

# SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

69 VALLEY STREET, HILLSDALE NJ 07642 • STJOHNHILLSDALE.ORG



MAY 24, 2026

## PENTECOST SUNDAY

*Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.— Psalm 104:30*

### 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 of the Saint John the Baptist Parish Family,  
Dear Friends of our Parish,

As we gather on this Pentecost Sunday to celebrate not only that historical event of the promised sending of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples and all those who were dear to Jesus in the early days of the Church, but also the promised sending of the Spirit upon his followers and friends in two thousand years of Christianity, including us. As Pope Leo XVI said in his homily on the Solemnity of Pentecost, June 8, 2025: “The Holy Spirit’s presence breaks down our hardness of heart, our narrowness of mind, our selfishness, the fears that enchain us and the narcissism that makes us think only of ourselves. The Holy Spirit comes to challenge us, to make us confront the possibility that our lives are shriveling up, trapped in the vortex of individualism.”

Among the most important lessons of our Catholic community since those words were pronounced, has been the significance, and, in fact, the irreplaceable necessity of the Sacraments of the Church for our Christian lives. 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 in which we hope to share one day in His eternity. One of the most fundamental ways we experience this love is through the Sacraments of the Church.

And that is one of the most important reasons why we gather once again today around the altar of the Lord in our wonderful church. As we gather, listen, receive, and celebrate manifold gifts of the Holy Spirit given to us, our families and our community, we pray especially for our children, young people and young parents in our Parish. We need them and their gifts and talents. May our children and young people continue to inspire us through their faith and youthful spirit, and may they always cherish the special love of God for each one of them and the spiritual gifts they continue to receive through their faith lived in our Saint John the Baptist Family.

— Fr. Peter

## *Mass Intentions*

*We remember our loved ones  
and community*

### **SATURDAY, MAY 23**

5:00 PM Dorothy A. Crapanzano

### **SUNDAY, MAY 24**

8:00 AM Dorothy Winkler

10:00 AM Joan Thalmann

12:00 PM Elizabeth Bernadette  
Hennessy

### **MONDAY, MAY 25**

8:00 AM Rosa Varkey

### **TUESDAY, MAY 26**

8:00 AM Kathleen Rooney  
(5th Anniversary)

### **WEDNESDAY, MAY 27**

8:00 AM Alexander Mores

### **THURSDAY, MAY 28**

8:00 AM Jobin Joseph

### **FRIDAY, MAY 29**

8:00 AM Giuseppe Caldera

### **SATURDAY, MAY 30**

8:00 AM Timothy Brosnan

5:00 PM Matthew Cohen

### **SUNDAY, MAY 31**

8:00 AM Deacon Bob Thomann

10:00 AM Eleanor Bellas

12:00 PM Nicola Gasparro  
(3rd Anniversary)

The **Votive Candle** burns  
in memory of

**MARTIN J. HUVANE**

*at the request of  
The Huvane Family*

### *Prayers for Healing and Peace:*

Kim Costa, Thomas Tobin, Anthony K., Peter Spaccarotella, 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, Eileen Stasiunis, Christina Perlis, Mary Spaccarotella

### *Remembering Those Who Have Passed:*

Nancy Taylor, Amalia Jens



## WE ARE THANKFUL FOR THEIR SERVICE

Memorial Day is a day of remembrance for ALL those many men and women who have died in military service for the United States of America. It began in 1868, after the Civil War as “Decoration Day” - a day when people would honor fallen soldiers by decorating their graves with flowers. In 1882 it was changed to Memorial Day, and in 1971 was made a federal holiday.

So if you happen to be at a cemetery, stop at the graves with an American flag next to them and thank them for their service. Pause for a moment at some point during the day and remember in prayer and thanksgiving those who sacrificed their lives for the freedoms we enjoy today. We are forever grateful for their service and their sacrifice.

*“Those who have long enjoyed  
such privileges as we enjoy  
Forget in time that men have died  
to win them.”*

—Franklin D. Roosevelt

On Monday remember those soldiers who gave everything for our country and our freedom. Come celebrate and pray with us at the 8:00 AM St. John’s Mass. At 8:30AM Fr. Peter will give a special blessing and participate in the First Responders’ Memorials and ceremony, and then he will introduce our Borough celebrations with an invocation at 9:30AM, all in Veterans’ Park in the center of town. The parade will follow at 10:30AM.



## THE HOLY SPIRIT SHATTERS OUR INNER CHAINS AND TRANSFORMS US

Holy Spirit is the Gift that opens our lives to love. His presence breaks down our hardness of heart, our narrowness of mind, our selfishness, the fears that enchain us and the narcissism that makes us think only of ourselves. The Holy Spirit comes to challenge us, to make us confront the possibility that our lives are shriveling up, trapped in the vortex of individualism. Sadly, oddly enough, in a world of burgeoning “social” media, we risk being ever more alone. Constantly connected, yet incapable of “networking”. Always immersed in a crowd, yet confused and solitary travelers. [...]

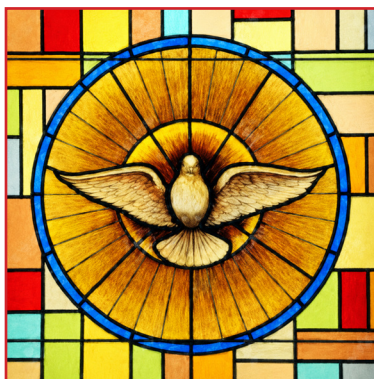
The Spirit of God allows us to find a new way of approaching and experiencing life. He puts us in touch with our innermost self beneath all the masks we wear. He leads us to an encounter with the Lord by teaching us to experience the joy that is his gift. He convinces us, as we just heard in Jesus’ words, that only by abiding in love, will we receive the strength to remain faithful to his word and to let it transform us. The Spirit opens our interior borders, so that our lives can become places of welcome and refreshment. [...]

The Holy Spirit also brings to maturity within us the fruits that enable us to cultivate good and healthy relationships: “love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control” (Gal 5:22). In this way, the Spirit broadens the borders of our relationships and opens us to the joy of fraternity. This is also a critical yardstick for the Church. For we are truly the Church of the Risen Lord and disciples of Pentecost if there are no borders or divisions among us; if we are able to dialogue and accept one another in the Church, and to reconcile our diversities; and if, as Church, we become a welcoming and hospitable place for all.

The Spirit also transforms those deeper, hidden dangers that disturb our relationships, like suspicion, prejudice or the desire to manipulate others. I think too, with great pain, of those cases where relationships are marked by an unhealthy desire for domination, an attitude that often leads to violence, as is shown, tragically, by numerous recent cases of femicide.

*Pope Leo XVI, Homily, Holy Mass on The Solemnity of Pentecost,  
June 8, 2025*

# What Are the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit?

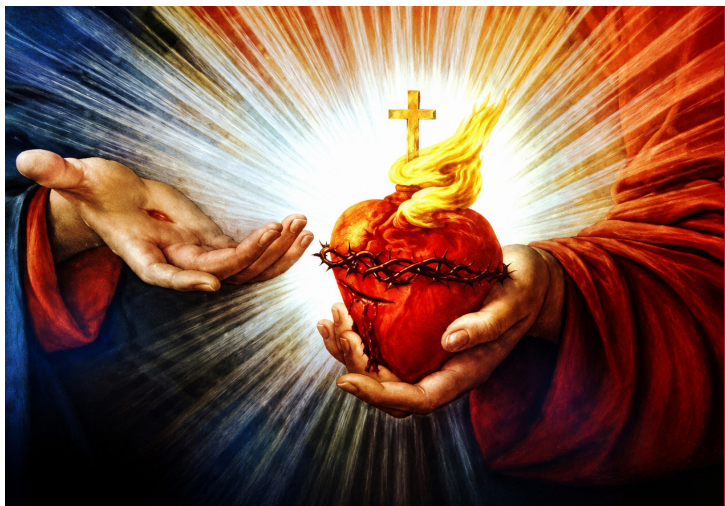


**The Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit**, according to Catholic Tradition, are **wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of God**. The standard interpretation has been the one that St. Thomas Aquinas worked out in the thirteenth century in his *Summa Theologiae*:

- **Wisdom** is both the knowledge of and judgment about “divine things” and the ability to judge and direct human affairs according to divine truth.
- **Understanding** is penetrating insight into the very heart of things, especially those higher truths that are necessary for our eternal salvation—in effect, the ability to “see” God.
- **Counsel** allows a man to be directed by God in matters necessary for his salvation.
- **Fortitude** denotes a firmness of mind in doing good and in avoiding evil, particularly when it is difficult or dangerous to do so, and the confidence to overcome all obstacles, even deadly ones, by virtue of the assurance of everlasting life.
- **Knowledge** is the ability to judge correctly about matters of faith and right action, so as to never wander from the straight path of justice.
- **Piety** is, principally, revering God with filial affection, paying worship and duty to God, paying due duty to all men on account of their relationship to God, and honoring the saints and not contradicting Scripture. The Latin word *pietas* denotes the reverence that we give to our father and to our country; since God is the Father of all, the worship of God is also called piety.
- **Fear of God** is, in this context, “filial” or chaste fear whereby we revere God and avoid separating ourselves from him—as opposed to “servile” fear, whereby we fear punishment.

These are heroic character traits that Jesus Christ alone possesses in their plenitude but that he freely shares with the members of his mystical body (i.e., his Church). These traits are infused into every Christian as a permanent endowment at his baptism, nurtured by the practice of the seven virtues, and sealed in the sacrament of confirmation. They are also known as the sanctifying gifts of the Spirit, because they serve the purpose of rendering their recipients docile to the promptings of the Holy Spirit in their lives, helping them to grow in holiness and making them fit for heaven.

THE CONSECRATION OF THE  
**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**  
*to the SACRED HEART OF JESUS*  
*in our Saint John the Baptist Parish*



**SATURDAY**  
**JUNE 13, 2026**  
**5:00 PM MASS**

**SUNDAY**  
**JUNE 14, 2026**  
**8:00 AM, 10:00AM,**  
**12:00 NOON MASSES**



The Consecration of the United States of America to the Sacred Heart of Jesus will take place on June 12, 2026, in preparation for the 250th Anniversary of the founding of our great Nation.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) voted on Nov. 11, 2025, at the USCCB Fall Plenary Assembly in Baltimore to consecrate the U.S. to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

**PRAYER TO THE  
SACRED HEART OF JESUS**

*On the Occasion of the U.S. Bishops Consecrating the  
United States of America to the Sacred Heart of Jesus*

O Most Sacred Heart of Jesus:  
You know the longings of our hearts, and you  
desire that we enjoy friendship with you.

From your pierced side, you have poured out  
the wellspring of life, for which we thirst.

Your heart burns with a love for all people to  
return to a right relationship with you.

We celebrate the abundant gifts you have given  
this nation, founded on the self-evident truths  
that our Creator has endowed all people with the  
right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

We make reparation for the offenses against you  
and against human dignity that have taken place  
in this nation.

May our hearts be united to yours, so that our  
families and communities enjoy peace and  
happiness; may broken relationships be  
reconciled, injustices repaired, and the wounds  
of our land be healed.

May your holy Catholic Church serve as a sign,  
pointing all people to your infinite love.

O Desire of Nations and Center of History, we  
ask you to bless these United States of America.

Who live and reign with God the Father in the  
unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.  
Amen.

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us!  
Immaculate Heart of Mary, pray for us!

# OUR PARISH STEWARDSHIP

**SUNDAY, MAY 17, 2026**

		<b>2025</b>	<b>BUDGET</b>
Envelope & In Pew Giving:	\$8,092	\$ 8,387	\$ 7,900
Online Giving via ParishSOFT:	<u>5,284</u>	<u>\$ 4,950</u>	<u>\$ 5,000</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$13,376</b>	<b>\$ 13,337</b>	<b>\$12,900</b>

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



## PLEASE HELP US REACH OUR GOAL!

So far we have received \$97,304 in pledges and donations for the 2026 Archdiocesan Annual Appeal. We are very grateful to the 208 families and individual parishioners who have helped us with this campaign. Every donation gets us closer to our goal of \$98,750.



Please complete a pledge envelope –they are at the doors of the church. The envelopes may be returned in the collection basket or to the Rectory Office or even mailed directly. You may also make your pledge online by using the QR code or by visiting [www.rcan.org/sharing](http://www.rcan.org/sharing). **Please indicate on all pledges and donations that you are a member of St. John the Baptist Parish in Hillsdale.**

May God bless you always for helping those less fortunate than ourselves.

### HELPING HAND FOOD PANTRY

Can you help stock the shelves? The donations at the pantry have declined substantially. While there is always a need for a variety of food items, the following are in greatest need:

Brownie mix, apple juice, apple sauce, mayonnaise, oil, coffee (instant & decaf), shelf stable milk, egg noodles, canned pineapple, sugar, cookies, crackers, breadcrumbs, shampoo, conditioner, paper towels and facial tissues.

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, located at the corner of Magnolia and Hillsdale Avenues - at the South entrance of Hillsdale United Methodist Church. **THANK YOU!**

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

thankful  
grateful  
AND  
Blessed

**Thank you for remembering & supporting our Parish!**

*““With the light and the strength of the Holy Spirit, let us build a Church founded on God’s love, a sign of unity, a missionary Church that opens its arms to the world, proclaims the word, allows itself to be made “restless” by history, and becomes a leaven of harmony for humanity.”*

*Pope Leo XIV*



[WeAreHisWitnesses.org](http://WeAreHisWitnesses.org)  
for updates, timelines  
and resources.