

SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

69 VALLEY STREET, HILLSDALE NJ 07642 • STJOHNHILLSDALE.ORG



“I am the light of the world. ✦✦ He who follows me does not walk in the darkness, ✦ but will have the light of life.” ✦✦✦
John 8:12

REGISTER
RENEW
GROW



APRIL 21, 2024

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

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
Sara Armstrong, We Are Young Choir Leader
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,

As we gather today and celebrate the Fourth Sunday of Easter, we live in our parish family a blessed and spiritually rewarding period during which many of our young brothers and sisters have already received or will receive two very special Sacraments of the Church - the Sacrament of Eucharist and the Sacrament of Confirmation. We pray for our young brothers and sisters, as well as their dear parents, siblings, and families. May they never neglect or forget this special friendship with Jesus. May our children and young people continue to inspire us through their faith and youthful spirit.

We call ourselves Christians and Catholics, as our brothers and sisters have done throughout two thousand years since our Savior's life and resurrection, because we have a life-giving relationship with Christ. This friendship with Him spiritually and humanly sustains us and already here on earth allows us to foretaste His boundless and never-ending love. I often remember vividly one of the reflections of Pope Francis where he described as "spiritually dangerous" the situations when - for whatever reasons - we are separated from the life-giving blessings and graces of the Sacraments. It is "dangerous" not to participate regularly in the life of the Church and not to receive the Sacraments, he said, because people could start living their relationship with God "for just myself, detached from the people of God." One's relationship with Jesus "is intimate, it is personal, but it is lived in a community." (cf. Pope Francis, April 17, 2020)

Please, find a moment this week to re-register as members of our parish community in our 2024 Register-Renew-Grow initiative. Many of our parish records regarding our parishioners are outdated and we need to address this situation, with urgency. You will find more information on the following page of our bulletin. Also, my profound "Thank You" to all of you who have already responded to our request for assistance to those in need in our Archdiocese of Newark, through our 2024 Annual Appeal. Let us all join our efforts and our God-given resources in this important charitable initiative. Among those who will benefit from our generosity are children, young people, adults, and elderly who need our human concern and assistance. Thank you for your support and all your kindness, and the goodness of your hearts. I pray for each one of you, as well as for all your loved ones. And, as always, I humbly ask you to pray for me and for all those who serve and minister to you in our wonderful Parish Family.

-Fr. Peter

SENDING HEALING PRAYERS TO:

Victoria Davis, John Luke Bechtold, Angela Visentini, Sonia Spagnoli, Lucas Kelly, Al Spiegel, Sr., Debbie Kral, Michelle Mangano, Martin Filon, John Bibby, Michael McKay, James Carbone, Mary Schubert, Carole Ann Bersano, Tim Mangano, Lourdes Munson, Jim Lyons, Maxine Fleming, Joanne Hughes, Christine Mulcahy, Carolyn Graham

REMEMBERING THOSE WHO HAVE PASSED:

Patrick McManus, Elaine Meyer, Gerard Carty, Norah Clohessy, Antonio Vitale

Mass Intentions

SATURDAY, APRIL 20

5:00 PM Ellen & Daniel Caulfield

SUNDAY, APRIL 21

8:00 AM Norma Ketler

10:00 AM Dolores Kruesch

12:00 PM Charlie Curtin

MONDAY, APRIL 22

8:00 AM Murray & O'Regan Families

TUESDAY, APRIL 23

8:00 AM Bob Donfield, Sr.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24

8:00 AM Lena Doran

THURSDAY, APRIL 25

8:00 AM Joseph Coyle

FRIDAY, APRIL 26

8:00 AM Ernestina Gonzalez

SATURDAY, APRIL 27

8:00 AM James Markham

5:00 PM Gerard Caporino

SUNDAY, APRIL 28

8:00 AM Elizabeth Frances Burke

10:00 AM Mary Toohey

12:00 PM B.W. Michael Choo

THE VOTIVE CANDLE BURNS
IN MEMORY OF

SOPHIE KUDLA

AT THE REQUEST OF
ERIC & SUSAN DI GREGORIO

THE BREAD & WINE ARE GIVEN
IN MEMORY OF

CHARLES DONOHUE

AT THE REQUEST OF
ROSEMARY & PATRICK DeMARCO



REGISTER RENEW GROW

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
HILLSDALE, NJ



renew.stjohnhillsdale.org

Our Phase 1

Holy Thursday, March 28 - Pentecost, May 19, 2024

- I We have now launched our Register-Renew-Grow parish journey of updating all our parishioners' data and contact information, in the process of our parish's renewal and growth. Our secure website renew.stjohnhillsdale.org contains a renewal and registration form which is very easy to complete. For those who would rather fill out a paper renewal and registration form, those forms are now provided in our church's entrance and exit doors and areas.

- II We will reach out, via a personal letter to all our parishioners who have not been active in our parish during the past two years, who continue to receive, at our parish's expense, donation envelopes and who have not made any (even \$1) contribution to the parish community during these past two years. Through our internal review, we have identified a very large number of registered individual parishioners and families who are in this category.



To Jesus, our Friend and Redeemer &



To the Parish and Community We



OUR *Easter Season* 2024

A Prayer for Life

by Saint John Paul II

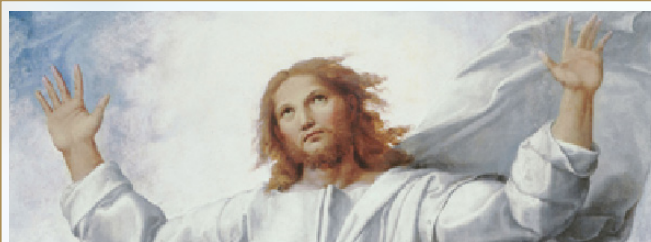
Mother of the living,
to you do we entrust the cause of life.

Look down, O Mother, upon the vast numbers of babies not allowed to be born, of the poor whose lives are made difficult, of men and women who are victims of brutal violence, of the elderly and the sick killed by indifference or out of misguided mercy.

Grant that all who believe in your Son may proclaim the Gospel of life with honesty and love to the people of our time.

Obtain for them the grace to accept that Gospel as a gift ever new, the joy of celebrating it with gratitude throughout their lives and the courage to bear witness to it resolutely, in order to build, together with all people of good will, the civilization of truth and love, to the praise and glory of God, the Creator and lover of life.

From Pope John Paul II's 1995 encyclical, "The Gospel of Life"



It is the Risen Lord who Rolls Away a Great Stone which Blocks the Door of our Hearts

The women go to the tomb at daybreak, yet they still feel the darkness of night. The tears of Good Friday are not yet dried; they are grief-stricken, overwhelmed by the sense that all has been said and done. A stone has sealed the fate of Jesus. They are concerned about that stone, for they wonder: "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" (Mk 16:3). Yet once they arrive, they are taken aback when they see the amazing power of the Easter event: "When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back" (Mk 16:4).

Who will roll away the stone from the tomb? That stone marked the end of Jesus' story, now buried in the night of death. He, the life that came into the world, had been killed. He, who proclaimed the merciful love of the Father, had met with no mercy. That stone, an overwhelming obstacle, symbolized what the women felt in their hearts. It represented the end of their hopes, now dashed by the obscure and sorrowful mystery that put an end to their dreams.

Brothers and sisters, it can also be that way with us. There are times when we may feel that a great stone blocks the door of our hearts, stifling life, extinguishing hope, imprisoning us in the tomb of our fears and regrets, and standing in the way of joy and hope. We encounter such "tombstones" on our journey through life in all the experiences and situations that rob us of enthusiasm and of the strength to persevere. We encounter them at times of sorrow: in the emptiness left by the death of our loved ones; we encounter them in the failures and fears that hold us back from accomplishing the good we mean to do. [...] Yet the same women who bore this darkness in their hearts tell us something quite extraordinary. *When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back.* This is the Pasch of Christ, the revelation of God's power: the victory of life over death, the triumph of light over darkness, the rebirth of hope amid the ruins of failure. It is the Lord, the God of the impossible, who rolled away the stone forever. Even now, he opens our hearts, so that hope may be born ever anew. We too, then, should "look up" to him.

Pope Francis, Easter Vigil Homily, Vatican, March 30, 2024

EARTH DAY IS APRIL 22!



Healing Our Throwaway Culture:
Focus on Plastics



April 22 marks the **54th anniversary of Earth Day**, an annual event to demonstrate support for environmental protection. Many faith communities have incorporated the day into their annual calendars for awareness and action. The Catholic Climate Covenant is coordinating the efforts in the United States to address the issues presented in Pope Francis' encyclical: *Laudato Si' - On Care for our Common Home*. Visit: www.catholicclimatecovenant.org for additional resources and information.

OUR *Easter Season* 2024



EASTER SEASON WEEKLY

Devotions

Daily Mass

8:00 am

Eucharistic Adoration

Thursdays 3:00 - 6:00 pm

Church is Open Daily

7:00 am - 7:00 pm

THE CATHOLIC TABLE

FINDING JOY WHERE FAITH AND FOOD MEET

Faith Video & Discussion Study



It's unavoidable. We all must eat. But as Catholics, we know that how we eat matters as much as what we eat. Through this video and discussion series, learn how food is a sign of God's love and a foretaste of the Eucharist.

In The Catholic Table video series, you'll discover what the Church teaches about creation, the body, feasting, fasting, the Eucharist—and so much more.

Thursdays
April 18 - May 23*
7:30 - 9:00pm

For more information, please contact:

Olivia Carbonaro
carbono819@gmail.com
201.248.3391

Linda Parisi
lppeanuts@msn.com
201.906.1041

*The last session on May 23 will run
6:30 - 8:30pm for a special gathering.

"WE ARE YOUNG" CHOIR

ALL PRIMARY & MIDDLE SCHOOL
FRIENDS OF JESUS ARE INVITED!

9:15 AM REHEARSAL
10:00 AM MASS

APRIL 28
MAY 12 & MAY 19
JUNE 2 & JUNE 16

Contact Sara Armstrong to sign up
or with any questions:
sarmstrong@sj-hillsdale.org

OUR PARISH STEWARDSHIP

SUNDAY, APRIL 14, 2024

		2023	BUDGET
Envelope & In Pew Giving:	\$ 8,677	\$ 6,183	\$ 7,900
Online Giving via Faith Direct:	\$ 5,073	\$ 5,114	\$ 5,000
TOTAL	\$13,750	\$ 11,297	\$12,900

Our Easter collection to date is \$45,673, compared to last year \$ 42,330. Our budget is \$ 41,000. Over the next weeks we will provide you with a more complete report as additional donations are received.

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



Thank you for your support & personal sacrifices on behalf of our parish.
Please continue to generously support our spiritual home.

“Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.”

Saint Paul’s Letter to Galatians 6:2

DIAPER DRIVE AT ST. JOHN’S

The Respect Life Ministry is conducting its Annual Baby Diaper Drive April 28 - May 12! The proceeds will be given to New Hope, an outreach organization in Westwood which assists first time single mothers. New Hope is in desperate need of large size baby diapers. Your donations may be placed in the porta-cribs at the church entrances. Monetary donations will also be accepted. Thank you for your generosity, and may God bless you always.

HELPING HAND FOOD PANTRY

Can you help stock the shelves? While there is a need for a variety of food items, the following items are always needed:

Cake & brownie mixes, boxed potatoes, canned fruit, apple sauce, apple juice, ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise, bagged white rice, pancake mix, maple syrup, flour, sugar, oil, coffee, shelf stable milk, canned meats, pasta, meat sauce, chunky soup, peanut butter, jelly, cookies, crackers, shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, pump or bar hand soap, paper towels, facial tissues, toilet paper, diapers (sizes 5, 6 & 7), all types of cleaning products, laundry detergent. 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 which is located at the corner of Magnolia and Hillsdale Avenues - at the South entrance of Hillsdale United Methodist Church. THANK YOU!

www.helpinghandfoodpantry.com

ARCHDIOCESE of NEWARK ANNUAL 2024 APPEAL



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

May God bless you always for helping those less fortunate than ourselves. Let us make our annual goal together, as a family of faith. Every donation counts and every donation makes a big difference, as every donation demonstrates far beyond our local area the great spirit of Saint John the Baptist Parish!



**“Jesus is the Good Shepherd.
He seeks us out and
he stays near us even though
we are sinners, indeed,
because we are sinners.**

— Pope Francis