

# SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

69 VALLEY STREET, HILLSDALE NJ 07642 • STJOHNHILLSDALE.ORG



APRIL 13, 2025

PALM SUNDAY

*Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Peace in heaven and glory in the highest. — Luke 19:38*

## PASTOR

Rev. Msgr. Peter Smutelovic

## WEEKEND ASSISTANT

Rev. Bogumil Misiuk

## 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

Cathy Wollyung, Faith Formation  
Kathy Breitenbach, Registrar / CCD  
Roberto Sabastiani, Director of Music  
Paulette Gilchrist, Safe Environment Coordinator  
Dee Ford, Youth Ministry

### • 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

## Palm Sunday - April 13, 2025

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

As we gather to celebrate Palm Sunday and as we begin Holy Week, I want to thank you for joining us, for your witness of faith and your love of our parish. Our liturgies today don't simply lead us to the celebration of God's redemptive work in the mysteries of His self-giving love - which we celebrate every Easter - but, in fact, every day allow us to experience His closeness through His grace and through our reception of the Sacraments of the Church.

In February 2021, Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, Archbishop of Newark, published a Pastoral Letter on the Eucharist entitled "Returning to Grace." In the introduction he noted that outside of many other names we gave to the period of the pandemic, we, as faithful Catholics, who long to gather and celebrate the Eucharist, could also call it "the Great Eucharistic Fast." So many times, during that very challenging period, we all experienced that "fast" of staying away from, or not being together with, our family members and friends, and with other members of our parish. We painfully experienced that "Eucharistic Fast" by not being able to gather and receive the Eucharist.

That is one of the reasons why our liturgies and prayer gatherings today, during Holy Week and Easter, have such a special meaning for us, as a community of faith. The "fast" is long over. We will gather and celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord, but also the countless graces received through that Resurrection unraveling in our present time. We will celebrate as a community of the Lord's disciples and friends who long to grow every day in our closeness to Him and our friendship with Him. And, while celebrating these holy mysteries and graces, we will all gather and symbolically embrace each other, sharing in our midst God's loving and eternal embrace.

May our loving Mother, the Immaculate Virgin Mary, Saint Joseph her protector and most chaste spouse, and our heavenly patron, Saint John the Baptist, continue to accompany us and intercede for all of us on our life journeys and throughout this Holy Week. Please be assured of my prayers for every one of you, as well as for all your loved ones.

-Fr. Peter

### SENDING HEALING PRAYERS TO:

Robert F. Mercandino, Daisy Fuentes, Ruth Del Valle, James Carbone, Maxine Fleming, Christine Knitel, John Keegan, Patricia Harkin, Thomas Pedoto, Jessica Chase, Felix Rivera, Angie McCarthy, Martin Huvane, Angela Favorito, Michael Delehanty, Julianne Lipnick

### REMEMBERING THOSE WHO HAVE PASSED

Patricia Looes, John Marin, Thomas Leahy

## Mass Intentions

### SATURDAY, APRIL 12

5:00 PM Kay & Lino Caldera  
(Living)

### SUNDAY, APRIL 13

8:00 AM Mary Ann O'Sullivan  
10:00 AM Ronald Zelencich  
12:00 PM Patrick, Donna &  
Family (Living)

### MONDAY, APRIL 14

8:00 AM The O'Neill, McGrath  
& Corey Families

### TUESDAY, APRIL 15

8:00 AM Hedy Gonzalez

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16

8:00 AM Kathleen, Thomas &  
Bridget Rooney

### HOLY THURSDAY, APRIL 17

8:00 AM Morning Prayer Service  
7:00 PM Liturgy of the Lord's Supper

### GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 18

8:00 AM Morning Prayer Service  
3:00 PM Liturgy of the Lord's Passion  
7:00 PM Stations of the Cross

### HOLY SATURDAY, APRIL 19

8:00 AM Morning Prayer Service  
12:00 PM Blessing of the Easter Baskets  
8:00 PM Easter Vigil Liturgy/Eucharist

### EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 20

8:00 AM People of the Parish  
10:00 AM People of the Parish  
12:00 PM People of the Parish

THE VOTIVE CANDLE BURNS  
IN MEMORY OF

ELLEN FISHER

AT THE REQUEST OF  
LEE JACKSON & FAMILY

THE BREAD & WINE ARE GIVEN  
IN MEMORY OF

THE ROONEY & HUVANE  
FAMILIES

AT THE REQUEST OF  
THE HUVANE FAMILY

# Our Holy Week and Easter



## **PALM SUNDAY**

“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord; hosanna in the highest.” Singing Hosannas we enter the holiest week of the year as we remember Jesus’ triumphant entry into Jerusalem. Liturgically, we follow Jesus through his passion and death through the reading of the Passion Gospel according to Luke.

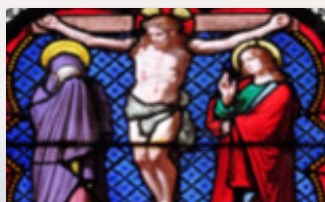


## **HOLY THURSDAY — APRIL 17**

**Morning Prayer Service — 8:00 am**

**Solemn Liturgy of the Lord’s Supper — 7:00 pm**

Tonight begins the great Paschal Triduum or “three days.” This day we celebrate the institution of the great gift of Jesus’ Body and Blood to us in the Eucharist. We end tonight in the garden of Gethsemane with Jesus, as the Eucharist is processed to the Tabernacle and we are invited “To watch and pray.”



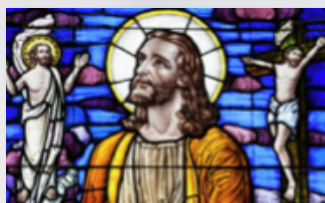
## **GOOD FRIDAY — APRIL 18**

**Morning Prayer Service — 8:00 am**

**Solemn Liturgy of the Lord’s Passion — 3:00 pm**

**Stations of the Cross — 7:00 pm**

We solemnly recall the death of Jesus. Our focus is on the cross of Christ - the Cross which became for us the sign of our salvation from sin and death. As we venerate the cross, we are reminded that we have been invited to share with Christ in carrying our own cross.



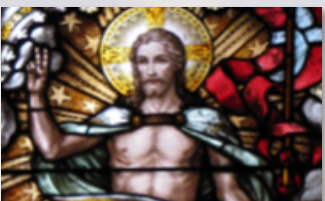
## **HOLY SATURDAY — APRIL 19**

**Morning Prayer Service — 8:00 am**

**Blessing of the Easter Baskets — 12:00 pm**

**Solemn EASTER VIGIL Liturgy & Eucharist — 8:00pm**

This evening is the “most noble of all solemnities, when the faithful, with lamps burning, should be watchful for the Lord’s return.” (Roman Missal) It is the privileged time for Baptism. This night starts with the service of Light, with the Easter Fire, and lighting of the great Paschal candle. We hear again the stories of God’s saving power and we celebrate the great Alleluias of the Lord’s victory over death in the Resurrection and celebrate Eucharist.



## **EASTER SUNDAY — APRIL 20**

**8:00 am, 10:00 am and 12:00 pm**

The great victory of the Lord over death “I am risen and with you still.” (Roman Missal entrance antiphon) We are filled with wonder and joy. Today we renew our own Baptismal promises and commit ourselves anew to the task of working toward and spreading the good news of the reign of Christ. We look forward in joyful hope to the promise of new life over death for ourselves and all creation.

# OUR PARISH STEWARDSHIP

**SUNDAY, APRIL 6, 2025**

		<b>2024</b>	<b>BUDGET</b>
Envelope & In Pew Giving:	\$7,873	\$6,825	\$ 7,900
Online Giving via Faith Direct:	4,930	5,073	\$5,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$12,803	\$11,898	\$12,900

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

## PARISH OFFICES CLOSED

The Parish Office will close at noon on Holy Thursday, April 17, and remain closed all day on Good Friday, April 18 and Easter Monday, April 21. May all of you have a blessed Holy Week & Easter!

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR  
STATIONS OF THE CROSS  
ON GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 18  
AT 7:00PM IN THE CHURCH**



**“By His Wounds We Are Healed”** (Isaiah 53:5)

A powerful, Youth Group led performance featuring live music, dramatic storytelling, and sacred reflection.

Come and witness the Passion of our Lord, through the eyes and hearts of our youth.

## Prayer for Holy Week

Lord, let everything I do in the coming Holy Week be inspired by You.

Help me to remember that nothing is important in my life unless it glorifies You in some way. It's so easy to get caught up in the day to day of my life.

Help me to enter fully into your Passion through my Lenten promises and always be reminded that You went to the desert, the garden and the cross for me.

Amen.



As we all celebrate at Easter the boundless GENEROSITY OF GOD towards us, let us be - as a community of faith and as the Lord's disciples – GENEROUS TO OUR DEAR PARISH. Thank you!

May OUR LOVING AND ETERNAL GOD, THE GIVER OF ALL GIFTS, bless you and reward you!

## ARCHDIOCESE of NEWARK ANNUAL APPEAL 2025

**PLEASE HELP US REACH OUR GOAL!**

So far we have received \$79,097 in pledges and donations for the 2025 Archdiocesan Annual Appeal. We are very grateful to the 181 families and individual parishioners who have helped us with this campaign. Every donation gets us closer to our goal of \$88,600. We're almost there!



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.

**“It is not the finest wood that feeds the fire of Divine love, but the wood of the Cross.”**

— St. Ignatius Loyola (1491 - 1556 AD)