

SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

69 VALLEY STREET, HILLSDALE NJ 07642 • STJOHNHILLSDALE.ORG



FEBRUARY 22, 2026

1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

Have mercy on me, O God, in your goodness; in the greatness of your compassion wipe out my offense. Thoroughly wash me from my guilt and of my sin cleanse me. — Psalm 51:3-4

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 Sebastiani, 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

8:00 AM

HOLY DAYS

8:00 AM, 12:00 PM, 7:00 PM

CONFESIONS

- Saturdays 2:00 - 3:00 PM
- After 8:00 AM Mass—Weekdays
- Any time by appointment

Dear Brothers and Sisters of the 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. 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 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.

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 us all. Please be assured of my prayers for each of you, as well as for all your loved ones.

— Fr. Peter

Prayers for Healing and Peace:

Kim Costa, Rose Lyons, Thomas Tobin, Anthony K., Ronnie Verra, Peter Spaccarotella, Florence Sacco, Daniel Tintle, Jr., Jim Derbyshire, James Carbone, Terry Medino, Anita Lawrence, Nick Hodgman, Deacon Jack Gray, Ann Walsh

Remembering Those Who Have Passed:

Peter Lombardi, Carolyn Sozanski, Frank Angiolelli, Kathleen Foley, Rosalie Fuentes, Jerry Vitti, John Brogan

Mass Intentions

*We remember our loved ones
and community*

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21

5:00 PM John Gallo
(5th Anniversary)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22

8:00 AM Waldemar Lewicki
10:00 AM Mary Ann Lyon
12:00 PM Fiorello Abbruzzi
(2nd Anniversary)

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23

8:00 AM George M. Donahue

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24

8:00 AM People of the Parish

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25

8:00 AM Donald J. Tarallo

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26

8:00 AM William Latierno

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27

8:00 AM John Pechulis

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28

8:00 AM Carol Meyer
5:00 PM Ernie Panacek

SUNDAY, MARCH 1

8:00 AM People of the Parish
10:00 AM Joan Thalman
12:00 PM Salvatore Lopiccolo

The **Votive Candle** burns
in memory of

MARY ANN LYON

at the request of
the Lyon & Damken Families

OUR *Lent* 2026

Archdiocese of Newark 2026 LENTEN REGULATIONS

1. 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.

2. The obligation to observe the laws of Fast and Abstinence “substantially”, or as a whole, is a serious obligation.

3. 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.

4. The time for fulfilling the Paschal Precept (Easter Duty*) extends from the **First Sunday of Lent, February 22 to The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity, May 31, 2026.**

*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.*



Lent is indeed the “favorable time” to return to what is essential, to divest ourselves of all that weighs us down, to be reconciled with God, and to rekindle the fire of the Holy Spirit hidden beneath the ashes of our frail humanity. Return to what is essential. It is the season of grace when we put into practice what the Lord asks. Return to what is essential: it is the Lord. The rite of the imposition of ashes serves as the beginning of this return journey. *It exhorts us to do two things: to return to the truth about ourselves and to return to God and to our brothers and sisters.*

The ashes remind us who we are and whence we come. They bring us back to the essential truth of our lives: the Lord alone is God and we are the work of his hands. That is the truth of who we are. We *have* life, whereas God *is* life. He is the Creator, while we are the fragile clay fashioned by his hands. We come from the earth and we need heaven; we need him. With God, we will rise from our ashes, but without him, we are dust. As we humbly bow our heads to receive the ashes, we are reminded of this truth: we are the Lord’s; we belong to him. Lent, then, is the time to remind ourselves who is the Creator and who is the creature. The time to proclaim that God alone is Lord, to drop the pretense of being self-sufficient and the need to put ourselves at the center of things, to be the top of the class, to think that by our own abilities we can succeed in life and transform the world around us. Now is the favorable time to be converted, to stop looking at ourselves and to start looking into ourselves. How many distractions and trifles distract us from the things that really count! How often do we get caught up in our own wants and needs, lose sight of the heart of the matter, and fail to embrace the true meaning of our lives in this world! Lent is *a time of truth*, a time to drop the masks we put on each day to appear perfect in the eyes of the world.

Pope Francis, Holy Mass, Blessing and Imposition of the Ashes, Rome, February 22, 2023

Daily Mass

8:00 am

Eucharistic Adoration

Thursdays 3:00 - 6:00 pm

Benediction just before 6:00pm

Church is Open Daily

7:00 am - 7:00 pm

Come & Pray with Us The Stations of the Cross



Fridays 8:30 am

(following 8:00 am Mass)

Fridays 7:00 pm

Sundays 9:15 am

OUR PARISH STEWARDSHIP

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2026

Envelope & In Pew Giving:	\$ 9,166
Online Giving via ParishSOFT:	5,241
TOTAL	\$ 14,407

2025

\$ 9,119
\$ 4,813

BUDGET

\$ 7,900
\$ 5,000

\$ 13,932

\$ 12,900

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



ST. JOHN'S EAGLES

ST. JOHN'S SPORTS ASSOCIATION SPRING VOLLYBALL SEASON

Open to both boys and girls who are either students at SJA or actively enrolled in the St. John's Parish CCD program. The boys' program (open to grades 5 - 8) is competitive with approx. 12 games and playoffs. The girls' program (open to grades 4 - 7) is more development focused, with approx. 10 games, but no playoffs. The season runs from late March through May. Fee is \$150/boys and \$120/girls plus jersey. Registration closes by Feb 24 or when full.

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

WOMEN'S CORNERSTONE

Step away, unplug, and do something just for you. You'll be uplifted, inspired, and surrounded by women walking through the same challenges, growing in faith together, and forming friendships that feel like a breath of fresh air. Every need is taken care of - simply show up, rest, reflect, and soak in God's presence. Come alone or bring a friend!

The retreat is Friday, March 6 - 7pm to 10pm and Saturday, March 7 - 7:00am to 8:00pm in the parish center. Take an invitation at the door and pray on it. You'll be so grateful you said yes!

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Suzanne Pearson: 201.267.7502;
Stefanie Streeter: 201.415.2577

or email SJWCornerstone@gmail.com



WE ARE HIS
WITNESSES

Visit
WeAreHisWitnesses.org
for updates, timelines
and resources.

KNIGHTS TO HOST SUNDAY FISH FRY

The St. Thomas More Council 2188 will host a **Sunday Fish Fry on March 8, 2026**, at the **Knights of Columbus Hall**, 40 Crest Street, Westwood, NJ 07675.

Doors open at 2:00 PM.

Menu (*) includes:

Fried Fish with Tartar Sauce, French Fries, Cole Slaw, Cornbread, Mac N' Cheese, Pickles, and Dessert. Coffee, tea, and soda will be served. **Cash Bar available.**

Cost:

- \$20.00 per person
- Couples (65 and over): \$35.00
- Children 12 and under: \$15.00

Reservation deadline: Wednesday, March 4th. For reservations, please contact **John at 201-245-7555**.

Checks should be made payable to **"Knights of Columbus 2188."**

Funds raised will be used to provide **scholarship support**.

(*) Menu may be subject to change.

"As Lent is the time for greater love, listen to Jesus' thirst...He knows your weakness. He wants only your love, wants only the chance to love you."

— Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta
(1910 - 1997 A.D.)