

# SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

69 VALLEY STREET, HILLSDALE NJ 07642 • STJOHNHILLSDALE.ORG



MAY 21, 2023

## SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

*Then he led them out as far as Bethany, raised his hands, and blessed them. As he blessed them he parted from them and was taken up to heaven. — Luke 24:50-51*

### 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  
Dee Ford, Youth Ministry

### • ST. JOHN'S ACADEMY 201.664.6364

Theresa Cabrera, Interim Principal  
Penny Jackson, Tuition Manager / Registrar  
Heather Hurley, School Secretary

### 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,

Welcome to our celebrations of the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord on this Seventh Sunday of Easter. The Scripture readings and prayers of this very special Solemnity present to us not only some historic account of the Risen Lord ascending into heaven on the fortieth day following his Resurrection, but also give us reassurance that the Lord has prepared the way for each and every one of us into the loving embrace of our eternal God and into the company of all the saints in heaven.

Throughout this entire Season of Easter we have been reading stories about the life of the Early Church, rapidly growing after the Resurrection and Ascension of Christ into heaven. Our brothers and sisters in faith lived during those early months and years of Christianity with the absolute conviction that Jesus, our Lord and Savior, had returned to heaven in order to “prepare the way” to the eternal and loving embrace of God for each and every one of his friends and followers. The apostles as well as all those early Christians were like us, men and women of so many personal limitations who had to overcome countless moments of their own personal doubts. However, it was the merciful love of God that continually “molded them” into His brave disciples.

One of the supreme examples of this life-giving mercy and love of Christ is certainly Saint Paul. He was in his young years a Jewish pharisee who zealously persecuted early Christians. Through the grace of God, while continually confessing his own unworthiness and personal limitations, he became a great Apostle of many nations. His letters are included in the writings of the New Testament, and through them, as well as through the Acts of the Apostles, we learn much about his life and the faith of the early Church. Paul was imprisoned and taken to Rome, where he was beheaded for his personal witness of Christ. He is remembered as one of the greatest “disciples and friends of the Lord” in two thousand years of Christianity. Meanwhile, like us, he didn’t personally witness the glorious Resurrection and Ascension of Christ, but, touched by His merciful love and inspired by His example Paul became one of the greatest “witnesses” of these triumphant events.

As we, the Saint John the Baptist family of the Lord’s disciples “look up to heaven” this weekend, let us rediscover “up there” our own eternal home and destiny - the eternal home in the presence of our loving God, Blessed Virgin Mary, all the saints and our loved ones who have gone before us, and live in the eternal presence of our Risen Lord.

—Fr. Peter

#### SENDING HEALING PRAYERS TO:

Tracey Mann, Coryn Samone, Christine Cleary, Eileen Kelly, George DiGregorio, Rene Delahanty, Donna Arnold, Odran Seeley, Mark Robinson, James Lyons, Mary Schubert, Robin Hamman

#### REMEMBERING THOSE WHO HAVE PASSED:

Betty Burke, Thomas Catherman

## Mass Intentions

### SATURDAY, MAY 20

5:00 PM Gerald Caulfield

### SUNDAY, MAY 21

8:00 AM Yvonne Prashad

10:00 AM Protection of babies in the  
womb & their families

12:00 PM Jean Avenoso

### MONDAY, MAY 22

8:00 AM Owen Monahan

### TUESDAY, MAY 23

8:00 AM Dennis Kaiser

### WEDNESDAY, MAY 24

8:00 AM Daniel Treacy

### THURSDAY, MAY 25

8:00 AM Giacinto John LaFiura

### FRIDAY, MAY 26

8:00 AM Alexander Mores (26th Anniv.)

### SATURDAY, MAY 27

8:00 AM Edgar Sandajan

5:00 PM Kevin Ryan

### SUNDAY, MAY 28

8:00 AM Josephine McGeever

10:00 AM Helena Cangelosi

12:00 PM Yolanda Boerno

THE BREAD & WINE ARE GIVEN  
IN MEMORY OF

**ANTHONY LARDO**

AT THE REQUEST OF  
THE LO GALBO FAMILY

THE VOTIVE CANDLE BURNS IN MEMORY OF

**NADINE FIONDA**

AT THE REQUEST OF  
THE HUVANE FAMILY

# A PRAYER FOR GRADUATES



**Thank you, our almighty and loving God,**

for all our children and young people who are graduating during these blessed days.

We pray that You, will give them direction, purpose, perseverance and all the blessings they need as they enter the next phase of their young lives.

Give them your wisdom in order to recognize and appreciate the plans and new horizons that You have prepared for them.

May our 2023 graduates gain wisdom from You and may they always grow in faith, love and charity toward others.

We pray that they will always rise above all the wrongs and temptations of this world and have the courage and perseverance to stand up for what is right and noble.

Give them wisdom to spend wisely their time and talents which always come from You.

Grant them success in all their life endeavors, at every turn of their life journeys, and guide their feet to follow your lead and Commandments.

Our Heavenly Mother,  
the Blessed Virgin Mary, pray for us.  
Saint John the Baptist, pray for us.  
All Saints of heaven, pray for us.

Amen.

  
**2023**  
*class of*  
**CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!**



## **Be Imbued with the Hope that is So Much a Part of the Mystery of the Ascension of Jesus.**

In the providence of God - in the eternal design of the Father - the hour had come for Christ to go away. He would leave his Apostles behind, with his Mother Mary, but only after he had given them his instructions. The Apostles now had a mission to perform according to the instructions that Jesus left, and these instructions were in turn the faithful expression of the Father's will. The instructions indicated, above all, that the Apostles were to wait for the Holy Spirit, who was the gift of the Father. From the beginning, it had to be crystal-clear that the source of the Apostles' strength is the Holy Spirit. It is the Holy Spirit who guides the Church in the way of truth; the Gospel is to spread through the power of God, and not by means of human wisdom or strength.

The Apostles, moreover, were instructed to teach - to proclaim the Good News to the whole world. And they were to baptize in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Like Jesus, they were to speak explicitly about the Kingdom of God and about salvation. The Apostles were to give witness to Christ to the ends of the earth. The early Church clearly understood these instructions and the missionary era began. And everybody knew that this missionary era could never end until the same Jesus, who went up to heaven, would come back again. The words of Jesus became a treasure for the Church to guard and to proclaim, to meditate on and to live. And at the same time, the Holy Spirit implanted in the Church an apostolic charism, in order to keep this revelation intact. Through his words Jesus was to live on in his Church: I am with you always.

Dear Brothers and Sisters, be imbued with the hope that is so much a part of the mystery of the Ascension of Jesus. Realize that the strength of Christ is greater than our weakness, greater than the weakness of the whole world. Try to understand and share the joy that Mary experienced in knowing that her Son had taken his place with his Father, whom he loved infinitely. And renew your faith today in the promise of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has gone to prepare a place for us, so that he can come back again and take us to himself.

*Pope John Paul II, Homily, Solemnity of the Ascension of our Lord, May 24, 1979*

## OUR PARISH STEWARDSHIP

### SUNDAY, MAY 14:

		2022	BUDGET
Envelope & In Pew Giving:	\$7,945	\$ 8,010	\$10,627
Online Giving via Faith Direct:	\$5,267	\$ 4,973	\$ 3,370
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$13,212</b>	<b>\$12,983</b>	<b>\$13,997</b>

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

Thankful  
grateful  
AND  
Blessed

Thank you for remembering & supporting our Parish!

### HELPING HAND FOOD PANTRY

Some families in our area are experiencing economic difficulties, and there is a need to replenish the shelves at the food pantry. **CAN YOU HELP?** The following items are always needed:

Cake & brownie mixes, boxed potatoes, egg noodles, canned fruit & vegetables, apple sauce, ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise, white and brown rice, pancake mix, maple syrup, flour, sugar, oil, coffee, Parmalat milk, canned meat & fish, meat sauce, peanut butter, jelly, cookies, crackers, shampoo, paper towels, conditioner, toothpaste, tissues, toilet paper, all types of cleaning products, detergent for laundry. 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.

[www.HelpingHandFoodPantry.com](http://www.HelpingHandFoodPantry.com)



### EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION THURSDAYS 3:00 - 6:00 PM

*Benediction & Community Prayer  
just before 6:00 PM.*

### DAILY MASS 8AM

### CHURCH OPEN DAILY 7AM - 7PM

### ONLINE GIVING

**Faith Direct Program** provides parishioners the ability to give to St. John's via electronic donation (credit card or direct debit from your bank).

Visit [www.faithdirect.net](http://www.faithdirect.net) and enroll online using our parish code **NJ48**. Online enrollment allows you to access your account any time to view / make changes to account info and gifts.

**“While in heaven Christ, our Risen Lord, is also with us; and we, while on earth are with Him. He is here with us by his divinity, his power and his love. We cannot be in heaven, as he is on earth, by divinity, but in him, we can be there by love.”**

— Saint Augustine (354 - 430 A.D.)