

# SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST

## ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

69 VALLEY STREET, HILLSDALE NJ 07642

STJOHNHILLSDALE.ORG



NOVEMBER 21, 2021

## THE SOLEMNITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

*"For this I was born and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth.  
Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice." — John 18:37*

### PASTOR

Rev. Msgr. Peter Smutelovic

### WEEKEND ASSISTANT

Rev. Bogumil Misiuk

### DEACONS

Deacon Jack Gray

Deacon Albert Ganter

### • RECTORY 201.664.3131

Jennifer Cannon, *Business Administrator*  
Glen Ford, *Plant Superintendent*

### • PARISH CENTER 201.666.2707

Cathy Wollyung, *Faith Formation*  
Dee Ford, *Youth Ministry*  
Kathy Breitenbach, *Registrar / CCD*  
Roberto Sabastiani, *Director of Music*

### • ST. JOHN'S ACADEMY 201.664.6364

Suzanne Socha, *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,

During these past days I have heard on countless occasions that “it is hard to believe that Thanksgiving is here again.” This year in particular these words are loaded with so many memories and emotions as for many of us it will certainly be a much different Thanksgiving than last year’s. We will gather with our loved ones and friends, pray and celebrate together, and will even embrace those we love. In addition, the beautiful past days with untypically warm weather for this time of the year, plus a lot of sunshine, give to that mesmerizing observation, “wow, Thanksgiving is here again,” even a deeper meaning. I learned during my many years of priestly life and ministry in Rome that when the sun is shining brightly and the rays of its light and warmth enlighten our everyday human existence, our lives suddenly become happier and brighter. (Yes, the people of “the Eternal City,” gifted with so much sunshine and so many sunny days during the year usually don’t handle well those cloudy and rainy days.) However, those “days of sunshine” and “cloudy and darker days” are more about our perceptions than about the actual reality. During every day of our lives, the sun is always out and without it our lives would be entirely impossible.

As we gather on this very special Sunday which marks the last hours of the Church’s liturgical year with our celebrations of the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, we experience - spiritually - a similar reality. The Source of all light and life, our loving and eternal Lord, King of the Universe, through His life-sustaining love, graces and blessings enlightens our everyday human existence. On our life journeys we have to make it - as believers and the Lord’s disciples - through many cloudy and seemingly darker days. Those are the days of personal struggles, challenges, setbacks, confusions, illnesses and sorrows. Even during those days, although seemingly obstructed, the warmth and light of God’s love and blessings sustain us. And, then come the days of joys, peace, harmony and happiness when His presence is so real and visible. That is why we need those celebrations of Christ the King, the Christmas Day of His birth, the Easter Day of His resurrection, and many other special liturgical celebrations, in order to move the clouds of everyday realities away and experience, once again, those rays of His light, joy, and blessings. And that is why we also need a day of Thanksgiving.

I hope and pray that this Sunday as well as on the day of Thanksgiving we will all experience a tangible, warm, and visible piece of those heavenly graces, joys and blessings manifested in the midst of our families, loved ones, friends, and also at this blessed House of God, our Spiritual Home - Saint John the Baptist Parish.

~Fr. Peter

#### SENDING HEALING PRAYERS TO:

John Angermeyer, Dimas Acevedo, Patricia Bacigalupo, Eugene Fagnano, Bernard McGlone, Phoenix Dickerson, Kathy Mollaghan, Kenneth Kerwin, Kristina DiGregorio, Baby Emma DiGregorio

#### REMEMBERING THOSE WHO HAVE PASSED:

Mary Ann McDevitt, Marianna Latronico, Alice Gacheny, Raymond Scherzler

## Mass Intentions

### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20

5:00 PM Nettie A. Anzalone

### SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21

8:00 AM Robert Squittieri

10:00 AM Hector Nicholas Jimenez

12:00 PM Fred Raffa

### MONDAY, NOVEMBER 22

8:00 AM Donald McClair

### TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 23

8:00 AM Ellen Hayes

### WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 24

8:00 AM Ernestina & Norberto  
Gonzalez

### THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 25

8:00 AM People of the Parish

### FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 26

8:00 AM Jozef Smutelovic

### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 27

8:00 AM Giuseppa Luca

5:00 PM Caulfield & Caldera  
Families

### SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28

8:00 AM Paul Duhamel

10:00 AM Vincent William Dorsa

12:00 PM John Henry Leonhard

THE VOTIVE CANDLE BURNS  
IN MEMORY OF

**ROBERT SEAN RODDEN**

AT THE REQUEST OF  
THE BREEN FAMILY

THE BREAD & WINE IS DONATED  
IN MEMORY OF

**PATRICIA HENRY**

AT THE REQUEST OF  
KENNETH & DOLORES GIBNEY



## OUR ELDERLY AND HOMEBOUND BROTHERS AND SISTERS ARE A TREASURE OF SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH FAMILY

As we are about to celebrate Thanksgiving and begin our preparation through the Season of Advent for the glorious days of Christmas, our hearts and prayers go out in a very special way to those brothers and sisters who are elderly and homebound. In the process of our common re-emergence from the countless sorrowful effects of the global COVID-19 pandemic, we all acknowledge that the isolation and emotional trauma inflicted on our elderly and homebound have been among the most painful consequences of these past 19 months of our lives. Some of our dear elderly and homebound parishioners passed away during these most difficult months and some were even buried without many of their loved ones present due to various problems and restrictions.

Please, assist us in reaching out to our elderly and homebound who - only seemingly - have been separated from our parish family. They are with us at every moment, during every Mass, prayer service, and parish gathering. Please let us know about any family member, friend or neighbor in our communities who might have any spiritual need or might need any assistance by calling Cathy Williamson or Jennifer Cannon in our Parish Office at 201-664-3131.

And to you dear homebound or elderly brothers and sisters currently living in your homes, apartments or any care facilities, please let us carry some of your life burdens and be enriched by your example of faith, your goodness and your precious experiences of life. Please call us at the aforementioned 201-664-3131 and let us know about your situation and needs.



## POPE FRANCIS: ELDERLY HAVE A ROLE IN GOD'S SAVING PLAN

The "richness of many years" is a richness of people, of each individual person who has many years of life, experience and history behind them. It is the precious treasure that takes form in the life journey of each man and woman, whatever their origin, provenance, and economic or social condition. Life is a gift, and when it is long it is a privilege, for each one and for others. Always, it is always so.

In the Bible, longevity is a blessing. It confronts us with our fragility, with our mutual dependence, with our family and community ties, and above all with our divine sonship. In granting old age, God the Father gives us time to deepen our knowledge of him, our intimacy with him, to enter ever more into his heart and to surrender ourselves to him. This is the time to prepare ourselves to deliver our spirit into his hands, definitively, with childlike trust. But it is also a time of renewed fruitfulness. "They still bring forth fruit in old age" says the psalmist (Ps 92[91]:14). God's plan of salvation, in fact, is also carried out in the poverty of weak, sterile and powerless bodies. From the barren womb of Sarah and the centenarian body of Abraham the Chosen People was born (cf. Rom 4:18-20). From Elizabeth and the aged Zechariah, John the Baptist was born. The elderly person, even when weak, can become an instrument of the history of salvation.

When we think of the elderly and talk about them, especially in the pastoral dimension, we must learn to alter the tenses of verbs a little. There is not only the past, as if, for the elderly, there were only a life behind them and a moldy archive. No. The Lord can and wants to write with them also new pages, pages of holiness, of service, of prayer... Today I wish to tell you that the elderly are also the present and the future of the Church. Yes, they are also the future of a Church that, together with the young, prophesies and dreams! This is why it is so important that those advanced in years and the young speak to each other, it is so important.

The prophecy of the elderly takes place when the light of the Gospel enters fully into their lives; when, like Simeon and Anne, they take Jesus in their arms and announce the revolution of tenderness, the Good News of the One who came into the world to bring the light of the Father. That is why I ask you not to spare yourselves in proclaiming the Gospel to grandparents and the elders. Go to them with a smile on your lips and the Gospel in your hands. Go out into the streets of your parishes and seek out the elderly who live alone. Old age is not an illness, it is a privilege! Loneliness can be an illness, but with charity, closeness and spiritual comfort we can heal it.

*Address of Pope Francis, The International Congress "The Richness of Many Years of Life", January 31, 2020*

# OUR PARISH STEWARDSHIP

## SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14

Envelope & In Pew Giving: \$7,931  
Online Giving via Faith Direct: \$4,911

**TOTAL** \$12,842

## 2020

\$5,369  
\$4,266

\$9,635

## BUDGET

\$10,627  
\$2,656

\$13,283

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

All of us who serve and minister in our Parish Community of Saint John the Baptist would like to "enlarge" the traditional wishes of "Happy Thanksgiving" and "Blessed Thanksgiving," and say "Thank you many times, Happy and Blessed Thanksgiving!"

Thank you for who you are, for your friendship with Christ, your commitment to his Church and to our Parish, and thank you for your stewardship, kindness and generosity towards this precious House of God - Saint John the Baptist Church - which we have inherited from the past generations and continue to maintain, preserve and improve for our young people and all those God-loving brothers and sisters who will come after us. May the One who has created us, sustains us, and showers us with his care and generosity bless you and reward you for all your goodness and generosity!



## EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Wednesday, November 24 • 3:00-6:00 PM  
Benediction & Community Prayer  
just before 6:00 PM

## THANKSGIVING DAY MASS AT 8AM

We are looking forward to seeing you as we give thanks and praise to Almighty God for his countless gifts and graces.



**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**DECEMBER 21, 2021 • 7PM**

for A Very Broadway Christmas  
Concert starring Ciaran Sheehan  
at St. John the Baptist Church.

**Tickets go on sale December 1!**  
More details to follow.



## HELP THOSE IN NEED AT CHRISTMAS

St. John's Human Concerns Committee is diligently working to make the holidays a pleasant time for those in need, especially for children. A "Giving Tree" has been placed at each door of the church. On the trees are suggestions for gift cards. If you are able, we ask that you donate one of these cards to help the needy. Checks are also appreciated. We ask that all gifts be placed in the designated box at the Parish Center by December 13.

**We thank you in advance for your kindness and generosity.**

"Lord, teach me to be generous.

Teach me to serve  
You as You deserve."

— Saint Ignatius of Loyola  
(1491 - 1556 A.D.)