

SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

69 VALLEY STREET, HILLSDALE NJ 07642 • STJOHNHILLSDALE.ORG

First Sunday of Advent



NOVEMBER 30, 2025

*So too, you also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come.
— Matthew 24:44*

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
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

First Sunday of Advent • November 30, 2025

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

On this First Sunday of Advent, we have gathered at the right place to “await” and celebrate - we have come to our Saint John the Baptist Spiritual Home. There are three spiritual faith-filled giants of the very last months and years of the era called B.C. – before Christ: Our Heavenly Mother and Mother of Jesus - Blessed Virgin Mary, Saint Joseph, and our great patron, Saint John the Baptist. It was John who humbly but resolutely declared that he came into the world to prepare the way for the Messiah and His might and splendor will be so great that he is not even worthy to “stoop down and untie His sandals” (Mark 1:7).

While Mary is the “par excellence” example of the Christian longing and awaiting the birth of the Messiah, and we will celebrate her Immaculate Conception on December 8, Saint Joseph provided, what we would call in our modern language “the logistics” for all that needed to be taken care of prior to the birth of Christ so that both Mary and her expected baby would always be guarded and protected. When Pope Francis in the late part of 2020 declared the period in the life of the Church between the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception in 2020 (December 8, 2020) and the same Solemnity in 2021 as the Year of Saint Joseph, he particularly highlighted this significant mission of Saint Joseph - the protector of Christ, Mary, the Church, and also of each and every one of us. Saint Joseph always, as the Pope reminded us, fulfills this noble mission discreetly, humbly and silently, but with an unfailing presence and utter fidelity, in good times and bad, even when he finds it hard to understand. He is there at every moment with loving care. In the Gospels he is portrayed as a strong and courageous man who is awaiting the birth of the Lord and then always protects him. In his boundless love and tenderness Saint Joseph demonstrates his greatness.

As we begin our Advent journey, let us all pray that through the intercessions of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Saint Joseph and John the Baptist, it will truly become a blessed period in our lives. May these three spiritual giants who are such wonderful examples of “waiting for the Messiah” and “preparing the way for the Lord,” intercede for us as we await, pray and search, asking together: What am I waiting for? What, at this moment of my life, does my heart long for? What are we waiting for together? What unites our aspirations - what brings them together? May these questions continue to lead us to the faith and joy filled rediscoveries of our Lord and our Catholic faith.

— Fr. Peter

Mass Intentions

*We remember our loved ones
and community*

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29

5:00 PM Cheryl Alonso

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30

8:00 AM John Andrew Henry

10:00 AM Madeline & Edward
Wysocki

12:00 PM Lois Galligan

MONDAY, DECEMBER 1

8:00 AM Bobby Mackie

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2

8:00 AM Chuck Roedel

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3

8:00 AM Teresita Kasilag

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4

8:00 AM Margaret Datz

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5

8:00 AM James Adamo

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6

8:00 AM People of the Parish

5:00 PM Judy Hammett

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

8:00 AM People of the Parish

10:00 AM Androni Ki Kolovou

12:00 PM Dianne Tamburro

Prayers for Healing and Peace:

Michael Delehanty, Maricarmen Senande, Dash Richards, Theresa Gorman, Rosalind Campos, Pamela Osbourne, Mark Miller, Joe Wolfe, James Carbone, Ramona Suarez-Rose, Joe Seymour, Kim Costa, Rose Lyons, Thomas Tobin, Anthony K., Peter Spaccarotella, Frank Angiolelli, Raymond Breitenbach

Remembering Those Who Have Passed:

Doris Wulff, Diane Barbera

The **Votive Candle** burns in memory of **MARGARET DATZ** at the request of Marie & Jamie Rocco.

A PIZZA NIGHT & TAX FRIENDLY CHARITABLE GIVING



Join us for a Pizza Night (some great desserts) AND a discussion regarding the new tax legislation, just signed into law this past July, as it relates to important changes made to the tax code and the deductibility of charitable gifts.

**Wednesday, December 3, 2025
at 6:30PM in the Parish Center**

One of our parishioners, Richard Walsh, who is a retired Certified Financial Planner, will lead this informative discussion and present tax planning and charitable giving strategies now available under the new tax law, particularly for individuals aged 70 and older.

Please let us know if you are planning to join us by contacting Jennifer at the Rectory by calling 201-664-3131x114 or by emailing jencannon@stjohnhillsdale.com.



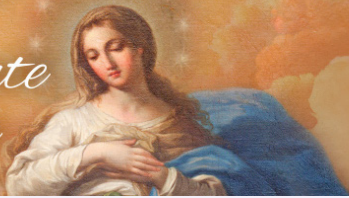
The hope of Christians is turned to the future but remains firmly rooted in an event of the past, the birth of our Redeemer

Advent is a very evocative religious season because it is interwoven with hope and spiritual expectation: every time the Christian community prepares to commemorate the Redeemer's birth, it feels a quiver of joy which to a certain extent it communicates to the whole of society. In Advent, Christians relive a dual impulse of the spirit: on the one hand, they raise their eyes toward the final destination of their pilgrimage through history, which is the glorious return of the Lord Jesus; on the other, remembering with emotion his birth in Bethlehem, they kneel before the Crib. The hope of Christians is turned to the future but remains firmly rooted in an event of the past. In the fullness of time, the Son of God was born of the Virgin Mary: "Born of a woman, born under the law", as the Apostle Paul writes (Gal 4:4).

Pope Benedict XVI, Reflection during the Prayer of Angelus, Vatican, 27 November, 2005

SOLEMNITY OF THE

*Immaculate
Conception*



The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Monday December 8, is a **HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION.**

**OUR MASS SCHEDULE IS
8:00 AM, 12:00 PM & 7:00 PM**

Please also know that the **PARISH OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED** on that day. Thank you.

Following the star to Bethlehem

A live nativity and our journey to Jesus

A live nativity and our journey to Jesus Sunday, December 7, 1pm - 4pm. Please join St. John's Parish & St. John's Academy after Sunday 12:00 Mass for a fun celebration! Activities include: Saint Nicholas, Live Nativity with Petting Zoo, hot chocolate, s'mores, crafts, carols & food! All are welcome!

JOIN US IN CELEBRATING OUR HEAVENLY MOTHER

The Blessed Virgin Mary, in her Immaculate Conception and as Our Lady of Guadalupe



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2025

4:10pm - Prayer & Rosary led by our Rosary Society

4:30pm - Mariachi Sones Songs & Praises

5:00 pm - Holy Mass

6:00 pm - "a little party" in honor of our Mother Mary

OUR PARISH STEWARDSHIP

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday it was necessary to submit our bulletin to the printing company by Friday, November 21. The November 23 collection information will be included in the 2nd Sunday of Advent's bulletin. Thank you for your support and generosity.

As always your financial support enables our parish home to continue the mission of the Church in these difficult times. Thank you and God bless you!

You & your family are invited
for a special Holiday memorial service

A TREE OF REMEMBRANCE DEDICATION

Sponsored by Becker Funeral Home

at Westwood Elks Club

523 Kinderkamack Road, Westwood

Wed., December 3, 2025 @ 7:00pm

Doors open at 6:30pm for ornament preparation.

Light refreshments will be provided.

RSVP by Dec 2nd : 201-664-0292

GIVING TREES AT ST. JOHN'S

St. John's Human Concerns Committee is diligently working to make the holidays a joyous time for those in need, especially the children. A "Giving Tree" has been placed at each door of the church. On the trees are suggestions for gift cards. If you are able, we ask that you donate one of these cards to help the needy. Checks are also appreciated. We ask that all gifts be placed in the Sunday collection basket, or brought to the Rectory Office by December 18.

We thank you in advance for your kindness and generosity.



Visit [WeAreHisWitnesses.org](https://www.WeAreHisWitnesses.org)
for updates, timelines and resources.

**A VERY
BROADWAY
Christmas**

**TICKETS
AVAILABLE NOW!**

December 14, 2025 - 4:00pm

To purchase tickets, scan the QR code
above with your phone or visit:
ChristmasConcert.StJohnHillsdale.org

HILLSDALE BSA TROOP 108 2025 WREATH SALE

The Scouts will be selling fresh evergreen wreaths and centerpieces after all Masses this weekend (Nov. 29 & 30). Prices are: \$35 for a 22" wreath, \$45 for a 28" wreath, \$25 for a 12" centerpiece, and \$25 for a 10" tall Holiday Reindeer Set.



"Advent is synonymous with hope, not the vain waiting for a faceless god, but concrete and certain trust in the return of Him who has already visited us." — St. John Paul II (1920 - 2005)