

SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

69 VALLEY STREET, HILLSDALE NJ 07642 • STJOHNHILLSDALE.ORG



APRIL 19, 2026

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

*"He took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them.
With that their eyes were opened and they recognized Him." — Luke 24:30-31*

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

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

Third Sunday of Easter — April 19, 2026

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

Christ, our Redeemer, is once again presented to us in the Gospel of today as our loving Companion on the journey of this life, into the Eternity with Him. This precious friendship is not only some elaborate theological concept but a profound description of the relationship of God with us. Not only that we are eternally loved, but we are also reassured that this love, daily expressed through the self-giving of God in the Eucharist, unites us with heaven. Following that miraculous walk to Emmaus with his Apostles, *“while He was with them at table, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them. With that their eyes were opened, and they recognized Him”* (Luke 24:13- 48).

The early weeks of Spring are traditionally marked not only by more sunshine and various signs of new life all around us, but our liturgical celebrations often remind us of our own call to the newness of life in Christ. Among those special celebrations are gatherings with children from our parish, and their families, as we celebrate their reception of the Eucharist for the very first time. These celebrations often remind us of our “First” during those childhood years full of innocence, simplicity, and a child-like trust in the Almighty. We congratulate our little brothers and sisters who will be joining us in the Holy Communion lines during these days and weeks and we thank our loving God that our parish family continues to grow in numbers and holiness through the glorious gift of the Body and Blood of Jesus.

In our Catholic tradition we define and appreciate the Eucharist as “the source and summit of the Christian life. The other sacraments, and indeed all ecclesiastical ministries and works of the apostolate, are bound up with the Eucharist and are oriented toward it. In the blessed Eucharist is contained the whole spiritual good of the Church, namely Christ himself.” As we receive the Eucharist we all experience the glory and boundless love of God towards every one of us. One of the most profound expressions of this reality in our faith tradition are the following words: “Every Eucharistic celebration is the culmination of God’s action sanctifying the world in Christ, [...] it is a celebration through which we unite ourselves with the heavenly liturgy and anticipate eternal life, when God will be all in all” (cf. Catechism of the Catholic Church, nn.1325-1326).

Thank you for joining us for our celebrations of the Eucharist on this Third Sunday of Easter - and always. Please be assured of my prayers for each of you, as well as for all your loved ones.

— Fr. Peter

Mass Intentions

*We remember our loved ones
and community*

SATURDAY, APRIL 18

8:00 PM Ellen & Daniel
Caulfield

SUNDAY, APRIL 19

8:00 AM Joan Thalmann
10:00 AM Joseph Macchione, Jr.
12:00 PM Alice & Frank
Colonese

MONDAY, APRIL 20

8:00 AM Edward Sculfort, Sr.

TUESDAY, APRIL 21

8:00 AM Aurelio Iran

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22

8:00 AM Gerd Rosenkranz

THURSDAY, APRIL 23

8:00 AM Agnes Davis

FRIDAY, APRIL 24

8:00 AM Joseph Colletti

SATURDAY, APRIL 25

8:00 AM People of the Parish
5:00 PM Ed Collis

SUNDAY, APRIL 26

8:00 AM Eileen & Tim
Markantes
10:00 AM Anthony Mascia
12:00 PM Connie Pellerzi

Prayers for Healing and Peace:

Kim Costa, Thomas Tobin, Anthony K., Peter Spaccarotella, Florence Sacco, Jim Derbyshire, James Carbone, Terry Medino, Anita Lawrence, Ann Walsh, Elaine McBreen, Baby Rocco, Edward Sandt, Jr., Caroline Bisi, Baby Nellie, Liam Fanning

Remembering Those Who Have Passed



SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH

Annual Church Property Insurance Payments

*(These amounts exclude the school building
and areas of Saint John's Academy, which is
paid separately by the Academy.)*

FY 2005	\$ 13,314
FY 2010	\$ 16,769
FY 2015	\$ 18,773
FY 2018	\$ 20,138
FY 2019	\$ 20,991
FY 2020	\$ 20,919
FY 2021	\$ 25,779
FY 2022	\$ 30,871
FY 2023	\$ 40,519
FY 2024	\$ 50,703
FY 2025	\$ 65,162
FY 2026	\$ 77,499

The benefits of ParishSOFT[®] Giving



<https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/stjohnhillsdale>

Once you are in the Parish Soft giving page, to begin a giving account, please click on Sign In. Thank you.

BENEFITS TO YOU

CONVENIENT: Access your account anytime and anywhere via the internet or your cell phone.

SIMPLE: You manage your own account online. No phone calls or visits to the bank or parish.

FUNCTIONAL: Receive notifications for each transaction made or scheduled.

SECURE: Adheres to strict banking security standards (PCI/DSS) to ensure your account is secure and confidential.

PERSONALIZED: You choose whether you would like to contribute via credit card or direct withdrawal from your checking account. You can also choose between several different funds in order to support electronically the Sunday offering, maintenance, etc. You select from the drop down what you would like to support and at what frequency.

BENEFITS TO THE PARISH

CONSISTENT: Regularly scheduled gifts occur automatically, allowing the parish to effectively manage monthly expenses based on consistent support.

EFFICIENT: Decreases the time and expenses related to bookkeeping for the parish.

CONVENIENT: Easily allows people to contribute to the parish on their terms and update their information as it changes.

SECURE: No need to store parishioner's confidential information.

St. John the Baptist Parish

MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT

From Newlywed to 20 Years of Marriage

OUR FUTURE — OUR BELIEF — OUR TIME



Join us for this unique opportunity designed to enhance your relationship and strengthen your marriage! This Marriage Enrichment initiative is geared towards empowering couples with proven strategies and key marriage skills developed by renowned marital counselors from around the country. Whether you are a newlywed or married for 20 years, these sessions were created with you in mind!

Our sessions will begin Tuesday evenings in May at St. John the Baptist Parish Center and conclude with a retreat day on Saturday, June 27th. We ask all participants to commit to attend all five sessions plus the mini-retreat in order to fully benefit from the program. We will gladly do our best to assist with childcare, if needed, so you can attend the sessions. The cost will be \$50 per couple, as our parish will cover all additional expenses and refreshments. Any help or sponsorships are very welcomed.

TUESDAYS • 7:30PM - 9:00PM

- May 19 - Why Are We Here?
- May 26 - Communication
- June 2 - Intimacy
- June 9 - Family of Origin
- June 16 - Forgiveness and Anger
- Saturday, June 27, 12pm - 6pm - Reflective Mini Retreat Day

Scan to Register!



QUESTIONS?

Contact Cathy Williamson by emailing cathy.williamson@stjohnhillsdale.com or call the rectory at 201-664-3131.



Steven Serafin, D.Min.

MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT PROGRAM FACILITATOR

Adjunct Professor of Pastoral Theology

Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology

Dr. Steven Serafin is the Executive Director of Faith & Family Life Catholic Ministries (ffcm.org), which looks to equip dioceses, parishes, and families with resources to form others using the catechumenal process. In this role, Dr. Serafin is helping the Church transform its methods of formation to be more process-driven, lifelong, and intentional. He has worked with numerous dioceses as they have transformed their faith formation structures, creating experiences that lead families to engage more deeply with the local parish and build habits of faith at home. He is also the Director of Formation

at St. Vincent Martyr Parish in Madison, NJ, where he leads the Emmaus Coalition of Lifelong Formation. He has served in several ministerial positions: pastoral associate, Associate Director for Catechesis for the Archdiocese of Newark, director of faith formation, youth minister, campus minister, and teacher. His treatise focused on *Accompanying the Next Generation of Newlyweds: A Parish Model for Perfecting the Love of Marriage Through a Peer Collaborative Dialogue*.

Education

D.Min., The Catholic University of America, 2022

M.A., University of Notre Dame, 2014

B.A., The Catholic University of America, 2012



Easter opens our hearts to the extraordinary message of God's triumph over evil and death

Easter did not occur simply to console those who mourned the death of Jesus, but to open hearts to the extraordinary message of God's triumph over evil and death. The light of the resurrection was not meant to let the women bask in a transport of joy, but to generate missionary disciples who "return from the tomb" in order to bring to all the Gospel of the risen Christ. That is why, after seeing and hearing, the women ran to proclaim to the disciples the joy of the resurrection. They knew that the others might think they were mad; indeed, the Gospel says that the women's words "seemed to them an idle tale." Yet those women were not concerned for their reputation, for preserving their image; they did not contain their emotions or measure their words. They had only the fire in their hearts with which to bear the news, the proclamation: "The Lord is risen!"

And how beautiful is a Church that can run this way through the streets of our world! Without fear, without schemes and stratagems, but solely with the desire to lead everyone to the joy of the Gospel. That is what we are called to do: to experience the risen Christ and to share the experience with others; to roll away the stone from the tomb where we may have enclosed the Lord, in order to spread his joy in the world. Let us make Jesus, the Living One, rise again from all those tombs in which we have sealed him. Let us set him free from the narrow cells in which we have so often imprisoned him. Let us awaken from our peaceful slumber and let him disturb and inconvenience us. Let us bring him into our everyday lives: through gestures of peace in these days marked by the horrors of war, through acts of reconciliation amid broken relationships, acts of compassion towards those in need, acts of justice amid situations of inequality and of truth in the midst of lies. And above all, through works of love and fraternity.

Our hope has a name: the name of Jesus. Let us celebrate Easter with Christ! He is alive!

Pope Francis, Homily for Easter Vigil 2022, St. Peter's Basilica, Rome, April 16, 2022



The Appearances of Our Risen Lord as Presented to us in the New Testament

I. THE MORNING OF DAY ONE

- o A. Very early in the morning a group of several women, including Mary Magdalene, approach the tomb to complete burial customs on behalf of Jesus (Matt 28:1; Mk 16:1; Jn 20:1).
- o B. They behold the tomb opened and are alarmed.
- o C. Mary Magdalene runs off to Peter and John with the distressing news of likely grave robbers (Jn 20:2).
- o D. The women who remain at the tomb encounter an angel, who declares to them that Jesus has risen and that they should tell this to the brethren (Mk 16:5 Lk 24:4; Mt 28:5).
- o E. At first the women are filled with fear and depart from the tomb afraid to speak (Mk 16:8).
- o F. Recovering their courage they decide to go to the Apostles (Lk 24:9; Mt 28:8).
- o G. Meanwhile Peter and John go to the tomb to investigate Mary Magdalene's claim. Mary follows behind them, arriving back at the tomb while Peter and John are still there. Peter and John discover the empty tomb; they encounter no angel. John believes in the resurrection; Peter's conclusion is not recorded.
- o H. The other women report to the remaining Apostles what the angel at the tomb said to them. Peter and John have not yet returned from the tomb and these remaining apostles are at first dismissive of the women's story (Lk 24:9-11).
- o I. Mary Magdalene, lingering at the tomb, weeps and is fearful. Peering into the tomb, she sees this time two angels who wonder why she weeps. Jesus then approaches her from behind. Not looking directly at Jesus, she supposes Him to be the gardener. When He calls her by name, Mary recognizes His voice, turns, and sees Him. Filled with joy she clings to Him (APPEARANCE 1) (Jn 20:16).
- o J. Jesus sends Mary back to the Apostles with the news to prepare them for His appearance later that day (Jn 20:17).
- o K. The other women have now departed from the Apostles and are on their way, possibly back home. Jesus appears to them (Mt 28:9) (after having dispatched Mary). He also sends them back to the Apostles with the news that He has risen and that He will see them (APPEARANCE 2).

II. THE AFTERNOON AND EVENING OF DAY ONE

- o A. Later that day, two disciples on their way to Emmaus are pondering what they have heard

about rumors of Jesus' resurrection. Jesus comes up behind them but they are prevented from recognizing Him. First Jesus breaks open the word for them; then He sits at table with them and celebrates the Eucharist, whereupon their eyes are opened and they recognize Him in the breaking of the bread (APPEARANCE 3) (Lk 24:13-30).

- o B. The two disciples return that evening to Jerusalem and go to the Eleven. At first the Eleven disbelieve them just as they had the women (Mk 16:13). Nevertheless they continue to relate what they have experienced. At some point, Peter draws apart from the others (perhaps for a walk?). The Lord appears to Peter (APPEARANCE 4)(Lk 24:34; 1 Cor 15:5). Peter informs the other ten, who then believe. Thus the disciples from Emmaus (still lingering with the Apostles) are now told (perhaps by way of apology) that it is indeed true that Jesus has risen (Lk 24:34).
- o C. Almost at the same moment, Jesus appears to the small gathering of Apostles and the two disciples from Emmaus (APPEARANCE 5). Thomas is absent (although the Lucan text describes the appearance as being to "the eleven," this is probably just shorthand for the Apostles as a group). They are startled but Jesus reassures them and opens the scriptures to them (Lk 24:36ff).
- o D. There is some debate as to whether He appeared to them a second time that night. The Johannine and Lucan accounts have significantly different descriptions of the appearance on that first Sunday evening. Is it merely a different recounting of the same appearance or is it a wholly separate appearance? It is not possible to say for sure. Nevertheless, since the descriptions are so different we can call it APPEARANCE 6 (Jn 20:19ff), though it is likely one and the same as "Appearance 5."

III. INTERLUDE

- o A. There is no biblical account of Jesus appearing to anyone during the week that followed. The next account of the resurrection says, "Eight days later," namely the following Sunday.
- o B. We do know that the apostles exclaimed to Thomas that they had seen the Lord, but that he refused to believe it (Jn 20:24).
- o C. Were the apostles nervous that Jesus had not appeared again each day? We do not know; there are no accounts of what happened during this interlude.

IV. ONE WEEK LATER, SUNDAY TWO

- o A. Jesus appears once again (APPEARANCE 7) to the gathered Apostles. This time Thomas is with them. He calls Thomas to faith, and Thomas now confesses Jesus to be Lord and God (Jn 20:24-29).

V. INTERLUDE TWO

- o A. The apostles had received instructions to return to Galilee (Mt 28:10; Mk 16:7) where they would see Jesus. Thus they spent some of this interlude journeying 60 miles to the north, a trip that would have taken a considerable amount of time. We can imagine them making the trek north during the intervening days.

VI. SOMETIME LATER

- o A. The time frame of the next appearance is somewhat vague. John merely says "after this." It is likely a matter of days or a week at best. The scene is at the Sea of Galilee; not all of the Twelve are present. They have gone fishing and Jesus summons them from the lakeside. They come to shore and see him (APPEARANCE 8). Peter has a poignant discussion with Jesus and is

- commissioned to tend the flock of Christ (Jn 21).
- o B. The Appearance to the 500 – Of all the appearances, you might think that this one would have been recorded in some detail since it was the most widely experienced. It would seem that many accounts would have existed and that at least one would have made its way into the Scriptures. Yet there is no account of it other than that it did in fact happen. Paul records the fact of this appearance in 1 Cor 15:6: *Then he appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep* (APPEARANCE 9). Where did this take place? What was it like? What was the reaction? We simply do not know. Proof once again that the Bible is not a history book in the conventional sense. Rather, it is a highly selective telling of what took place, not a complete account. The Bible makes no claim to be something it is not. It is quite clear that it is a selective book (Jn 20:30).
 - o C. The Appearance to James. Here again we do not have a description of this appearance, only a remark by Paul that it did in fact happen 1 Cor 15:7: Then he appeared to James (APPEARANCE 10). The time frame of this appearance is not clear, only that it happened after the appearance to the five hundred and before the final appearance to the apostles.

VII. THE REST OF THE FORTY DAYS

- o A. Jesus certainly had other appearances to/with the disciples. Luke attests to this in Acts when he writes, *To them he presented himself alive after his passion by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days, and speaking of the kingdom of God* (Acts 1:3).
- o B. During this time there is perhaps the one appearance we can attribute specifically to this time period as recorded by both Matthew (Mt 28:16ff) and Mark (Mk 16:14ff). It takes place on “a mountaintop in Galilee.” Mark adds that they were reclining at table. I refer to this appearance (time frame uncertain) as APPEARANCE 11. It is here that Jesus gives the great commission. Although Mark’s text may seem to imply that Jesus was taken up from this mountain, such a conclusion is rash since Mark only indicates that Jesus ascended only “after he had spoken to them” (Mk 16:19).
- o C. Evidently Jesus had also summoned them back to Jerusalem at least toward the end of the period of the forty days. There they would be present for the feast of Pentecost. We can imagine frequent appearances with ongoing instruction, for Luke records that Jesus “stayed with them.” Most of these appearances and discourses are not recorded. Luke writes in Acts, *And while staying with them he charged them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me, for John baptized with water, but before many days you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit”* (Acts 1:4).

VIII. THE FINAL APPEARANCE AND ASCENSION

- o A. After forty days of appearances and instructions we have a final account of the last appearance (APPEARANCE 12) wherein He leads them out to a place near Bethany and gives them final instructions to wait in Jerusalem until the Holy Spirit is sent. And then He is taken up to Heaven in their very sight (Lk 24:50-53; Acts 1:1-11).



“Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of the least brothers of mine, you did for me” – Matthew 25:40

PLEASE JOIN THE 180+ ST. JOHN’S PARISHIONERS WHO HAVE ALREADY PLEDGED!



Saint John the Baptist Parish Family in Hillsdale, NJ, reaches out to those in need in our local Church of the Archdiocese of Newark. Please join the effort of this loving and caring community of faith.

- ✘ **Proclaiming the Gospel**
- ✘ **Passing on the Faith**
- ✘ **Caring for the Poor and Vulnerable**
- ✘ **Forming Future Priests and Supporting Elderly, Infirm and Retired Priests**

Many acts of charity and good deeds in **2026** through our small sacrifices. We are grateful for the \$78,641 in pledges and donations we have received so far. Every donation gets us closer to our goal of \$98,750.



WOULD YOU PLEASE HELP US HELP THOSE IN NEED?

\$2/DAY: \$730 | \$1/DAY: \$365 | 50 CENTS/DAY: \$182.50



rcan.org/sharing

Please, make a donation online, drop in our Sunday collection baskets, or, if you wish, mail directly to Annual Appeal, Archdiocese of Newark, Letter Concepts, Inc., 33 Massirio Dr, Berlin, CT 06037, with a special note - “Saint John the Baptist, Hillsdale, NJ.”

OUR PARISH STEWARDSHIP

SUNDAY, APRIL 12, 2026

Envelope & In Pew Giving: \$7,728
 Online Giving via ParishSOFT: 5,241

TOTAL \$12,969

2025
 (Palm Sunday)

\$ 11,116
\$ 4,813

\$ 15,929

BUDGET

\$ 7,900
\$ 5,000

\$12,900

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

AN INVITATION TO PRAYER

COME SPEND TIME IN HIS PRESENCE



Thursday • 3:00 - 6:00 pm

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Benediction & Community Prayer
(just before 6:00 pm)



DAILY MASS

Celebrated each morning

8:00 am



*The Blessed Mother delights
in the presence of her children.*

**Come in, linger awhile,
say a prayer, and light a candle
in hope and love.**

**OUR CHURCH IS OPEN 365
DAYS A YEAR.**

ALL ARE WELCOME!

HUMAN CONCERNS MINISTRY

PLEASE JOIN US!

Please join us at the next meeting of the Human Concerns Ministry: Wednesday, May 13 at 1:00pm in the Parish Center. All ideas and comments are encouraged and welcomed. Hope to see you there!

ANNUAL DIAPER DRIVE AT ST. JOHN'S MAY 2-10!

St John's Respect Life Ministry will forward all proceeds to New Hope, an outreach organization in Westwood which assists first time single mothers. Large size baby diapers are especially needed. Donations may be placed in the porta-cribs at the church entrances. Monetary donations are also greatly appreciated. Thank you for your generosity.



*“Faith in the Resurrection of
Jesus says that there is a future
for every human being.”*

— Pope Benedict XVI
1927 - 2022