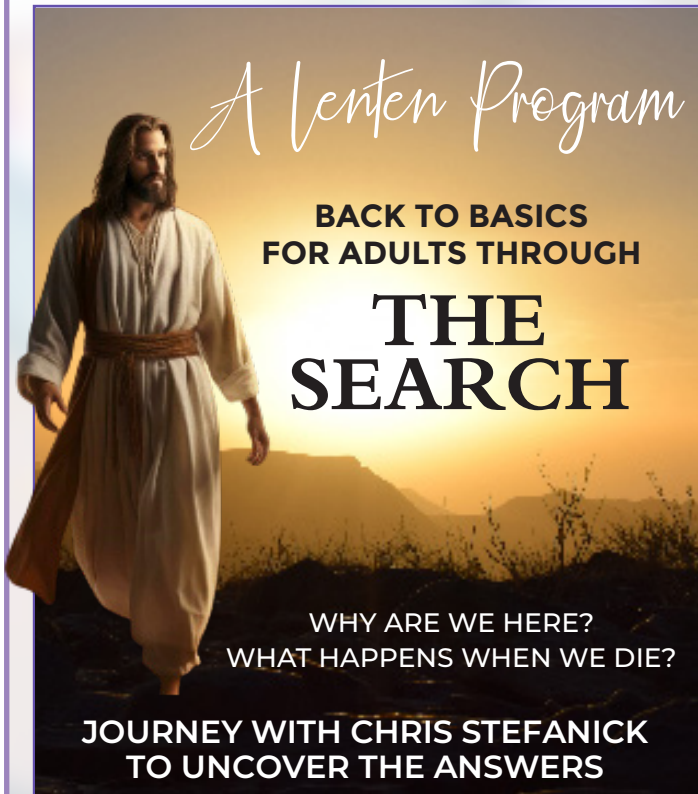
a preparation. It is always the fulfillment of an expectation. But how did fasting become such an important means of preparing for the Eucharist and of learning virtue through self-discipline? Christian fasting is revealed in an interdependence between two events in the Bible: the “breaking of the fast” by Adam and Eve; and the “keeping of the fast” by Christ at the beginning of his ministry.

Humanity’s “Fall” away from God and into sin began with eating. God had proclaimed a fast from the fruit of only one tree, the tree of knowledge of good and evil (Gen. 2:17), and Adam and Eve broke it. Fasting is here connected with the very mystery of life and death, of salvation and damnation. Food perpetuates life in this physical world, which is subject to decay and death. But God “created no death” (Wis. 1:13). Humanity, in Adam and Eve, rejected a life dependent on God alone for one that was dependent rather on “bread alone” (Dt. 8:3; Mt. 4:4; Lk. 4:4). The whole world was given to man as a kind of food, as a means to life, but “life” is meant as communion with God, not as food. Christ, however, is the new Adam. At the beginning of his ministry in the Gospel of Matthew, we read, “When He had fasted 40 days and 40 nights, He became hungry.” Hunger is that state in which we realize our dependence on something else - when we face the ultimate question: “on what does my life depend?” Christ said, “Man does NOT live by bread alone” (Mt. 4:4; Lk. 4:4). This liberates us from total dependence on food, on matter, on the world. Thus, for the Christian, fasting is the only means by which man recovers his true spiritual nature. In order for fasting to be effective, then, the spirit must be a part of it. Christian fasting is not concerned with losing weight. It is a matter of prayer and the spirit.

Christian tradition can name at least seven reasons for fasting:

1. From the beginning, God commanded some fasting, and sin entered into the world because Adam and Eve broke the fast.
2. For the Christian, fasting is ultimately about fasting from sin.
3. Fasting reveals our dependence on God and not the resources of this world.
4. Fasting is an ancient way of preparing for the Eucharist—the truest of foods.
5. Fasting is preparation for baptism (and all the Sacraments)—for the reception of grace.
6. Fasting is a means of saving resources to give to the poor.
7. Fasting is a means of self-discipline, chastity, and the restraining of the appetites.

OUR *Lent* 2024



Whether you're a practiced inquirer or a jaded skeptic, The Search will speak to you. You may be reassured by some parts and challenged by others. Either way, you'll find a lot to think about here. And when all is said and done, life's questions demand to be answered.

ARE YOU READY FOR THE SEARCH?

- WEEK 3 Why a God? (3/7)
- WEEK 4 What's Our Story? (3/14)
- WEEK 5 Who is Jesus? (3/21)
- WEEK 6 Am I Saved? (4/4)
- WEEK 7 Why a Church? (4/11)

Thursday mornings at 9:30am or
Thursday evenings at 7:00pm.

Sessions are 1 hour in the Parish Center.

Let us know when you plan to come.
Email: cwollyung@stjohnhillsdale.com

"WE ARE YOUNG" CHOIR

ALL PRIMARY & MIDDLE SCHOOL
FRIENDS OF JESUS ARE INVITED!

9:15 AM REHEARSAL
10:00 AM MASS



Contact Sara Armstrong to sign up
or with any questions:

sarmstrong@sja-hillsdale.org

WE WANT YOUR TALENT!



St. John's Youth Group will once again host The Stations of the Cross on Good Friday evening. We are looking for new members to join us and engage in this time-honored tradition.

We are looking for: New members, Youth readers, Youth actors, Lighting tech, Social Media Technician.

Teens 8th - 12th grade invited to join.

Contact us:

stjohnsyouthgroup@gmail.com

OUR *Lent* 2024



Daily Mass

8:00 am

Eucharistic Adoration

Thursdays 3:00 - 6:00 pm

Church is Open Daily

7:00 am - 7:00 pm



Let's gratefully and prayerfully accompany Jesus.

Come and Pray with us The Stations of the Cross

Lent 2024

Wednesdays 8:30 am

(following 8:00 am Mass)

Fridays 8:30 am

(following 8:00 am Mass)

Fridays 7:00 pm

Sundays 9:20 am

JOURNEY WITH JESUS

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

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

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

OUR PARISH STEWARDSHIP

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2024

		2023	BUDGET
Envelope & In Pew Giving:	\$7,884	\$ 8,357	\$7,900
Online Giving via Faith Direct:	5,105	5,101	5,000
TOTAL	\$12,989	\$ 13,458	\$12,900

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



ST. JOHN'S EAGLES

ST. JOHN'S SPORTS ASSOCIATION TRACK PROGRAM RETURNS TO ST. JOHN'S!

Open to boys and girls in grades 3 - 8 who are either students at SJA or actively enrolled in the St. John's Parish CCD program. Practices will be held during the week at Bergen Catholic's track in Oradell, and there will be several competitive meets, generally held on weekends. The season starts in mid / late March and ends in June. The registration fee is \$125, which includes a shirt. Registration is open now until March 13 or when full.

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

2024 ANNIVERSARY LITURGIES

The Archdiocese of Newark is preparing the annual tradition of honoring those couples in our Archdiocese who will be celebrating 5, 25 and 50 years of Christian marriage in the year 2024. These anniversary liturgies will be celebrated in the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark: The dates are:

May 5, 2024
12:00 pm • 5 & 25 Years

June 2, 2024
12:00 pm • 50 Years

To register, please call the Rectory at
201-664-3131



ARCHDIOCESE
of NEWARK

ANNUAL²⁰²⁴ APPEAL

PLEASE HELP US REACH OUR GOAL!

So far we have received \$43,230 in pledges and donations for the 2024 Archbishop's Annual Appeal, which represents over 1/2 of our parish goal of \$71,445. We are very grateful to the 116 families and individual parishioners who have helped us launch this campaign but we are still far from achieving our goal.

It is noteworthy that our **2024 donations can be restricted** and directed to a number of charitable activities, such as:

Catholic Charities

Youth Ministries

Catechetical Programs

People with Disabilities Ministries

Pro-Life Ministries

Formation of Future Priests

Please complete a pledge envelope - they are at the doors of the church, and have also been mailed to your home. The envelopes may be returned in the collection basket or to the Rectory Office, or even mailed directly to the Archdiocese. You may also make your pledge online at www.rcan.org/sharing. **Please indicate on all pledges and donations that you are a member of St. John the Baptist Parish in Hillsdale and that your donation should be credited to our Parish.**

You may view the Cardinal's video with his presentation as well as his pledge of transparency and full accountability of the collected donations at the website above.



May God bless you always for helping those less fortunate than ourselves. Let us make our annual goal together, as a family of faith. Every donation counts and every donation makes a big difference, as every donation demonstrates far beyond our local area the great spirit of Saint John the Baptist Parish!

GOD WILL ACCEPT BROKEN
HEARTS. BUT HE MUST
HAVE ALL THE PIECES

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

- Saint John Vianney (1786 - 1859 A.D.)