

# SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

69 VALLEY STREET, HILLSDALE NJ 07642 • STJOHNHILLSDALE.ORG



MARCH 9, 2025

## 1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT

*It is written: You shall worship the Lord, your God, and him alone shall you serve.— Luke 4:10*

### 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 participating in our liturgies of the First Sunday of Lent, and, during this past week, our Ash Wednesday Masses and prayer services. I am also grateful to our parishioners and friends who, due to various health, family, and personal reasons, are unable to join us for our liturgies and prayers in the church, but continue to be united with us in prayer and through their reassurance that the mission of St. John's is very much a part of their daily lives. As we embark on our Lenten journey, we remember especially those who are ill, homebound, or those who face any difficulty, sorrow, or struggle, in the intentions of daily Masses and prayers in our beautiful church. May our Lord, who is "the light of the world" (cf. Jn 3:19), the One who through his love and self-sacrifice shattered every darkness of our human and spiritual existence, bless us all and guide us throughout this entire season in our actions, thoughts, prayers, fasting and charitable works.

We will continue to gather during the Season of Lent to experience and witness the glory of our God, the gift of redemption through Jesus Christ, and the gifts of the Holy Spirit as a community of his disciples, always very much concerned for each other. In declaring our love for Him - one God in the Trinity of Persons - we renew our desire to follow Him through our love and concern for others.

Let us together remember during Lent, through our prayers, fasting and almsgiving, that reflecting on the suffering of our Lord and his boundless love toward us we unite our own life's crosses to his in our desire to grow in our closeness to the Almighty. During the most joyful, as well as those challenging moments of our lives, we can all rely on the love, prayers and support of our common St. John the Baptist Parish Family. Thank you, once again, for remembering that special Family in your Lenten acts of generosity and almsgiving.

May our Lord and Savior continue to guide us and strengthen us through our spiritual journeys of the upcoming weeks and always. May our loving Mother, the Immaculate Virgin Mary, and our great heavenly patron, Saint John the Baptist, continue to accompany us and intercede for all of us. Please be assured of my prayers for each and every one of you, as well as for all your loved ones.

-Fr. Peter

**SENDING HEALING PRAYERS TO:**

Robert F. Mercandino, Daisy Fuentes, Ruth Del Valle, James Carbone, Maxine Fleming, Christine Knitel, John Keegan, Patricia Harkin, Walter Harkin, Thomas Pedoto

**REMEMBERING THOSE WHO HAVE PASSED**

Alexandra Dalessandro Ginestra

Mass Intentions

**SATURDAY, MARCH 8**

5:00 PM Jim Lyons

**SUNDAY, MARCH 9**

8:00 AM Monica Judge

10:00 AM Marie Cartwright

12:00 PM James Carbone (Living)

**MONDAY, MARCH 10**

8:00 AM Rachel Oommen

**TUESDAY, MARCH 11**

8:00 AM Dennis Burke

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12**

8:00 AM Mary Schubert Schultz

**THURSDAY, MARCH 13**

8:00 AM Rachel Oommen

**FRIDAY, MARCH 14**

8:00 AM Patricia Henry

**SATURDAY, MARCH 15**

8:00 AM Patricia Zelenchich

5:00 PM Mildred Visentini

**SUNDAY, MARCH 16**

8:00 AM Franca Cainero

10:00 AM Arthur Mazzarella &

Amelia (5th Anniversary)

12:00 PM John Angermeyer

THE VOTIVE CANDLE BURNS  
IN MEMORY OF

**MARY SCHUBERT SCHULTZ**

AT THE REQUEST OF  
THE ROSARY SOCIETY

THE BREAD & WINE ARE GIVEN  
IN MEMORY OF

**FRANCIS BRADLEY**

AT THE REQUEST OF  
THE DOUGHERTY FAMILY



**“Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of the least brothers of mine, you did for me” – Matthew 25:40**

## **PLEASE JOIN THE 100+ ST. JOHN’S PARISHIONERS WHO HAVE ALREADY PLEDGED!**



Saint John the Baptist Parish Family in Hillsdale, NJ, reaches out to those in need in our local Church of the Archdiocese of Newark. Please join the effort of this loving and caring community of faith.

- ✠ **Proclaiming the Gospel**
- ✠ **Passing on the Faith**
- ✠ **Caring for the Poor and Vulnerable**
- ✠ **Forming Future Priests and Supporting Elderly, Infirm and Retired Priests**

Many acts of charity and good deeds in **2025** through our small sacrifices



**WOULD YOU PLEASE HELP US HELP THOSE IN NEED?**

**\$2/DAY: \$730 | \$1/DAY: \$365 | 50 CENTS/DAY: \$182.50**



**[rcan.org/sharing](https://rcan.org/sharing)**

Please, make a donation online, drop in our Sunday collection baskets, or, if you wish, mail directly to Annual Appeal, Archdiocese of Newark, Gift Processing, PO Box 7146, Kensington, CT 06037-7146, with a special note – “Saint John the Baptist, Hillsdale, NJ.”

# OUR *Lent* 2025

## ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK 2025 LENTEN REGULATIONS

- The days of both Fast and Abstinence during Lent are Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. If possible, the fast on Good Friday is continued until the Easter Vigil (on Holy Saturday night) as the “paschal fast” to honor the suffering and death of the Lord Jesus, and to prepare ourselves to share more fully and to celebrate more readily His Resurrection. The other Fridays of Lent are days of Abstinence.
- On a day of Fast, only one (1) full meal is permitted, and two (2) smaller meals, which if added together, would not exceed the main meal in quantity.
- Those between the ages of 18 and 59 are obliged to fast.
- On a day of Abstinence, no meat may be eaten. Those who have reached the age of 14 are obliged by the law of abstinence
- The obligation to observe the laws of Fast and Abstinence “substantially”, or as a whole, is a serious obligation.
- The Fridays of the year, outside of Lent, are designated as days of penance, but each individual may substitute for the traditional abstinence from meat some other practice of voluntary self-denial as penance.
- The time for fulfilling the Paschal Precept (Easter Duty\*) extends from the First Sunday of Lent, March 9 to The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity, June 15, 2025.

*\*Canon 920, §1. All the faithful, after they have been initiated into the Most Holy Eucharist, are bound by the obligation of receiving Communion at least once a year.*

I  JESUS

## LENT FAQ

### WHAT IS LENT?

Highlighted by fasting, prayer, and almsgiving, Lent is the penitential period and liturgical season that leads into the celebration of the Easter Triduum.

### WHEN DID LENT START?

The observance of Lent as a 40-day time period began after the Council of Nicea in 325 A.D. but periods of fasting before Easter date back even earlier.

### WHO CELEBRATES LENT?

Lent has traditionally been associated with the Catholic Church, but some Protestants, Orthodox Christians, and others also observe some form of Lent.

### WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF LENT? WHAT DOES IT REPRESENT?

Lent begins with a visible, outward sign of ashes but aims toward inner conversion, helping us repent, avoid distractions, and focus on living the Gospel.

### WHAT SHOULD I GIVE UP FOR LENT?

Focus on sacrificing something meaningful that will help you draw closer to God. Better yet, focus on what you can take on: What small acts can you take on to manifest the love that God calls us to share?

### WHY DON'T CATHOLICS EAT MEAT ON FRIDAYS?

Abstaining from meat on Fridays during Lent is a sacrifice and a small act of self-discipline that dates back to the early Church. Fish Frys are popular on Fridays during Lent. Ash Wednesday and Good Friday feature additional rules for fasting and abstinence. This is in stark contrast to the abundant feasts of Easter.

### WHAT IS THE COLOR OF LENT?

Violet (purple) is the color of Lent. On Laetare Sunday, priests will wear rose (pink) as a small break from the solemn purple and a reminder that Easter is drawing near. During Palm Sunday and Good Friday, priests wear red vestments. The color of Easter is white.

Source: [Hallow.com](http://Hallow.com)

# OUR *Lent* 2025 +



Daily Mass  
8:00 am

Eucharistic Adoration  
Thursdays 3:00 - 7:00 pm

Eucharistic Blessing &  
Evening Prayer  
Thursdays 7:00 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 2025**

Fridays 8:30 am  
(following 8:00 am Mass)

Fridays 7:00 pm

Sundays 9:15 am

**LENT IS A GOD-GIVEN TIME  
TO REFOCUS OUR HEARTS  
AND REVIVE OUR LOVE OF THE  
LORD AND ONE ANOTHER.**

**MAGNIFICAT<sup>®</sup>**



Presented in a day-by-day format, the  
MAGNIFICAT Lenten Companion Mobile App,  
in both iOS and Android formats includes

- Inspiring daily Lenten reflections by gifted Catholic writers and faith-filled essays
  - Lenten Penance Service
- Meditations for the Way of the Cross
  - A treasury of spiritual insights

**Mobile app-exclusive bonus features:**

- Morning and evening prayers,  
inspired by the Liturgy of the Hours
- Readings and prayers of each daily Mass and a  
selection of audio hymns to enjoy

*By spending a few moments meditating on the  
inspiring daily reflections and the short prayers that  
follow them, you will deepen your relationship with  
Jesus, his Blessed Mother, and his Church.*

*Let the profound yet practical insights you will find  
in this little spiritual treasury focus your spiritual life,  
filling it with new conviction and purpose.*

Also available in Kindle, Kobo and Nook.

Liturgical source: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops & ICEL



# OUR PARISH STEWARDSHIP

## SUNDAY, MARCH 2, 2025

		<b>2024</b>	<b>BUDGET</b>
Envelope & In Pew Giving:	\$8,259	\$ 8,363	\$ 7,900
Online Giving via Faith Direct:	4,930	\$ 5,017	\$5,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$13,189</b>	<b>\$ 13,380</b>	<b>\$12,900</b>

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

## FIRST COMMUNION OUTFITS NEEDED

The First Communion Day of our child is a very special occasion – a day to be celebrated and always remembered!

There are several families in our community, and many just beyond our community, who cannot afford to purchase a Communion outfit for their child. Please help to make another child's First Communion Day one that will be cherished by donating used or new Communion dresses, suits, shirts, ties, head pieces or shoes.

We have set aside ONE DAY when donations will be received: Saturday, March 22nd from 10AM to 2PM at St. John's Parish Center (or call Kathy at 201-666-4185). Please bring all donations clean, on hangers, and covered in plastic.

Monetary donations will also be accepted. If you or anyone that you know may need an outfit, please contact Kathy. Thank you so very much!

## WOULD YOU LIKE TO MEMORIALIZE THE 2025 PASCHAL CANDLE?

The Paschal Candle signifies the light of Christ and will be lit for the first time at the Easter Vigil. It will adorn our sanctuary throughout the year. If you are interested in underwriting the cost of the candle in memory of a loved one, please email Jennifer Cannon at [jencannon@stjohnhillsdale.com](mailto:jencannon@stjohnhillsdale.com) or call 201-664-3131. Thank you!

## KNIGHTS of COLUMBUS / VALLEY CHARITIES TO HOST SUNDAY FISH FRY

Valley Charities Inc. and the K of C St. Thomas More Council 2188 will host a Fish Fry on Sunday, March 23, 2025 at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 40 Crest Street, Westwood, NJ 07675.

Doors will open at 2:00PM. The MENU includes: Fried fish, French fries, Cole slaw, Mac & cheese, Cornbread, Pickles, Tartar Sauce, Condiments, Coffee/tea/soda and Dessert. PASTA AVAILABLE. Cash Bar. Cost: \$20.00pp. Couples over 65-\$35.00. Children 12 and under-\$15.00. For reservations contact Frank Mariconti, Sr. at 551-579-1123 or [fms12250@aol.com](mailto:fms12250@aol.com) daily between 4PM and 8PM. Make checks payable to Valley Charities. Money raised will be used to provide scholarship support.



## ST. JOHN'S SPORTS ASSOCIATION SPRING TRACK & FIELD REGISTRATION OPEN

Open to boys and girls in grades K - 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. The season starts in mid March and ends in early June. The registration fee is \$95, plus jersey. Registration is open until March 9 or when full.

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

**"LENT IS A GOOD TIME  
FOR SACRIFICING.  
LET US DENY OURSELVES  
SOMETHING EVERY DAY  
TO HELP OTHERS."**

— POPE FRANCIS