

SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

69 VALLEY STREET, HILLSDALE NJ 07642 • STJOHNHILLSDALE.ORG



MAY 17, 2026

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER & THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

*Then he led them out as far as Bethany, raised his hands, and blessed them.
As he blessed them he parted from them and was taken up to heaven. — Luke 24:50-51*

PASTOR

Rev. Msgr. Peter Smutelovic

WEEKEND ASSISTANTS

Rev. Bogumil Misiuk
Rev. Frank Lennie

DEACONS

Deacon Jack Gray
Deacon Albert Ganter

• RECTORY 201.664.3131

Cathy Williamson, *Office Manager/Outreach*
Jennifer Cannon, *Business Administrator*
Glen Ford, *Plant Superintendent*

• PARISH CENTER 201.666.2707

Kathy Breitenbach, *Registrar / CCD*
Roberto Sabastiani, *Director of Music*
Paulette Gilchrist, *Safe Environment Coordinator*

• ST. JOHN'S ACADEMY 201.664.6364

Ann Mitchell, *Principal*

MASS SCHEDULE

SATURDAY VIGIL

5:00 PM

SUNDAY, THE LORD'S DAY

8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, 12:00 PM

WEEKDAYS & SATURDAY

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 the Saint John the Baptist Parish Family,
Dear Friends of our Parish,

Welcome to our celebrations of the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord on this Seventh Sunday of Easter. The Scripture readings and prayers of this Solemnity present to us not only some historic account of the Risen Lord ascending into heaven on the fortieth day following his Resurrection, but also give us reassurance that the Lord has prepared the way for each of us into the loving embrace of our eternal God and into the company of all the saints in heaven.

Throughout this entire Season of Easter we have been reading stories about the life of the Early Church, rapidly growing after the Resurrection and Ascension of Christ into heaven. Our brothers and sisters in faith lived during those early months and years of Christianity with the absolute conviction that Jesus, our Lord and Savior, had returned to heaven to “prepare the way” to the eternal and loving embrace of God for his friends and followers. The apostles as well as all those early Christians were like us, men and women of so many personal limitations who had to overcome countless moments of their own personal doubts. However, it was the merciful love of God that continually “molded them” into His brave disciples.

One of the supreme examples of this life-giving mercy and love of Christ is certainly Saint Paul. He was in his young years a Jewish pharisee who zealously persecuted early Christians. Through the grace of God, while continually confessing his own unworthiness and personal limitations, he became a great Apostle of many nations. His letters are included in the writings of the New Testament, and through them, as well as through the Acts of the Apostles, we learn much about his life and the faith of the early Church. Paul was imprisoned and taken to Rome, where he was beheaded for his personal witness of Christ. He is remembered as one of the greatest “disciples and friends of the Lord” in two thousand years of Christianity. Meanwhile, like us, he didn’t personally witness the glorious Resurrection and Ascension of Christ, but, touched by His merciful love and inspired by His example, Paul became one of the greatest “witnesses” of these triumphant events.

As we, the Saint John the Baptist family of the Lord’s disciples “look up to heaven” this weekend, let us rediscover “up there” our own eternal home and destiny. The eternal home in the presence of our loving God, Blessed Virgin Mary, all the saints and our loved ones who have gone before us and now live in the eternal presence of our Risen Lord.

— Fr. Peter

Mass Intentions

*We remember our loved ones
and community*

SATURDAY, MAY 16

5:00 PM Ellen Caulfield

SUNDAY, MAY 17

8:00 AM Matthew Cohen

10:00 AM Patti Barone

12:00 PM James Carbone
(Living)

MONDAY, MAY 18

8:00 AM Elaine Doyle

TUESDAY, MAY 19

8:00 AM Paulina Roche

WEDNESDAY, MAY 20

8:00 AM Larry Campbell

THURSDAY, MAY 21

8:00 AM Joseph Colletti

FRIDAY, MAY 22

8:00 AM Mary N. Devaney

SATURDAY, MAY 23

8:00 AM Francesca Martorano

5:00 PM Dorothy A. Crapanzano

SUNDAY, MAY 24

8:00 AM Dorothy Winkler

10:00 AM Joan Thalmann

12:00 PM Elizabeth Bernadette
Hennessy

The **Votive Candle** burns
in memory of

FLORENCE SACCO

at the request of
The Rosary Society

Prayers for Healing and Peace:

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

Remembering Those Who Have Passed:



The Consecration of the United States of America to the Sacred Heart of Jesus will take place on June 12, 2026, in preparation for the 250th Anniversary of the founding of our great Nation. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) voted on Nov. 11, 2025, at the USCCB Fall Plenary Assembly in Baltimore to consecrate the U.S. to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Archbishop Alexander Sample of Portland, Oregon, chairman of the USCCB Committee for Religious Liberty, described in his recent statement the U.S. bishops' decision to consecrate America to the Sacred Heart of Jesus as "a way to recognize the kingship of Christ."

"In his encyclical instituting the solemnity of Christ the King, Pope Pius XI, drawing on the teaching of Pope Leo XIII, commended the pious custom of consecrating the nation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus as a way to recognize the kingship of Christ. By celebrating this important national anniversary with this devotion, we have the opportunity to encourage all Catholics to honor Our Lord and to infuse the spirit of the Gospel into various communities and departments of life. [...] Devotion to the Sacred Heart has developed over the centuries following the experiences of St. Margaret Mary Alacoque and the apparitions she witnessed in the 17th century. As we reflect with gratitude on the blessings God has bestowed on our country, our devotion to the Sacred Heart demands that we consider how we might foster truth, justice, and charity in American life. We are called to bring our faith into the actions we take and the lives we lead in our communities. [...] This anniversary and consecration gives us a special opportunity to promote the beautiful devotion to the Sacred Heart and to encourage the laity to offer their lives in service to God and their country."

We will find more information about the Novena (9 days of prayers) preceding the Consecration, our Archdiocesan Consecration Mass as well as our Saint John the Baptist Parish Consecration and Events in next week's parish bulletin.



Be Imbued with the Hope that is So Much a Part of the Mystery of the Ascension of Jesus.

In the providence of God - in the eternal design of the Father - the hour had come for Christ to go away. He would leave his Apostles behind, with his Mother Mary, but only after he had given them his instructions. The Apostles now had a mission to perform according to the instructions that Jesus left, and these instructions were in turn the faithful expression of the Father's will. The instructions indicated, above all, that the Apostles were to wait for the Holy Spirit, who was the gift of the Father. From the beginning, it had to be crystal-clear that the source of the Apostles' strength is the Holy Spirit. It is the Holy Spirit who guides the Church in the way of truth; the Gospel is to spread through the power of God, and not by means of human wisdom or strength.

The Apostles, moreover, were instructed to teach - to proclaim the Good News to the whole world. And they were to baptize in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Like Jesus, they were to speak explicitly about the Kingdom of God and about salvation. The Apostles were to give witness to Christ to the ends of the earth. The early Church clearly understood these instructions and the missionary era began. And everybody knew that this missionary era could never end until the same Jesus, who went up to heaven, would come back again. The words of Jesus became a treasure for the Church to guard and to proclaim, to meditate on and to live. And at the same time, the Holy Spirit implanted in the Church an apostolic charism, in order to keep this revelation intact. Through his words Jesus was to live on in his Church: I am with you always.

Dear Brothers and Sisters, be imbued with the hope that is so much a part of the mystery of the Ascension of Jesus. Realize that the strength of Christ is greater than our weakness, greater than the weakness of the whole world. Try to understand and share the joy that Mary experienced in knowing that her Son had taken his place with his Father, whom he loved infinitely. And renew your faith today in the promise of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has gone to prepare a place for us, so that he can come back again and take us to himself.

Pope John Paul II, Homily, Solemnity of the Ascension of our Lord, May 24, 1979

WEEKLY DONATION ENVELOPES

Cathedral Corporation Apologies

Dear St. John's Parishioners,

We sincerely apologize - the delay in receiving your weekly offertory envelopes has now extended into another month. Due to ongoing equipment issues and other delays, production has taken longer than anticipated to fully recover.

Please know that our team is working extended shifts, including weekends, to catch up and restore our normal delivery schedule as quickly as possible.

We are truly grateful for your continued patience and understanding during this challenging time.

May God bless you and your parish,

The Cathedral Letter Concepts Team
632 Ellsworth Road, Rome, NY 13441

ADDED NOTE ABOUT YOUR WEEKLY ENVELOPES ...

As you can read above, Cathedral Corporation is hoping to remedy the situation but has not given a date as to when that will happen. In the meantime, **extra yellow envelopes may be found by the doors of the church.** Please complete the front of the envelope and, if you know it, please put your envelope number on it. And, as described on the right side of this page, **please strongly consider Parish Soft Giving.**

YES! This is the right time to join

ParishSOFT[®]
Giving



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

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

BENEFITS TO YOU

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

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

FUNCTIONAL: Receive notifications for each transaction made or scheduled.

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

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

BENEFITS TO THE PARISH

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

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

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

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



CALLED BY NAME:

Honoring Faithful Young Men in The Archdiocese of Newark

Cardinal Tobin is asking us to identify faithful young men (ages 15-35) who exhibit a love of God and neighbor, and who may be open to learning more about the priesthood. **To submit names, please visit newarkpriest.com.** The men whose names you submit will receive a letter of encouragement from Cardinal Tobin, invitations to discernment events, and support from our Vocation Team. Thank you for supporting vocations!



SAINT JOHN PAUL II

on vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and religious life

A vocation in the Church, from the human point of view, *begins with a discovery*, with finding the pearl of great price. You discover Jesus: his person, his message, his call. In the Gospel which we have heard today, we reflect on the call of Jesus to the first disciples. The first thing that Andrew did after meeting Jesus was to seek out his brother Simon and tell him: “*We have found the Messiah!*” Then Philip, in a similar way, sought out Nathanael and told him: “*We have found the one Moses spoke of in the Law - the prophets too - Jesus, son of Joseph, from Nazareth*” (Cfr. Io. 1, 35-51).

After the initial discovery, a dialogue in prayer ensues, a dialogue between Jesus and the one called, *a dialogue which goes beyond words* and expresses itself in love.

Questions are an important part of this dialogue. For example, in the Gospel account of the call of the disciples, we are told that “when Jesus turned around and noticed them following him, he asked them, ‘*What are you looking for?*’ They said to him, ‘Rabbi’ (which means teacher), where do you stay?’ ‘*Come and see, he answered*’ (Ibid. 1, 38-39). What begins as a discovery of Jesus moves to a greater understanding and commitment through a *prayerful process of questions and discernment*. In this process, our motives are purified. We come face to face with pointed questions such as “What are you looking for?” And we even find ourselves asking questions of Jesus, as Nathanael did: “*How do you know me?*” (Io. 1, 48). It is only when we have reflected candidly and honestly in the silence of our hearts that we begin to be convinced that the Lord is truly calling us.

Yet, even then, the process of discernment is not over. Jesus says to us as he said to Nathanael: “*You will see much greater things than that*” (Ibid. 1, 50). Throughout our lives, after we have made a sacred and permanent commitment and after our active service of the Lord has begun, we still need the dialogue of prayer that will continually deepen our knowledge and love of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Pope John Paul II, Address to Seminarians, 9/13/1987, Cathedral of San Fernando, San Antonio, TX

OUR PARISH STEWARDSHIP

SUNDAY, MAY 10, 2026

		2025	BUDGET
Envelope & In Pew Giving:	\$8,626	\$ 8,371	\$ 7,900
Online Giving via ParishSOFT:	<u>5,284</u>	<u>\$ 4,950</u>	<u>\$ 5,000</u>
TOTAL	\$13,910	\$ 13,321	\$12,900

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



ARCHDIOCESE of NEWARK ANNUAL²⁰²⁶ APPEAL

PLEASE HELP US REACH OUR GOAL!

So far we have received \$91,914 in pledges and donations for the 2026 Archdiocesan Annual Appeal. We are very grateful to the 199 families and individual parishioners who have helped us with this campaign. Every donation gets us closer to our goal of \$98,750.



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

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

HELPING HAND FOOD PANTRY

Can you help stock the shelves? The donations at the pantry have declined substantially. While there is always a need for a variety of food items, the following are in greatest need:

Brownie mix, apple juice, apple sauce, mayonnaise, oil, coffee (instant & decaf), shelf stable milk, egg noodles, canned pineapple, sugar, cookies, crackers, breadcrumbs, shampoo, conditioner, paper towels and facial tissues.

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

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

www.helpinghandfoodpantry.com

thankful
grateful
AND
Blessed

Thank you for remembering & supporting our Parish!

“While in Heaven Christ, our Risen Lord, is also with us; and we, while on earth are with him. He is here with us by his divinity, his power and his love. We cannot be in Heaven, as he is on earth, by divinity, but in him, we can be there by love.”

St. Augustine (354 - 430 A.D.)



WeAreHisWitnesses.org
for updates, timelines
and resources.