

SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

69 VALLEY STREET, HILLSDALE NJ 07642 • STJOHNHILLSDALE.ORG



SEPTEMBER 13, 2026

24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in compassion.

— Psalm 103:8

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

Donald Caputo, Director of Lifelong
Faith Formation
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

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

On this special weekend when our beloved country remembers the 25th Anniversary of the tragic events of September 11, 2001, we once again gather as the sons and daughters of our loving and eternal God, and as the members of Saint John the Baptist community of faith, in order to lift up our hearts and raise our voices in prayers and songs. We come together in order to be strengthened by the Word of God and the Eucharist. Thank you to all of you for joining us this weekend.

“Ground Zero” in New York City has for the past 25 years been not only a symbol of countless human tragedies and sorrows, but also a lighthouse of hope which constantly reminds us of the virtues of faith, love, charity, sacrifice, self-giving, justice, fortitude, patriotism and many others. In fact, both Pope Benedict (2005-2013), and Pope Francis (2013-2024), visited Ground Zero during their Apostolic Journeys to the United States. On April 20, 2008, Pope Benedict symbolically led our entire nation in prayer which we reprinted last weekend in our bulletin. In the closing part of this touching tribute to all those who have died, to their loved ones and to all who have dedicated their lives to the self-giving service to others, Pope Benedict touchingly called all of us “those whose lives were spared” and challenged us to live every day so that the lives lost on that day “may not have been lost in vain.” During an ecumenical gathering on September 25, 2015, Pope Francis described the former site of the Twin Towers “a place of death which became a place of life, a place of saved lives, a hymn to the triumph of life over the prophets of destruction and death, to goodness over evil, to reconciliation and unity over hatred and division.”

May our prayers, songs and remembrances of this weekend be our own “hymn to the triumph of life over the prophets of destruction and death, to goodness over evil, to reconciliation and unity over hatred and division.” May our loving Mother, the Immaculate Virgin Mary, whom we also honor as the Patroness of the United States of America, Saint Joseph her protector and most chaste spouse, and our heavenly patron, Saint John the Baptist, continue to accompany us and intercede for all of us.

— Fr. Peter

Mass Intentions

*We remember our loved ones
and community*

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

5:00 PM Maricarmen Senande

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

8:00 AM Timothy Buckley

10:00 AM Gregory Arthur
Harrison

12:00 PM Josephine Y. Choo
(Living)

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

8:00 AM Neil Donnelly

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

8:00 AM William Topka

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

8:00 AM Kathleen Kelly

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

8:00 AM William “Bill” A.
Sobchik

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

8:00 AM Eleanor Kirk

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

8:00 AM John Scorzello

5:00 PM Frances Delasey

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

8:00 AM Betty Mackie

10:00 AM Gregory Arthur
Harrison

12:00 PM Valentin Tarasenko
(5th Anniversary)

Prayers for Healing and Peace:

Kim Costa, Thomas Tobin, Anthony K., Jim Derbyshire, James Carbone, Terry Medino, Anita Lawrence, Ann Walsh, Elaine McBreen, Baby Rocco, Caroline Bisi, Baby Nellie, Liam Fanning, Ken McGlone, Eileen Stasiunis, Bruce Hawkinson, Walter Minx, Mary Lou Wilson, John Manning, Alex Rodriguez, Ruth Dell Valle, Linda Palumbo, Debbie Dalle Molle

Remembering Those Who Have Passed:

Melissa Baranski, Martin Filon, Debbie Kral, Maxine Fleming



World Day
for Grandparents
and the Elderly
2026

The sixth "World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly" is taking place in the United States on Sunday, September 13, 2026. The theme for 2026 was inspired by Isaiah 49:5: "I will never forget you."

Holy Father

Who watches over every person
Watch over me too when I am elderly.
You have revealed your name to me in Christ,
And You were not discouraged by my frailties.
You hold me tenderly in your hands,
And You caress my lines.
You will never forget me! (Is 49:15).
Grant that I may not fear my weakness;
Help me learn to love it
Just as You love it.
Help me learn to listen to it
Just as You listen to it.
Help me embrace it
Just as You have chosen it –
You who, though all-powerful,
clothed yourself in humility.
May growing old strip away all our pride
and all division
So that we may live these years united in You.
You will never forget us!

Amen.



I WILL NEVER FORGET YOU (IS 49:15)

Dear brothers and sisters,

Through the prophet Isaiah, the Lord promises that he will never forget any of us. He assures us that he has engraved our faces on the palms of his hands (cf. Is 49:16) and that his love is greater than a mother's love for her child (cf. Is 49:15). The prophet gives us a glimpse of an intimate and intense dialogue in which God addresses, in familiar terms, each person individually and the people as a whole. Even today, we can read these words as referring to each of us, and everyone can hear that "I will never forget you" spoken directly to them.

These are words that fill us with comfort and hope. They are the answer to an agonizing feeling that troubles the heart: "The Lord has forsaken me; my Lord has forgotten me" (Is 49:14). How often in Sacred Scripture, especially in the Psalms, does prayer spring from the despair of those who feel that their lives are of no interest to anyone and are being neglected! The painful feeling of being forgotten is, unfortunately, shared by many people, and among them are quite a few elderly people.

God's love, which forgets no one, offers itself as an act of justice and a response to the anonymity in which human life all too often ends up lost. The lives of many elderly people, in particular, seem to be covered by a veil that blurs the features of their faces and shrouds them in oblivion. This is what happens in homes where loneliness reigns and also in those care facilities where each person's uniqueness risks being reduced to a bed number or an illness.

The celebration of the World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly is an opportunity to rediscover that the Church is called to be a mother to all and that at any age it is always possible to recognize ourselves as sons and daughters of God. May this day, therefore, be an inspiration for everyone, especially the young, to revive the beautiful custom of visiting their grandparents, the elderly members of the family and even those who have no one to visit them. Bring them, through this message and your presence, the closeness and affection of the Pope. Ensure that the words of the prophet, "But I will never forget you," take the form of a tender and affectionate encounter.

Dear elderly brothers and sisters, I thank you for supporting me every day with your prayers, especially when you recite the Holy Rosary. I return this gratitude from the bottom of my heart and leave you with this prayer: may the Lord always renew us in faith, hope and love — He who never forgets us!

Excerpts from Pope Leo XIV's Message for the Sixth World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly, Feast of St Joachim and Anne, 26 July 2026.



Jesus, John the Baptist, Life & Lifelong Faith Formation

Five Questions to Donald Caputo,
our new Director of Lifelong Faith Formation

Donald, welcome among us! What are some of your first impressions of Saint John the Baptist Parish?

I certainly have to begin with my sincere thanks to the entire Saint John the Baptist family for such a warm and gracious welcome! From my very first days here, I have been deeply struck by the vibrant, prayerful spirit of this community. Whether walking into the church, seeing the vitality of Saint John's Academy, or meeting parishioners and staff, there is an unmistakable love for Christ and a palpable desire to grow deeper in faith. It already feels like home, and it is a true blessing to begin this ministry under the patronage of Saint John the Baptist.

You certainly have a very unique professional and vocational personal story and background including the two decades of work as Chief Audit Officer at a major global law firm, followed by years of ministry in the Church and theological studies. What are some of your experiences from those years of professional engagements which will serve you well in the Faith Formation and Catechetical work and ministry among us?

Transitioning from a 40-year career in professional services – the last 22 as Chief Audit Officer at a major international law firm – to parish ministry might seem like quite a leap. Yet, in God's providence, nothing is wasted. My corporate work centered on building cultures of integrity, accountability, stewardship, and clear communication across diverse global offices. In faith formation, those same skills are essential. Catechesis requires attentive listening, sound organization, and equipping catechists and families with reliable support. Alongside my theological studies, I look forward to using that collaborative, administrative experience to help our formation programs thrive at every age, anchored in the Eucharist.

Who were, or are, some special people who inspired you on your life journey to such a personal relationship with Jesus, and your active engagement in the Catholic Church's ministry and mission?

My faith journey began at home, rooted in the rich traditions of my upbringing. I was raised by a devout Cuban mother and an Italian father, along with a grandmother who made the Catholic faith the daily heartbeat of our home. They didn't just teach me the faith on Sundays; they showed me what it looks like to live it every day with genuine joy. Along the way, God put incredible people in my life. I was blessed with knowing devoted priests who were true shepherds, deacons, and inspiring mentors who deeply lived their beliefs. They showed me that serving the Church isn't just a duty; it's an act of love for Jesus. Their encouragement helped guide my own path into ministry, and they showed me the kind of Christ-like love I want to bring to our families here.

You are embarking on a journey of leading and facilitating our lifelong parish faith formation. How do you perceive that challenging expression “a lifelong faith formation?”

For me, everything hinges on that word “lifelong.” Too often, we treat faith formation like a school subject that ends with Confirmation. But discipleship isn't a graduation; it is an ongoing journey where we are continually invited to be formed into the image of Christ. Just as our lives evolve through every season, our relationship with Jesus must continually deepen; from children discovering the joy of the Gospel, to parents seeking spiritual anchors, to seniors sharing their wisdom and prayer. Formation never stops because Christ never stops calling us closer. My vision is for Saint John the Baptist to be a welcoming home where parishioners of any age find an open door to encounter the living Lord in the Word and the Sacraments.

Saint John the Baptist was uniquely chosen by God to “prepare the way for Christ.” How can his life and witness of faith inspire and guide us, as we prepare to celebrate, in 2027, the 100th Anniversary of our parish’s founding?

Saint John the Baptist gives us our marching orders: “He must increase, but I must decrease” (John 3:30). John's entire mission was humble and clear. Rather than seeking personal recognition, he spent his life exalting God; pointing directly to Jesus, calling hearts to renewal, and making straight the path of the Lord. As we look ahead to the parish Centennial, our patron reminds us that celebrating 100 years isn't only about honoring the past, it's also about preparing for the future. St John the Baptist challenges each of us to turn our hearts more fully toward Christ. He models courageous, authentic witness; inspiring our parish family to stand as a bold, welcoming light of the Gospel in our wider community. By investing deeply in lifelong formation today, we pave the way for the next generation of disciples so that the next century of Saint John the Baptist parish begins on solid ground. Our centennial milestone will bear lasting fruit if, like Saint John, everything we do points straight to the Lamb of God.



OUR PARISH STEWARDSHIP

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2026 (Labor Day Weekend)

		2025	BUDGET
Envelope & In Pew Giving:	\$5,962	\$ 5,133	\$ 7,900
Online Giving via ParishSOFT:	5,902	\$ 5,244	\$ 5,000
TOTAL	\$11,864	\$ 10,377	\$12,900

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

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Giving
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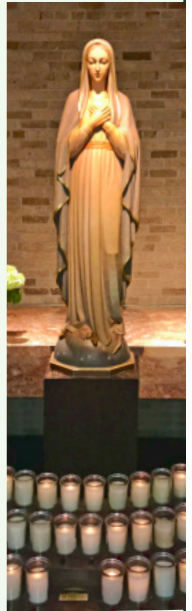
Once on the ParishSOFT giving page, please click on Sign In to begin account..

With online enrollment, you can access your account any time to view or make changes to the account info and gifts.

Our Blessed Mother
is always here
to welcome you.

Come in.
Say a Prayer.
Stay awhile.

7am – 7pm
365 days a year



Please Join Us in Celebrating Cathy Wollyung's Retirement

Please join us as we celebrate the retirement of Cathy Wollyung and thank her for more than 30 years of devoted service to St. John the Baptist Parish as Pastoral Associate of Faith Formation.

Saturday, October 3rd

Immediately following the **5:00 PM Mass**
Parish Center

Please RSVP by **Saturday, September 26** to:

Marie Rocco: 201-666-1626

Mary Musella: 201-358-2793

We hope you will join us in celebrating Cathy and expressing our gratitude for her many years of faithful service to our parish! Thank you!

"HEY LOOK—THE CHURCH IS STILL THERE. SO SOMEONE CONTINUED GIVING RIGHT ON THROUGH THE SUMMER!"



*"Faith is like a bright ray of sun light.
It enables us to see God in all things
as well as all things in God."*

— St. Francis de Sales (1567 - 1622 A.D.)