

SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

69 VALLEY STREET, HILLSDALE NJ 07642 • STJOHNHILLSDALE.ORG



SEPTEMBER 6, 2026

23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.
— Matthew 18:20

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

Donald Caputo, Director of Lifelong
Faith Formation
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



Prayer at Ground Zero

O God of love, compassion, and healing, look on us, people of many different faiths and traditions, who gather today at this site, the scene of incredible violence and pain.

We ask you in your goodness to give eternal light and peace to all who died here - the heroic first responders: our firefighters, police officers, emergency service workers, and Port Authority personnel, along with all the innocent men and women who were victims of this tragedy simply because their work or service brought them here on September 11, 2001.

We ask you, in your compassion to bring healing to those who, because of their presence here that day, suffer from injuries and illness.

Heal, too, the pain of still-grieving families and all who lost loved ones in this tragedy. Give them strength to continue their lives with courage and hope.

We are mindful as well of those who suffered death, injury, and loss on the same day at the Pentagon and in Shanksville, Pennsylvania. Our hearts are one with theirs as our prayer embraces their pain and suffering.

God of peace, bring your peace to our violent world: peace in the hearts of all men and women and peace among the nations of the Earth. Turn to your way of love those whose hearts and minds are consumed with hatred.

God of understanding, overwhelmed by the magnitude of this tragedy, we seek your light and guidance as we confront such terrible events.

Grant that those whose lives were spared may live so that the lives lost here may not have been lost in vain. Comfort and console us, strengthen us in hope, and give us the wisdom and courage to work tirelessly for a world where true peace and love reign among nations and in the hearts of all. Amen.

Pope Benedict XVI, New York City, Sunday, April 20, 2008

Mass Intentions

*We remember our loved ones
and community*

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

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

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

8:00 AM Brian Dugan

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

8:00 AM Gerd Rosenkranz

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

8:00 AM John Mirkovich

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

8:00 AM Michael McGrath

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

8:00 AM Joseph Keough

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

8:00 AM Robert McGovern

5:00 PM Maricarmen Senande

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

8:00 AM Timothy Buckley

10:00 AM Gregory Arthur
Harrison

12:00 PM Josephine Y. Choo
(Living)

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, Eileen Stasiunis, Bruce Hawkinson, Walter Minx, Mary Lou Wilson, John Manning, Alex Rodriguez, Ruth Dell Valle, Linda Palumbo, Maxine Fleming, Debbie Dalle Molle

Remembering Those Who Have Passed:

Anthony Potesta, Eleanor Kirk, Joan Foley, Mary Hescumi, Melissa Baranski, Martin Filon, Debbie Kral



+ **LIFELONG FAITH FORMATION** *Registration*

2026-2027 PROGRAM YEAR

Helping children grow in faith, prayer, and discipleship.



**GROW
IN FAITH**



**CELEBRATE THE
SACRAMENTS**



**BUILD A STRONG
FOUNDATION**



**LIVE OUR
CATHOLIC FAITH**



Learn, Pray and Grow with Us!
Scan the QR code to learn more or register.

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, Hillsdale NJ • StJohnHillsdale.org



PRAYERS for **SAFETY AND GOOD HEALTH** for **all students**

We give You praise, O God, for everything that is new and beautiful,
 for everything which holds promise and brings us joy.

Bless all our children and students as they start this new year with their friends and teachers.

Help them to make the most of every chance they have to start afresh.

May they show love to one another and to all.

May the new beginning of this school year remind them that You give us
 always chances to start over again and again.

Help them to forgive others as they receive Your forgiveness.

Help them to learn and to work together.

Help them to listen when they should and to know the best words when they speak
 and when it is better not to speak.

Help them to be good friends this school year.

Help them to be patient with themselves and with others.

Bless all those who care for our children and students in school and at home,
 especially their parents, teachers, counselors and coaches.

May the Blessed Mother Mary protect them and help them to live as well as they can,
 giving thanks and glory to God as she did.

Saint John the Baptist, pray for us and for all our children and students. Amen.



**Welcome to Mr. Donald Caputo,
our new Director of Lifelong Faith Formation**

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, Hillsdale NJ

Dear Brothers and Sisters of our Saint John the Baptist Parish,
Dear Families of Saint John's Academy, and all Dear Friends of our Parish,

It is with great joy that on this liturgical Memorial of the Passion of Saint John the Baptist - our heavenly patron - we welcome Mr. Donald Caputo as our new staff member and our new Director of Lifelong Faith Formation, effective September 1, 2026. In this new and vital role for our community's future and for the personal spiritual growth of each of our parishioners - from our precious newborns to those blessed elderly brothers and sisters who are preparing to meet and eternally embrace our loving God - the new Director of Lifelong Faith Formation will be our catechetical leader responsible - in close collaboration with the Pastor - for developing, coordinating and implementing a comprehensive lifelong Catholic faith formation within our parish, while assisting our wonderful Saint John's Academy in the same mission. He will oversee catechesis for children, youth, and adults, sacramental preparation and other initiatives that foster evangelization, discipleship and active participation in the Sunday Liturgies and the life of the Church. In addition to his daily collaboration with the Pastor, the new Director will collaborate with other clergy serving in the parish, parish staff, catechists, and ministry leaders to nurture a vibrant, mission-driven parish culture rooted in the Gospel.

Donald comes to us with a deep love for the Catholic Church and the Lord's precious gift of the Eucharist, extensive pastoral experience, and a joyful heart for the Church's catechetical and evangelizing mission. Currently in formation and discerning the vocation to the Permanent Diaconate, he views this new, challenging but exciting role as his true "call within a call."

In a few days, on September 10, 2026, the Catholic Church will remember the 80th Anniversary of a profound spiritual experience of a young religious sister whom the entire world would later know as Mother Teresa of Calcutta. On September 4, 2026, we will also remember and celebrate the 10th Anniversary of Saint Mother Teresa's canonization. On one of the most memorable days of her life, September 10, 1946, while traveling and praying on a train in India on the way to her spiritual retreat, Mother Teresa received what she often described as "her second calling" or "a call within a call." During that God-sent spiritual moment, Mother Teresa experienced an irresistible call of the Lord to leave her original religious community and dedicate her life to the service of the 'poorest of

the poor,' and to forming a new religious community of the Missionaries of Charity, now numbering over 5,000 religious sisters selflessly ministering in countless places all around the world.

Although the spiritual term “a call within a call” is often connected to the life-altering experience of Mother Teresa, the over two-thousand year history of the Catholic Church is certainly filled with countless examples of the disciples and friends of Jesus who have experienced their own “call within a call.” First among them were the Apostles, whom Jesus called from their “original” life mission to the ministry of teaching, preaching, service and sacrifice. Our new Director of Lifelong Formation describes his calling to the ministry of teaching and catechetical work in the Church as his “call within a call.” While throughout many years of his life Donald had cherished his personal relationship with Christ and the vital importance of the Catholic faith in his own personal life, some years ago that original call evolved into “a new call of the Lord” - to share his personal faith and talents with other brothers and sisters through the ministry of catechetics, faith formation and teaching.

To this now full-time parish ministry in our parish community, Donald brings a myriad of personal talents and professional experiences from his distinguished 40-year career in finance and legal services, and especially from the past two decades of professional engagements as Chief Internal Auditor for a prestigious global law firm with about 25 world-wide offices spanning through the United States, and other countries of the Americas, Europe, Africa and Middle East. Following a recent merger with another major global law firm, which has been described as “one of the largest and most significant transatlantic law firm mergers in legal industry history,” his responsibilities extended to 47+ global offices, with over 4,000 attorneys. During his years of dedicated work as Chief Internal Auditor, Donald not only traveled the world and daily interacted with lawyers and professionals from various countries and cultures, but within that unique and extensive work mission - in full collaboration with the global law firm partners - he daily strived to promote the institutional culture of accountability, renewal, transparency and rapid growth.

Donald holds a Master of Arts Degree in Theology with honors from Saint Joseph's College of Maine, and has earned multiple certifications in Catholic Doctrine, Lay Leadership, and Catechesis from the Archdiocese of Newark. He joins us from Immaculate Conception Parish in Secaucus, where he served in extensive pastoral roles, including, Director of OCIA Adult Formation, Assistant Parish Catechetical Leader, Teacher of religious education and adult formation classes, Confirmation Sacramental Leader, Altar Server Training Leader, and even the Parish Bulletin Editor. Donald is a dedicated Fourth Degree Knight of Columbus, recently recognized by his Council as a Knight of the Year. With his profound love for the Eucharist as “the source and summit of the Christian life” (cf. Vatican II, Dogmatic Constitution Lumen Gentium, n.11), he has also served as a Sacristan, Eucharistic Minister, and Lector, while remaining actively engaged in youth, vocations, singles and family parish ministries.

Please join me in extending our warm St. John's welcome to Donald as he begins his important mission and ministry among us!

May our Heavenly Mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and Saint John the Baptist continue to intercede for Donald and his new “Spiritual Home” - our Saint John the Baptist Parish Community.

With prayers and gratitude for all your dedication and support, as we journey together in our personal searches for the Lord's “call within a call” in our own lives,

Msgr. Peter Smutelovic,
Pastor

OUR PARISH STEWARDSHIP

SUNDAY, AUGUST 30, 2026

Envelope & In Pew Giving: \$5,276
Online Giving via ParishSOFT: 6,442

TOTAL

\$11,718

2025

\$ 6,631
\$ 4,752

BUDGET

\$ 7,900
\$ 5,000

\$ 11,383

\$12,900

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

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Once on the ParishSOFT giving page, please click on Sign In to begin account..

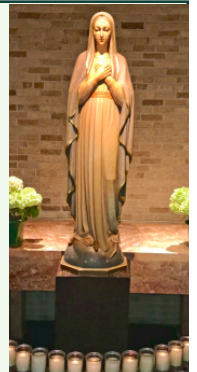
With online enrollment, you can access your account any time to view or make changes to the account info and gifts.

LABOR DAY

The Parish Offices will be closed on Monday, September 7 in observance of Labor Day. Enjoy your celebrations!

The Blessed Mother,
loves her children's
visits.

7am – 7pm
Mother's doors open
365 days a year.



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

Weekly Devotions

DAILY MASS

8:00 am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Thursdays 3:00 – 6:00pm

Benediction & Community Prayer
just before 6pm

CHURCH OPEN DAILY

Please Join Us For A

BACKPACK BLESSING

Saturday, September 12 • 11:00 AM

St. John the Baptist Church, Hillsdale

Please join us as a community of faith and pray for God's blessings for this new school year!

Teachers & 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.

*"Prayer is a place of
refuge for every worry,
a foundation for cheerfulness,
a source of constant happiness,
a protection against sadness."*

— St. John Chrysostom (347 - 407 A.D.)