

SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

69 VALLEY STREET, HILLSDALE NJ 07642 • STJOHNHILLSDALE.ORG



AUGUST 29-30, 2026

THE PASSION OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST & 22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

*Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me.
For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.*

— Matthew 16:24-25

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 & 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,

This weekend on Saturday we celebrated the Memorial of the Passion of St. John the Baptist, the patron saint of our parish. The life of St. John the Baptist exemplifies the paradox of the greatness of humility - "whoever loses his life for my sake will save it" (Mt 16:25).

At first glance, it can be tempting to put down St. John the Baptist as a simple-minded eccentric living in the wilderness - "clothed in camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, eating locusts and wild honey" (Mk 1:6). When asked "What do you have to say about yourself?" his response was a simple one: "I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord'" (Jn 1:22-23). Even his action was as simple as pouring water on people as a form of "baptism of repentance" (Lk 3:3).

As simple as St. John the Baptist was in his appearance, words, and actions, people recognized him to be a man sent from God, "and there went out to him all the country of Judea and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins" (Mk 1:5). In his personal humility, St. John the Baptist's greatness was acknowledged by the people, and they were converted by him and prepared by him for the coming of the Messiah. Therefore, even our Lord Jesus Christ showered St. John the Baptist with highest praise: "Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has risen no one greater than John the Baptist" (Mt 11:11).

In his simple humility, St. John the Baptist bewildered the Pharisees, who questioned him with perplexity: "Why are you baptizing if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" (Jn 1:25). His direct reply once again was full of humility: "I baptize with water; but among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie" (Jn 1:26-27). Perhaps these same Pharisees were equally puzzled by our Lord's parable about choosing a place of honor for themselves at a banquet (cf. Lk 14:1, 7-14).

St. John the Baptist, as of supreme importance as he was for salvation history and as extolled as he was by none other than the Messiah Himself, remained a humble servant of the Lord. His motto was simple: "This joy of mine has been made complete. He must increase; I must decrease" (Jn 3:29-30). In life, St. John the Baptist prepared for the public ministry of Jesus Christ and even his martyrdom foreshowed the Passion and Death of Christ. Such was his humble devotion to our Lord in all things in life as well as in death.

The first lesson for us this week is to pray to St. John the Baptist for the grace of humility that he possessed - to not seek recognition or accolades or appreciation for ourselves. Those will come when we do the will of God selflessly. The second lesson is to not overlook those who seem simple in their appearance, words, or actions. In their simplicity, they might offer us something very profound and humbling.

St. John the Baptist, pray for us and our parish family!

— Fr. Bogumil

Mass Intentions

***We remember our loved ones
and community***

SATURDAY, AUGUST 29

5:00 PM Edward Laux

SUNDAY, AUGUST 30

8:00 AM Leonardo Poccia

10:00 AM Hubert Stigliano, Jr.

12:00 PM D. Agatha Choo

MONDAY, AUGUST 31

8:00 AM Harriet Fraser

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

8:00 AM John & Hilda
Martinez

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

8:00 AM People of the Parish

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

8:00 AM Lou Ann Gregory

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

8:00 AM Fr. Peter Smutelovic
(Living)

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

8:00 AM People of the Parish

5:00 PM Aiden James Beahm

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

8:00 AM Michael Treacy

10:00 AM H. Regina Hahn

12:00 PM Daniel Caulfield

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, Walter Minx, Eileen Stasiunis, Bruce Hawkinson, Mary Lou Wilson, John Manning, Alex Rodriguez, Ruth Dell Valle

Remembering Those Who Have Passed:

Patrick Clohessy, Eleanor Kirk, Anthony Potesta

PRAYER TO SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST

O God,

*You raised up St. John the Baptist
to prepare a perfect person for Christ.*

*We call upon St. John's intercession
to properly prepare us with a true
sense of repentance to receive Your
grace and salvation.*

*Make us faithful to Truth and justice,
as You did Your servant,
John the Baptist, herald of Your Son's
birth and death. Lord, may You increase
Your life within us.*

Amen.



August 29, 2026

Memorial of the Passion of Saint John the Baptist

The role of Saint John the Baptist in relation to Jesus stands out clearly in the Gospels. St Luke in particular recounts his birth, his life in the wilderness and his preaching, while in today's Gospel St Mark tells us of his dramatic death. John the Baptist began his preaching under the Emperor Tiberius in about 27-28 A.D., and the unambiguous invitation he addressed to the people, who flocked to listen to him, was to prepare the way to welcome the Lord, to straighten the crooked paths of their lives through a radical conversion of heart (cf. Lk 3:4). However, John the Baptist did not limit himself to teaching repentance or conversion. Instead, in recognizing Jesus as the "Lamb of God" who came to take away the sin of the world (Jn 1:29), he had the profound humility to hold up Jesus as the One sent by God, drawing back so that he might take the lead, and be heard and followed. As his last act the Baptist witnessed with his blood to faithfulness to God's commandments, without giving in or withdrawing, carrying out his mission to the very end. In the 9th century the Venerable Bede says in one of his Homilies: "St John gave his life for [Christ]. He was not ordered to deny Jesus Christ, but was ordered to keep silent about the truth" (cf. Homily 23: CCL 122, 354). And he did not keep silent about the truth and thus died for Christ who is the Truth. Precisely for love of the truth he did not stoop to compromises and did not fear to address strong words to anyone who had strayed from God's path.

We see this great figure, this force in the Passion, in resistance to the powerful. We wonder: what gave birth to this life, to this interiority so strong, so upright, so consistent, spent so totally for God in preparing the way for Jesus? The answer is simple: it was born from the relationship with God, from prayer, which was the thread that guided him throughout his existence. John was the divine gift for which his parents Zechariah and Elizabeth had been praying for so many years (cf. Lk 1:13); a great gift, humanly impossible to hope for, because they were both advanced in years and Elizabeth was barren (cf. Lk 1:7); yet nothing is impossible to God (cf. Lk 1:36). The announcement of this birth happened precisely in the place of prayer, in the temple of Jerusalem, indeed it happened when Zechariah had the great privilege of entering the holiest place in the temple to offer incense to the Lord (cf. Lk 1:8-20).

Dear brothers and sisters, celebrating the martyrdom of St John the Baptist reminds us too, Christians of this time, that with love for Christ, for his words and for the Truth, we cannot stoop to compromises. The Truth is Truth; there are no compromises. Christian life demands, so to speak, the "martyrdom" of daily fidelity to the Gospel, the courage, that is, to let Christ grow within us and let him be the One who guides our thought and our actions.

Pope Benedict XVI, General Audience, August 29, 2012

Please Join Us For A **BACKPACK BLESSING**



Saturday, September 12 • 11:00 AM

St. John the Baptist Church, Hillsdale

Please join us as we come together as a community of faith and pray for God's blessings for this new school year.

Teachers and students are invited to bring their backpacks for the blessing. We invite all school families to join us for an ice cream social in the Parish Center following the blessing.

OUR PARISH STEWARDSHIP

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23, 2026

		2025	BUDGET
Envelope & In Pew Giving:	\$5,894	\$ 5,607	\$ 7,900
Online Giving via ParishSOFT:	<u>6,442</u>	<u>\$ 4,752</u>	<u>\$ 5,000</u>
TOTAL	\$12,336	\$ 10,359	\$12,900

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

CLASS OF 1976 - 50TH CLASS REUNION — ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST SCHOOL

The Class of 1976 is looking for classmates for their upcoming 50 th reunion. If you or your family or friends know of anyone from this class, please contact reunion committee member, Diane at: dianesheibley@gmail.com

HELPING HAND FOOD PANTRY

Can you help stock the shelves? While there is a need for a variety of food items, the following items are always needed:

Sugar, flour, baby food (Stage 1 & 3), coffee, tea, apple juice, shelf stable milk (Parmalat), meat sauce, whole tomatoes, tomato paste, oil, ketchup, mayonnaise, mustard, grape jelly, peanut butter, canned yams, canned pineapple, canned peaches, canned pears, egg noodles, Ramen noodles, boxed potatoes, cookies, crackers, breakfast bars, shampoo, conditioner, pump soap, deodorant, toilet paper, paper towels, facial tissues, diapers (sizes 5, 6 & 7).

Please ensure all food items are within their expiration dates. 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. THANK YOU!

www.helpinghandfoodpantry.com

BEREAVEMENT GROUP MINISTRY

at St. Pius X Parish, Old Tappan

Everyone will experience grief at some point in time and it can be overwhelming. If you are grieving the loss of a spouse, parent, child, sibling or other family or friend, you are not alone in your grief. St. Pius X Parish (268 Old Tappan Road, Old Tappan) will begin a series of bereavement meetings on Wednesday, September 9, 7:00 - 8:00pm in a classroom off their church hallway, and following for eight consecutive Wednesday nights, ending on October 28. This is a short time to hopefully help you feel a lot better.

Please contact Lorraine Delling at: lldelling@gmail.com or 201-722-0982. Repeat members are always welcome!

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Giving

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

“Wherever I go I will find You, my God.”

— St. John Baptist de la Salle (1651- 1719)