

SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

69 VALLEY STREET, HILLSDALE NJ 07642 • STJOHNHILLSDALE.ORG

APRIL 26, 2026



FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER & GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY

Good Shepherd Sunday, observed on the Fourth Sunday of Easter, centers on Jesus as the "Good Shepherd" who cares for, knows, and lays down his life for his sheep (John 10:11-18). It emphasizes Christ's protection, mercy, and guidance, and also serves as the annual World Day of Prayer for Vocations

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

Fourth Sunday of Easter — April 26, 2026

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

By the time you will read these few lines as we celebrate the Fourth Sunday of Easter, over 80 of our children, who celebrated their First Holy Communion on Saturday, April 18, as well as this Saturday, April 25, will be able to say that their relationship and friendship with Jesus has become even more personal, intimate and life-giving. We congratulate our little brothers and sisters who will be joining us now in the Holy Communion lines and wish them and their dear parents and families many of the Lord's blessings, deep faith in His eternal love, good health, success and a lot of peace and joy.

We call ourselves Christians and Catholics, as our brothers and sisters have done throughout two thousand years since our Savior's life and resurrection, because we have a life-giving relationship with Christ. This friendship with Him spiritually and humanly sustains us and already here on earth allows us to foretaste His boundless and never-ending love. During this past week and a half, Pope Leo XIV brought the life-giving message of the Risen Lord and His presence in the Eucharist to the African people in Algeria, Cameroon, Angola, and Equatorial Guinea. This past Monday, April 20, 2026, during a glorious Mass attended by about 60,000 people in Saurimo, Angola, Pope Leo XIV shared these words about the Lord's precious gift of Himself as a living bridge from our ordinary every-day lives into the Eternity: "Just as the Eucharist is the living bread that he never ceases to give us, so too his history knows no end. For this reason, the risen One opens up our lives through the power of his Spirit and removes the end of our history, that is death. Christ lives! He is our Redeemer. This is the Gospel that we share. [...] Travelling together, in the light of the Gospel, **the Church always grows according to the spiritual fruitfulness that begins from the Eucharist** and continues in the integral care of each person and of the entire people."

May the spiritual fruitfulness of our Saint John the Baptist Parish and Community always begin and grow with the spiritual fruitfulness of the gift of the Eucharist. May our children who now received the Eucharist for the first time in their lives, as well as all of us, never neglect or forget this special gift of Jesus. And, may we all feel nourished, inspired, sustained and welcomed in our spiritual home this weekend and every weekend - us who gather and pray in the Church of Saint John the Baptist regularly, as well as all our special guests.

— Fr. Peter

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, Ken McGlone

Remembering Those Who Have Passed:

Margaret Coyne

Mass Intentions

*We remember our loved ones
and community*

SATURDAY, APRIL 25

5:00 PM Ed Collis

SUNDAY, APRIL 26

8:00 AM Eileen & Tim
Markantes

10:00 AM Anthony Mascia

12:00 PM Connie Pellerzi

MONDAY, APRIL 27

8:00 AM Eileen Conrad

TUESDAY, APRIL 28

8:00 AM Aurelio Iran

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29

8:00 AM Tiana Vega &
Baby Asani

THURSDAY, APRIL 30

8:00 AM Barbara Collins

FRIDAY, MAY 1

8:00 AM Edmund Collis

SATURDAY, MAY 2

8:00 AM Ken Gibney

5:00 PM Tommy Ivancich

SUNDAY, MAY 3

8:00 AM Kathleen Foley

10:00 AM Catherine McKeveny

12:00 PM Richard Matcovich

The **Votive Candle** burns
in memory of

JOSEPH COLLETTI

*at the request of
St. John's Rosary Society*



CALLED BY NAME

*HONORING FAITHFUL YOUNG MEN IN
THE ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK*

Today is Called by Name Sunday!

Cardinal Tobin is asking us to identify faithful young men (ages 15-35) who exhibit a love of God and neighbor, and who may be open to learning more about the priesthood. **To submit names, please visit newarkpriest.com.** The men whose names you submit will receive a letter of encouragement from Cardinal Tobin, invitations to discernment events, and support from our Vocation Team. Thank you for supporting vocations!

FROM A MESSAGE OF CARDINAL TOBIN ...

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

One of my greatest responsibilities is to ensure that the faithful of the Archdiocese are served by good and holy priests. However, promoting vocations to ordained ministry is never the work of one person alone. The whole Church shares the responsibility to pray for vocations and encourage young men whom God may be calling. Because of that responsibility, our Archdiocese will launch a special campaign, *Called by Name*, on “Good Shepherd Sunday,” April 25-26, 2026. That weekend I ask you to identify young men who show faith, generosity, leadership, and who might be open to prayerfully consider the possibility of serving God and the Church as an ordained priest.

The young men you consider need not have expressed a desire for the priesthood. Rather, by nominating a young man, you are honoring his dedication to the faith, while “planting a seed” that may help him better understand God’s plan for him. Through this initiative we want to invite young men in the Archdiocese to prayerfully consider God’s plan for them. Your nomination may be the spark that helps a young man open his heart more fully to God’s call!

This effort is dear to my heart. With your thoughtful participation, I am confident the Lord will raise up many new shepherds for his people. May this campaign bear lasting fruit for our Archdiocese and for the salvation of souls!

Sincerely yours in Christ the Redeemer,

Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R.
Archbishop of Newark



Save the Date...

**Archdiocesan-Wide Holy Hour
for our Men to be Ordained
Transitional Deacons and Priests**

Friday, May 15, 2026

7:00 pm

Marriage Enrichment & Young SJB Families Encounter

Join Us! A Marriage Enrichment initiative designed to strengthen and support your relationship

- Learn proven strategies and key marriage skills from renowned marital counselors
- Open to all couples — whether newly married or together for 20+ years
- 5 Tuesday evening sessions in May at our Parish Center
- Concludes with a mini-retreat on Saturday, June 27
- **Commitment requested:** attend all sessions + retreat to gain full benefit
- **Childcare assistance available** (we'll do our best to help!)
- **Cost:** \$50 per couple (parish covers remaining expenses and refreshments)
- Sponsorships and additional support are welcome



Scan QR Code
to Register!



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



MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT FACILITATOR

Steven Serafin, D.Min.

Adjunct Professor of Pastoral Theology

Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology

Education

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

M.A., University of Notre Dame, 2014

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



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.



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 185+ 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 \$80,141 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 19, 2026

| | | 2025 | BUDGET |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Envelope & In Pew Giving: | \$8,631 | \$ 7,873 | \$ 7,900 |
| Online Giving via ParishSOFT: | <u>5,284</u> | <u>\$ 5,039</u> | <u>\$ 5,000</u> |
| TOTAL | \$13,915 | \$ 12,912 | \$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.

*“The Eucharist is the
sacrament of love: it signifies
love; it produces love.*

*The Eucharist is the
consummation of the
whole spiritual life.”*

— St. Thomas Aquinas
(1225-1274 A.D.)