

SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

69 VALLEY STREET, HILLSDALE NJ 07642 • STJOHNHILLSDALE.ORG



MAY 31, 2026

THE SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

*The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.— 2 Corinthians 13:13*

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

The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity — May 31, 2026

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

After the Easter Season which we concluded this past weekend with the celebrations of Pentecost, all Catholics throughout the world celebrate three Solemnities of the Lord: Trinity Sunday, which we celebrate this weekend; *Corpus Christi*, or Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, which will be celebrated next Sunday; and finally, on Friday, June 12, 2026, the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

In our Catholic tradition and liturgical life, Solemnities are the highest degree liturgical celebrations and feast days reserved for the most important mysteries of faith. Although the feast days of various saints don't enjoy the liturgical rank of a Solemnity, our parish family can be proud of the fact that due to the precious role of Saint John the Baptist in the early ministry of the Lord and in the mystery of salvation, the annual feast day honoring his birth – celebrated in our Catholic tradition every year on June 24 – is also a Solemnity. In our liturgical celebrations all Solemnities have the same essential elements as a Sunday Mass, including three Scripture readings. The Gloria and Creed are sung or recited even during the times when a particular Solemnity occurs during Advent or Lent.

The Solemnity of the Holy Trinity every year presents a wonderful challenge and invitation to all of us – to gather and reflect on one of the greatest mysteries of our faith – one God, in three Persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. At the same time even a simple sign of the cross, or a blessing, which every one of us has done or received countless times in our lives – “In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.” – reminds us that our every word, thought and action should be guided and blessed by the Holy Trinity. May He, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit bless you, all your loved ones, and our dear parish, today, this coming week, and always.

— Fr. Peter

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, Eileen Stasiunis, Christina Perlis, Maria Spaccarotella

Remembering Those Who Have Passed:

Nancy Taylor, Amalia Jens, Bernard Cullen, Leona Meyer

Mass Intentions

*We remember our loved ones
and community*

SATURDAY, MAY 30

5:00 PM Matthew Cohen

SUNDAY, MAY 31

8:00 AM Deacon Bob Thomann

10:00 AM Eleanor Bellas

12:00 PM Nicola Gasparro
(3rd Anniversary)

MONDAY, JUNE 1

8:00 AM Robert Eiler, Sr.

TUESDAY, JUNE 2

8:00 AM Amalia Jens

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3

8:00 AM Anne Ciliberti
(3rd Anniversary)

THURSDAY, JUNE 4

8:00 AM Joan Kilkenny

FRIDAY, JUNE 5

8:00 AM Fr. Peter Smutelovic
(31st Anniversary of
Ordination)

SATURDAY, JUNE 6

8:00 AM People of the Parish

5:00 PM John Angermeyer

SUNDAY, JUNE 7

8:00 AM William Lord
(24th Anniversary)

10:00 AM Jack Armstrong

12:00 PM Caroline Bisi
(Living)

Prayer to the Holy Trinity

by Saint Francis de Sales (1567-1622 A.D.)

*I vow and consecrate to God
all that is in me:
my memory and my actions
to God the Father;
my understanding and my words
to God the Son;
my will and my thoughts
to God the Holy Spirit.*

*I consecrate my heart, my body,
my tongue, my senses and all my sorrows
to the sacred Humanity of Jesus Christ,
who consented to be betrayed
into the hands of wicked men
and to suffer the torment of the Cross for me.*



**Three Persons who are one God
because the Father is love,
the Son is love, the Spirit is love.**

Today we contemplate the Most Holy Trinity as Jesus introduced us to it. He revealed to us that God is love “not in the oneness of a single Person, but in the Trinity of one substance.” He is the Creator and merciful Father; he is the Only-Begotten Son, eternal Wisdom incarnate, who died and rose for us; he is the Holy Spirit who moves all things, cosmos and history, toward their final, full recapitulation. Three Persons who are one God because the Father is love, the Son is love, the Spirit is love. God is wholly and only love, the purest, infinite and eternal love. He does not live in splendid solitude but rather is an inexhaustible source of life that is ceaselessly given and communicated. All things derive from love, aspire to love and move impelled by love, though naturally with varying degrees of awareness and freedom. “O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!” (Ps 8: 1) the Psalmist exclaims. In speaking of the “name”, the Bible refers to God himself, his truest identity. It is an identity that shines upon the whole of Creation, in which all beings for the very fact that they exist and because of the “fabric” of which they are made point to a transcendent Principle, to eternal and infinite Life which is given, in a word, to Love.

Pope Benedict XVI, Angelus Prayer, Vatican, June 7, 2009

AN INVITATION TO PRAYER



Join us every **Thursday from 3:00 – 6:00 PM** for Eucharistic Adoration.

We gather for **Benediction & Community Prayer** just before **6:00 PM** in the church.

Daily Mass is celebrated each morning at **8:00 AM**.

The Blessed Mother delights in the presence of her children. Her doors are open **365 days a year** — come in, stay awhile, say a pray, and light a candle in hope and love.



Marking the 135th anniversary of the Encyclical Letter *Rerum Novarum* of Pope Leo XIII, issued on May 15, 1891, Pope Leo XIV signed on May 15, 2026 and releases on May 25, 2026, his first Encyclical Letter, entitled '*Magnifica humanitas: On Safeguarding the Human Person in the Time of Artificial Intelligence.*' He appeals for the safeguarding of humanity, promotion of truth, dignity of work, social justice, and peace.



PRESENTATION AND PROMULGATION OF THE ENCYCLICAL LETTER

MAGNIFICA HUMANITAS

ADDRESS OF POPE LEO XIV

Vatican's Synod Hall

May 25, 2026

Dear brothers and sisters,

I want to thank all of you for being here today, for your interest. I sincerely thank those who have organized this meeting today, and especially those who shared their competence and experience in the different reflections that we have listened to.

In a special way I would like to thank Mr Olah for accepting our invitation. In turn, in the name of the Church, I accept your invitation to walk together, to listen and to speak and together to find the way for humanity, in this time of artificial intelligence

What a great sign of hope that, with our differences, we can listen to one another. This interchange clearly highlights the gravity of the moment, as well as confidence that, together, we can discern the major questions of our time, and so, the future of humanity.

At key moments in history, the Church is called to decipher the “new things” in the light of the Gospel and the dignity of the human being. 135 years ago, my venerable predecessor Leo XIII observed the situation of factory workers, their families uprooted and new forms of poverty generated by rapid industrial transformation. He understood that the Church could not remain distant. Within an epochal turning point menacing human dignity, the encyclical *Rerum Novarum* spoke its evangelical and social word about “new things” underway.

Today we find ourselves facing a transformation of similar magnitude, with perhaps even greater consequences. Artificial intelligence already touches many areas of our lives and affects decisions that shape human coexistence. It is also dramatically changing how war is waged.

Like the earlier “Leo”, I feel entrusted to look upon another huge transformation with eyes of faith, with lucidity of reason, with openness to mystery, and with cries of the poor and the earth resounding in my heart.

Magnifica Humanitas was born from listening like Leo XIII did. I have listened to scientists and engineers who work with sincere enthusiasm on technologies capable of alleviating immense suffering; to political leaders and public officials who have perseveringly sought just rules; to parents and teachers who are deeply concerned for the future of younger generations.

Other, very troubling voices have also reached me about increasingly autonomous weapons systems practically beyond any human reach to govern them effectively. I hear very troubling accounts of algorithms that can block access to healthcare, employment and security on the basis of data tainted by prejudice and injustice. And I have heard the silence of those who have no voice when decisions are made - decisions likely to generate new forms of exclusion and suffering.

From this listening matured a disturbing conviction expressed in *Magnifica Humanitas*: artificial intelligence needs to be disarmed. The word is strong, I know, but deliberately chosen because this moment needs words capable of attracting attention, awakening consciences and indicating paths forward for humanity.

The Church has long been working for nuclear disarmament, aware that every great technical power can affect people’s lives and so must be accompanied by adequate moral discernment and public control. Nuclear disarmament remains a service to peace and the dignity of the human family.

In a similar sense, artificial intelligence now demands to be “disarmed,” freed from logics that turn it into an instrument of domination, exclusion and death. Like nuclear energy, it must be at the service of all and of the common good. Decisions about technology must never be separated from conscience and responsibility. “Let us not sleep as others do,” admonished the Apostle Paul, “but let us keep awake” (1 Thess 5:6). Such vigilance is necessary today. Peace, not merely the absence of war, is justice at work. But when technology weakens our critical sense, peace itself is at risk.

Disarming, however, is not enough. We must build.

The word “build” reminds me of my years as a missionary in Peru. In 2017, torrential rains and floods struck the north of the country: many families saw their homes swallowed by mud, and many roads, too. There I learned that rebuilding does not mean simply replacing what has been destroyed. It means repairing bonds, restoring trust, and reawakening hope in the future. Moreover, no one rebuilds alone.

In *Magnifica Humanitas*, I recall the biblical prophet Nehemiah. Before the ruined walls of Jerusalem, he gathers discouraged people to bring about rebirth. The image of walls does not legitimize closures or divisions, but invites each and everyone to do their part. Brick by brick, a more just coexistence takes shape, capable of safeguarding the dignity of all. Nehemiah’s effort speaks to our time. Artificial intelligence can be a construction site of history from within a horizon of communion, in which technical progress learns to serve human life.

“Let each builder choose with care how to build” (1 Cor 3:10) warns St. Paul. He does not fear the worksite; rather, he warns against building without solid foundations. Let’s not fear artificial intelligence, but constantly keep the question of the human in play. We cannot be careless with our most powerful technical instruments.

True development, St Paul VI, always concerns “each man and the whole man.” “Each” means that no person can be left at the margins of digital transformation. “Whole” means that no one can be reduced to productivity, to cognitive performance, or to mere data. The person bears within him- or her-self a freedom, an interiority and a vocation to love and worship that no machine can replace or block.

Only with such an integral vision can artificial intelligence be directed toward the common good. Only together — those who design systems and those affected by them, richer countries and poorer ones, institutions and individuals, power centers and peripheries — will we be able to build a future, not for a privileged few, but for the entire human family.

This is the civilization of love of which St Paul VI spoke and which St John Paul II so forcefully proclaimed as a horizon to seek together. It is not a naïve dream. It is a direction. It is the path that Jesus Christ opens within history.

For this reason, the Church wishes, with humility and frankness, to be part of conversations on artificial intelligence. We do not possess technical answers, nor do we seek to displace those with expertise. But we bring a wisdom concerning the

human that our present time desperately needs: every person is unique and irreplaceable, a free and intelligent subject with a conscience, capable of seeking God, serving one another, caring for our common home.

I therefore invite all members of the Church and of the human family: let us learn to listen to one another, face the present challenges with courage, and cooperate in building a more human and fraternal society.

From this launch of *Magnifica Humanitas*, please take with you a commitment to stay awake and, as “artisans of hope”, to keep on building the worksite of our time. May the Spirit of the Risen Lord Jesus sustain our work together.

I entrust each of you to our Mother Mary. Her *Magnificat* sings of the greatness of God who uplifts the lowly. May she teach us to recognize the true greatness of every man and every woman in loving and serving. May the Lord make fruitful the great enterprise that today we entrust to his grace, letting the civilization of love mature in history.

Upon all of you I heartily invoke God’s blessing.

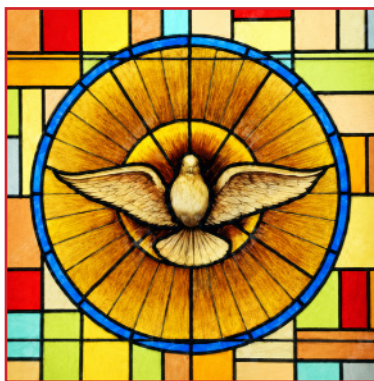
Thank you very much.

Leo P.P. XIV



THE HOLY SEE

What Are the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit?

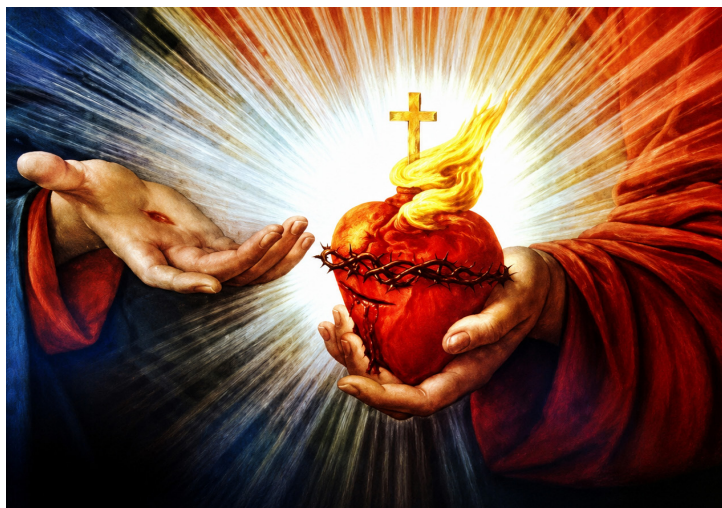


The Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to Catholic Tradition, are **wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of God**. The standard interpretation has been the one that St. Thomas Aquinas worked out in the thirteenth century in his *Summa Theologiae*:

- **Wisdom** is both the knowledge of and judgment about “divine things” and the ability to judge and direct human affairs according to divine truth.
- **Understanding** is penetrating insight into the very heart of things, especially those higher truths that are necessary for our eternal salvation—in effect, the ability to “see” God.
- **Counsel** allows a man to be directed by God in matters necessary for his salvation.
- **Fortitude** denotes a firmness of mind in doing good and in avoiding evil, particularly when it is difficult or dangerous to do so, and the confidence to overcome all obstacles, even deadly ones, by virtue of the assurance of everlasting life.
- **Knowledge** is the ability to judge correctly about matters of faith and right action, so as to never wander from the straight path of justice.
- **Piety** is, principally, revering God with filial affection, paying worship and duty to God, paying due duty to all men on account of their relationship to God, and honoring the saints and not contradicting Scripture. The Latin word *pietas* denotes the reverence that we give to our father and to our country; since God is the Father of all, the worship of God is also called piety.
- **Fear of God** is, in this context, “filial” or chaste fear whereby we revere God and avoid separating ourselves from him—as opposed to “servile” fear, whereby we fear punishment.

These are heroic character traits that Jesus Christ alone possesses in their plenitude but that he freely shares with the members of his mystical body (i.e., his Church). These traits are infused into every Christian as a permanent endowment at his baptism, nurtured by the practice of the seven virtues, and sealed in the sacrament of confirmation. They are also known as the sanctifying gifts of the Spirit, because they serve the purpose of rendering their recipients docile to the promptings of the Holy Spirit in their lives, helping them to grow in holiness and making them fit for heaven.

**THE CONSECRATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**
to the SACRED HEART OF JESUS
in our Saint John the Baptist Parish



SATURDAY
JUNE 13, 2026
5:00 PM MASS

SUNDAY
JUNE 14, 2026
8:00 AM, 10:00AM,
12:00 NOON MASSES



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.

**PRAYER TO THE
SACRED HEART OF JESUS**

On the Occasion of the U.S. Bishops Consecrating the United States of America to the Sacred Heart of Jesus

O Most Sacred Heart of Jesus:
You know the longings of our hearts, and you desire that we enjoy friendship with you.

From your pierced side, you have poured out the wellspring of life, for which we thirst.

Your heart burns with a love for all people to return to a right relationship with you.

We celebrate the abundant gifts you have given this nation, founded on the self-evident truths that our Creator has endowed all people with the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

We make reparation for the offenses against you and against human dignity that have taken place in this nation.

May our hearts be united to yours, so that our families and communities enjoy peace and happiness; may broken relationships be reconciled, injustices repaired, and the wounds of our land be healed.

May your holy Catholic Church serve as a sign, pointing all people to your infinite love.

O Desire of Nations and Center of History, we ask you to bless these United States of America.

Who live and reign with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us!
Immaculate Heart of Mary, pray for us!

OUR PARISH STEWARDSHIP

SUNDAY, MAY 24, 2026

		2025	BUDGET
Envelope & In Pew Giving:	\$5,469	\$ 5,416	\$ 7,900
Online Giving via ParishSOFT:	5,284	\$ 4,950	\$ 5,000
TOTAL	\$10,753	\$ 10,366	\$12,900

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



PLEASE HELP US REACH OUR GOAL!

So far we have received \$97,504 in pledges and donations for the 2026 Archdiocesan Annual Appeal. We are very grateful to the 210 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.

BAKE SALE - THIS WEEKEND: EAGLE SERVICE PROJECT FUNDRAISER

Justin Baker is a Life Scout with Troop 108 in Hillsdale and a member of St. John's Church. He currently serves as an usher at the Sunday 10:00 AM Mass.

As part of his journey toward earning the rank of Eagle Scout, Justin has been planning his Eagle Scout service project, the beneficiary of which is The Unbridled Heroes Project in Allendale, a veteran-owned nonprofit organization. The organization partners with local therapists to provide wild mustangs in a safe environment for therapeutic use by veterans and members of the public. Justin's project will involve replacing a line fence that runs the width of the horses' daytime enclosure.

This weekend, Justin will be outside after all Masses selling baked goods to help raise funds for his project. Any support you can offer is greatly appreciated. Thank you.



WeAreHisWitnesses.org
for updates, timelines
and resources.

*“Believe that He loves you.
He wants to help you Himself in the
struggles which you must undergo.
Believe in His Love, His exceeding Love.”
Saint Elizabeth of the Trinity (1880-1906 A.D.)*