

SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

69 VALLEY STREET, HILLSDALE NJ 07642 • STJOHNHILLSDALE.ORG



JULY 20, 2025

16th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

*Blessed are they who have kept the word with a generous heart
and yield a harvest through perseverance. — Luke 8:15*

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
Paulette Gilchrist, Safe Environment Coordinator
Dee Ford, Youth Ministry

• ST. JOHN'S ACADEMY 201.664.6364

Ann Mitchell, Principal

MASS SCHEDULE

SATURDAY VIGIL

5:00 PM

SUNDAY, THE LORD'S DAY

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

WEEKDAYS

8:00 AM

HOLY DAYS

8:00 AM, 12:00 PM, 7:00 PM

CONFESSIONS

- Saturdays 2:00 - 3:00 PM
- After 8:00 AM Mass—Weekdays
- Any time by appointment

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

Thank you for being such an important part of our celebrations of the 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time, even during this summer season of relaxation, family gatherings and travels. In the Gospel of today we hear about one of the “family visits” of Jesus, in order to spend some time with three of his dear friends: Martha, Mary and Lazarus. Toward the end of this month, on July 29, the Catholic Church celebrates the Memorial of Saints Martha, Mary and Lazarus. These “early Christians” are certainly on the short list of people who were humanly “closest” to Jesus during his earthly life. The place of this annual celebration in our liturgical calendar during the summer season of gatherings, trips, and family celebrations, highlights the great importance of loved ones and friends in our lives. From the moment of our birth until the very last moments on this earth, and, in fact, for all eternity, they have been placed into our lives according to God’s providential plan of love towards us. Jesus, who had unconditionally taken on himself our humanity with all its joys, challenges and sorrows, gave personal witness to the essential role of our human relationships. None of us, however young or old, however well off or poor, could humanly or spiritually survive on our own. And on that journey, as his reassurance and his sign of unconditional love, Jesus even promoted and adopted us into his own family when He adamantly declared that “whoever does the will of my heavenly Father is my brother, and sister, and mother” (cf. Mt 12:50).

Saint Paul, although arriving rather late into Jesus’ “family circle”, following his dramatic conversion, continually reaffirmed that without those who had become his brothers and sisters in faith his personal life would be humanly and spiritually impossible. He is so determined to communicate this relationship and life-giving friendship that he writes four of his letters, which are now a part of the New Testament, from a prison in Rome – Letter to Ephesians, Letter to Philippians, Letter to Colossians, and Letter to Philemon. These letters are often referred to as Paul’s “Prison Epistles”. In this painful setting of separation from his loved ones and his spiritual family Saint Paul makes his heartfelt proclamation: “Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ on behalf of his body, which is the church, of which I am a minister in accordance with God’s stewardship given to me to bring to completion for you the word of God.” (Second Reading – Colossians 1:24-28).

Let us pray this Sunday in a special way for all dear and special people in our lives, for our families, and also for our parish family of Saint John the Baptist, that the good Lord will guide us and assist us to live always as the family and friends of our Risen Savior.

— Fr. Peter

SENDING HEALING PRAYERS TO:

Robert F. Mercandino, Daisy Fuentes, Ruth Del Valle, James Carbone, Maxine Fleming, Christine Knitel, John Keegan, Thomas Pedoto, Jessica Chase, Felix Rivera, Michael Delehanty, Maricarmen Senande, Dash Richards, Maryann Prinke, Theresa Gorman, Julianne Lipnick, Roy Lawlor, Rosalind Campos

REMEMBERING THOSE WHO HAVE PASSED

Angela Favorito, Lisa Cowling, Salvatore Giusto, Joyce DeMarco

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, JULY 19

5:00 PM Louann Palmeri

SUNDAY, JULY 20

8:00 AM Benjamin Amos

10:00 AM Francis Bradley

12:00 PM Grace & Donald Malone

MONDAY, JULY 21

8:00 AM Jane Marie Delisio

TUESDAY, JULY 22

8:00 AM Thomas Rooney

WEDNESDAY, JULY 23

8:00 AM John Tronolone

THURSDAY, JULY 24

8:00 AM Joseph Keough
(9th Anniversary)

FRIDAY, JULY 25

8:00 AM James Farrell

SATURDAY, JULY 26

8:00 AM Bernard Dulaski

5:00 PM Anthony Morin

SUNDAY, JULY 27

8:00 AM Armando Gonzalez

10:00 AM Michael Gela

12:00 PM Maria Elena Orozco

THE VOTIVE CANDLE BURNS IN MEMORY OF

MARTIN HUVANE

AT THE REQUEST OF
MARIE & JAMIE ROCCO

LISTENING TO GOD'S CALL:

— An Update on the Journey to Priesthood —

A warm greeting of grace and peace to all my fellow parishioners at St. John the Baptist! It is such a joy to be able to spend two weeks here, at our spiritual home, this summer. I have been incredibly blessed to walk in Faith with you for the last five years, with the last three years as a seminarian for the Archdiocese of Newark. It seems like only yesterday that I was sitting in a pew on the Valley Street side asking God if He wanted me to be a priest. His answer was a resounding, "Yes," and now here I am!

I thought that this would be a great opportunity to give you all an update on my journey so far and a preview of what is to come. After entering Immaculate Conception Seminary at Seton Hall in August 2022, I spent two years studying in a pre-theology program, earning a Certificate in Philosophical Theology in May 2024.



This past August, I began the four-year Masters of Divinity program, also at Seton Hall. It's a very intense academic program; taking 6 classes (18 credits) per semester. Each semester there are classes in Biblical Studies, Church History, and Pastoral, Moral, & Systematic Theology. All the classes are reading intensive with most requiring research papers.

Aside from the intense academic program, we also have a full liturgical and prayer schedule, house jobs, and pastoral assignments. This past year, I had the privilege to be mentored under our very own Fr. Bogumil at Seton Hall Prep! Each week I would go to the Prep for a few hours to interact with students, answer their questions about the Faith and vocations, and be a witness to how God has worked in my life.

In February, I received the first prerequisite for ordination to the priesthood, the Ministry of Lector, which was conferred by Newark Auxiliary Bishop Elias Lorenzo, O.S.B.

After completing this academic year, I went to the Institute of Priestly Formation at Creighton University in Omaha, NE. This program was an opportunity to meet seminarians from across the United States to focus on growing in relationship with the Holy Trinity, understanding the reality of spiritual fatherhood, and developing a greater appreciation for celibacy as a self-gift to God. It was an amazing and transformative experience, and I really got to grow closer with two other men from my seminary, Leonardo and Carlos.



As I now start my fourth year of formation I look forward to receiving the Ministry of Acolyte this October, which is the second big step towards ordination. Obviously, it's too soon to definitively plan anything, but it's likely that I would receive ordination to the diaconate in May 2027 and priesthood in May 2028.

My prayer for this upcoming year is that we can continue to walk together as we grow in Faith and Love of the Lord. I have been so continually blessed by the prayers, generosity, and support of this faith community. Your faithful witness constantly renews and reinvigorates me, especially when I have a lot of papers to write! I look forward to sharing more updates with you in the future.

Thank you again for your prayers and support, they mean the world to me as I navigate this path toward priesthood. Please continue to pray for more vocations to the priesthood, permanent diaconate, and religious life. I promise you're in my prayers as well.

Faithfully yours in Christ,
Joseph

~~ Prayer for Vocations ~~

O God, who willed to provide shepherds for your people, pour out in your Church a spirit of piety and fortitude, to raise up worthy ministers for your altars and make them ardent yet gentle heralds of your Gospel.

From the Collect of the Mass for Vocations to Holy Orders

OUR SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH PROPERTY —

Severe flooding during the night of July 14–July 15, 2025.

During the night of July 14 - 15, 2025, our church property was once again dangerously flooded. The quickly rising flood waters stopped only a few yards from our church back entrance area, and our rectory and parish offices.

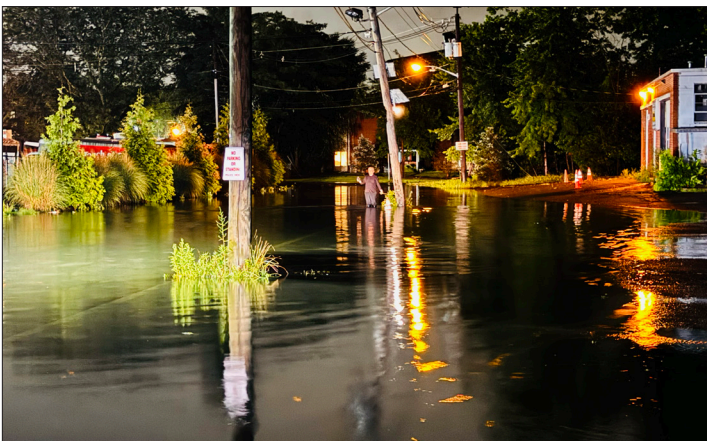
The flood waters filled a significant part of our property and the west side (back) parking area.

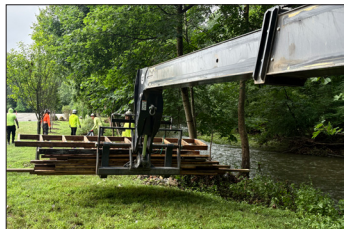
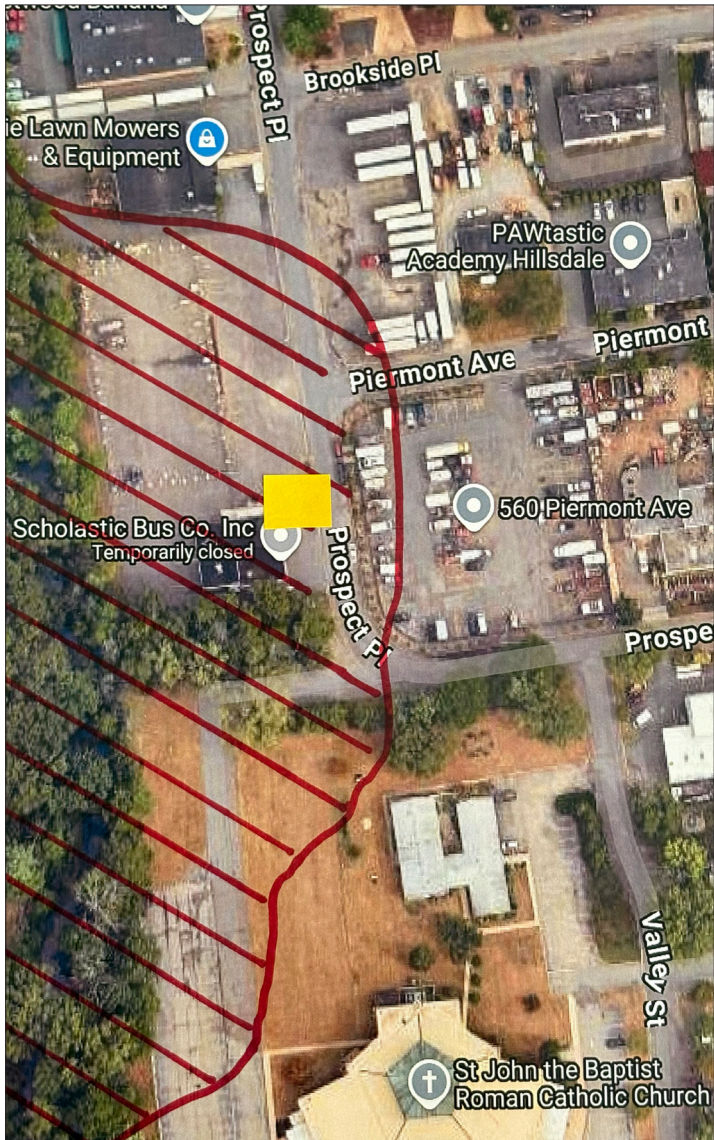
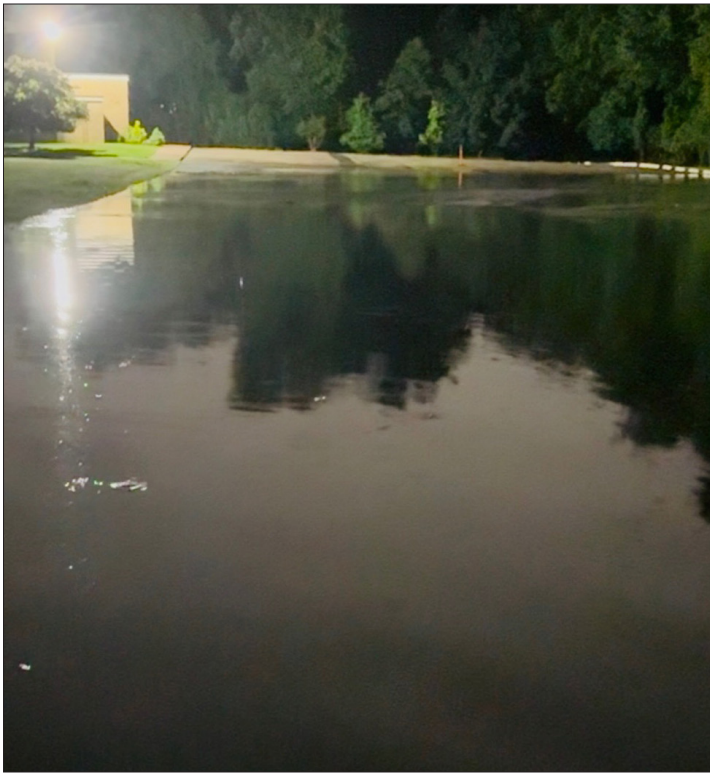
The flooding was caused by Pascack Brook overflowing on the west side of our property and by raging and quickly moving waters coming down Prospect Place and Piermont Avenue, from the area of the planned construction of “the four stories high storage facility.”

The flood waters in numerous parts of Prospect Place, our back parking area driveway and our back parking area were between 10-16 inches deep. (See the flood area map, marked in red.)

The location where Fr. Peter is standing, in the first picture, is marked with a yellow square on the map. The window light in the background is our rectory window.

During the flooding our church property was also filled with floating construction materials and debris from the nearby construction site of the apartment complex.





OUR PARISH STEWARDSHIP

SUNDAY, JULY 13, 2025

		2024	BUDGET
Envelope & In Pew Giving:	\$9,611	\$9,190	\$7,900
Online Giving via Faith Direct:	4,954	5,476	\$5,000
TOTAL	\$14,565	\$14,666	\$12,900

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

FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER

HOSTED BY VALLEY CHARITIES & KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
ST. THOMAS MORE COUNCIL 2188

DATE: Friday, July 25, 2025

LOCATION: Knights of Columbus Hall — 40 Crest Street
in Westwood, NJ 07675

DOORS OPEN: 6:00pm

MENU INCLUDES: Smoked St. Louis Ribs, Hot Dogs,
Assorted Salads, Watermelon, Pineapple, Fruit Salad,
Coffee, Tea, Soda. Cash bar available.

TICKET PRICE: Adults: \$20 per person; Couples (age
65+): \$35; Children (12 & under): \$15

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED: Contact Frank Mariconti,
Sr. Call 551-579-1123 or email fms12250@aol.com.
Please reach out daily between 4pm - 8pm.

Make checks payable to: **Valley Charities**. All
proceeds will go toward scholarship support.



ST. JOHN'S EAGLES

ST. JOHN'S SPORTS ASSOCIATION FALL GIRLS' CYO VOLLEYBALL SEASON

This program fills up very fast! Open to
girls only in grades 5 - 8, who are either
students at SJA or actively enrolled in the
St. John's Parish CCD program. This is a
competitive season with 10-14 games, plus
playoffs. The season runs from September
to mid-November. Fees are \$170 per player,
plus \$40 for a numbered jersey (if you don't
already have one). First come, first served -
registration will close when full. Once
capacity is met, a waiting list will begin.

**For more info and to register, please
visit <http://sjsports.org>.**



Join Us!

DAILY MASS

8:00 am

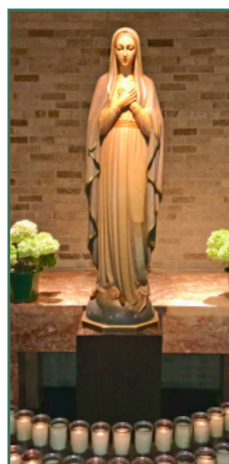
EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Thursdays 3:00 - 6:00 pm

Benediction & Community Prayer
just before 6pm

CHURCH IS OPEN DAILY

7:00 am - 7:00 pm



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

7am - 7pm

**Mother's doors open
365 days a year.**

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

"To fall in love with God is the greatest romance; to seek Him, the greatest adventure; to find Him, the greatest human achievement."

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