

# SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

69 VALLEY STREET, HILLSDALE NJ 07642 • STJOHNHILLSDALE.ORG

JUNE 21-24, 2026



—12<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME —

*Father's Day & Solemnity of the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist, Our Community's Patron Saint and Intercessor*

## 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,

Many wishes for a happy, healthy and blessed Father's Day!

We remember on this Sunday all those men who have impacted our lives with their fatherly care, we also pray for all "spiritual fathers of Saint John the Baptist" who have served in our parish. We continue to pray for an increase in vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, and religious life, and for our own seminarian, Joseph Grabowski.

In the middle of this week on Wednesday, we will celebrate another "fatherhood" which nourishes us in our parish community – a special patronage and protection of Saint John the Baptist to whom our parish has been dedicated for almost 100 years. Every year on June 24 the Catholic Church commemorates John's birth and his place in the history of salvation. (On August 29 the Church celebrates the Memorial of the Passion of Saint John the Baptist, recalling his heroic witness to the truth and his martyrdom.) John the Baptist was born through the intercession of God to Zachariah and Elizabeth, who was otherwise too old to bear children. According to the scriptures, the Angel Gabriel visited Elizabeth and Zachariah to tell them that they would have a son and that they should name him John. Zachariah was skeptical about becoming a father in his advanced age and for this he was rendered mute until the time his son was born and named John, in fulfillment of God's will. Even before Jesus made any public statement regarding His mission and divinity, it was John the Baptist who planted the first seeds of the early Christian discipleship as he publicly proclaimed that Christ is "the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world" (cf. Jn 1:29). We repeat these words every time we participate in Mass and in response to Saint John's words pronounced by the priest we publicly declare: "but only say the word and my soul shall be healed."

As we gather today for our Sunday Masses let us unite in prayer of thanksgiving for the gift of the spiritual heritage which we continue to share and for all past, present and future parishioners who call this blessed place their spiritual home and Saint John the Baptist their patron.

— Fr. Peter

## *Mass Intentions*

*We remember our loved ones  
and community*

### **SATURDAY, JUNE 20**

5:00 PM Margaret Coyne

### **SUNDAY, JUNE 21**

8:00 AM Father's Day  
Remembrances

10:00 AM Father's Day  
Remembrances

12:00 PM Father's Day  
Remembrances

### **MONDAY, JUNE 22**

8:00 AM Lee Meyer

### **TUESDAY, JUNE 23**

8:00 AM Larry Campbell

### **WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24**

8:00 AM Florence Sacco

### **THURSDAY, JUNE 25**

8:00 AM Marie McCarthy

### **FRIDAY, JUNE 26**

8:00 AM Lee Meyer

### **SATURDAY, JUNE 27**

8:00 AM Maria Elsa Prieto  
(2nd Anniversary)

5:00 PM Matthew Cohen

### **SUNDAY, JUNE 28**

8:00 AM Walter Kelly  
10:00 AM Diane Marie Merkle  
12:00 PM Edith E. Hubar

The **Votive Candle** burns  
in memory of

**THOMAS ROONEY &  
MARTIN 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, Caroline Bisi, Baby Nellie, Liam Fanning, Ken McGlone, Eileen Stasiunis, Christina Perlis, Maria Spaccarotella, Bruce Hawkinson

### *Remembering Those Who Have Passed:*

Frances Delasey, Edward Laux, Michael McGrath, Richard Naman, Michael Moorman



# Solemnity of St. John the Baptist

**JUNE 24, 2026 • 8:00 AM**

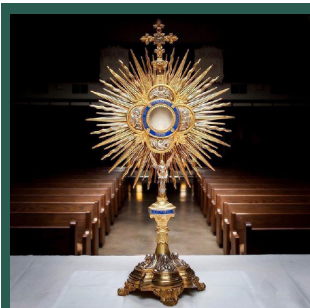
Every year on June 24 the Catholic Church throughout the world celebrates a special Solemnity of the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist, the beloved patron of our Parish.

The Nativity of St. John the Baptist is one of the oldest feast days of the Church. It is celebrated three months after the celebration of the Annunciation (March 25), when the Archangel Gabriel told Our Lady that her cousin Elizabeth was in her sixth month of pregnancy, and six months before the Christmas celebration of the birth of Jesus (December 25).

The purpose of these special Solemnities is not to celebrate the exact dates of the aforementioned events, but to commemorate them as the very fundamental milestones in the history of Christianity.

**Please join us for our Parish 8am Mass on this Solemnity, or unite with us in prayer throughout that special day in remembering our Parish family and all its past, present and future members.**

**DAILY MASS 8AM  
CHURCH OPEN DAILY**



**EUCCHARISTIC  
ADORATION**

**THURSDAYS 3-6PM**

Benediction & Community  
Prayer just before 6pm.

All are welcome!

Due to a wedding being celebrated on Thursday, June 25, Eucharistic Adoration will begin at 4:00 PM rather than 3:00 PM. Thank you for your understanding, and please join us in praying for this couple as they prepare for the Sacrament of Marriage.

## Happy Father's Day!

“The righteous who walks in his integrity -  
blessed are his children after him! —Proverbs 20:7

*Saint Joseph, guardian of Jesus and  
chaste husband of Mary,  
you passed your life in loving fulfillment of duty.*

*You supported the Holy Family of Nazareth  
with the work of your hands. Kindly protect those  
who trustingly come to you.*

*You know their aspirations,  
their hardships, their hopes.*

*They look to you because they know  
you will understand and protect them.  
You too knew trial, labor and weariness.*

*But amid the worries of material life your soul  
was full of deep peace and sang out in true joy  
through intimacy with God's Son entrusted to you  
and with Mary, His tender Mother.*

*Assure those you protect that they  
do not labor alone.*

*Teach them to find Jesus near them and to watch  
over them faithfully as you have done.*

*Saint Pope John XXIII*

God our loving and eternal Father,  
we give you thanks and praise for fathers young  
and old, for those nearby or those who are far away,  
for those living and those dear fathers who have  
already returned to Your Eternal Kingdom.

We pray for young fathers, newly embracing  
their vocation; may they find courage and  
perseverance to balance work, family  
and faith in joy and sacrifice.

We pray for our own fathers and for all fathers  
around the world whose children are lost or suffering;  
may they know that the God of compassion  
walks with them in their sorrow.

We pray for men who are not fathers  
but still mentor and guide us  
with fatherly love and advice.

We remember fathers, grandfathers, and  
great grandfathers who are no longer with us,  
but who live forever in Your Eternity and in our  
daily lives continue to nourish us with their love.

Amen.

# Saint John the Baptist – Our Heavenly Patron

St. John's Nativity - Happy Birthday 🎂 🙏 - June 24, 2026



We are given the story of the ministry of John the Baptist, called the Precursor or Forerunner of the Lord, with some variation of detail, in the three synoptic Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke, as well as in the Book of John. Luke tells us of the birth of John the Baptist in a town of Judaea, about six months before the birth of the Saviour. The New Testament tells us nothing of John's early years, but we know that his pious, virtuous parents must have reared the boy with care, conscious always of the important work to which he was appointed and imbuing him with a sense of his destiny.

When John began final preparations for his mission, he was probably in his thirty-second year of life. He withdrew into the harsh, rocky desert beyond the Jordan to fast and pray, as was the ancient custom of holy men. We are told that he kept himself alive by eating locusts and wild honey and wore a rough garment of camel's hair, tied with a leathern girdle. When he came back to start preaching in the villages of Judaea, he was haggard and uncouth, but his eyes burned with zeal and his voice carried deep conviction. So transcendent was the power emanating from the holy man that after hearing him many believed he was indeed the long-awaited Messiah. John quickly put them right, saying he had come only to prepare the way, and that he was not worthy to untie the Master's sandals. Although his preaching and baptizing continued for some months during the Savior's own ministry, John always made plain that he was merely the Forerunner. His humility remained incorruptible even when his fame spread to Jerusalem and members of the higher priesthood came to make inquiries and to hear him. "Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand," - this was John's often repeated theme. For the evils of the times his remedy was individual purification. "Every tree," he said, "that is not bringing forth good fruit is to be cut down and thrown into the fire." The reformation of each person's life must be complete – the wheat must be separated from the chaff and the chaff burned.

The rite of baptism, a symbolic act signifying sincere repentance as well as a desire to be spiritually cleansed in order to receive the Christ, was so strongly emphasized by John that people began to call him "the baptist." The Scriptures tell us of the day when Jesus joined the group of those who wished to receive baptism at John's hands. John knew Jesus for the Messiah they had so long expected, and at first excused himself as unworthy. Then, in obedience to Jesus, he acquiesced and baptized Him. Although sinless, Jesus chose to be baptized in order to identify Himself with the human

lot. And when He arose from the waters of the Jordan, where the rite was performed, "the heavens opened and the Spirit as a dove descended. And there came a voice from the heavens: "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." (Mark 1, 11) John's life now rushes on towards its tragic end. In the fifteenth year of the reign of the Roman emperor, Tiberias Caesar, Herod Antipas was the provincial governor or tetrarch of a subdivision of Palestine which included Galilee and Peraea, a district lying east of the Jordan. During John's preaching, he had denounced in unmeasured terms the immorality of Herod's petty court, and had even boldly reprimanded Herod to his face for his defiance of old Jewish law, especially in having taken to himself the wife of his half-brother, Philip. This woman, the dissolute Herodias, was also Herod's niece. Herod feared and revered John, knowing him to be a holy man, and he followed his advice in many matters; but he could not endure having his private life castigated. Herodias increased his anger by lies and manipulations. His resentment at length got the better of his judgment and he had John cast into the fortress of Machaerus, near the Dead Sea. When Jesus heard of this, and knew that some of His disciples had gone to see John, He spoke thus of him: "What went you to see? A prophet? Yea, I say to you, and more than a prophet. This is he of whom it is written: Behold I send my angel before thy face, who shall prepare thy way before you. For I say to you, amongst those that are born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist" (Matthew 11, 10-12).

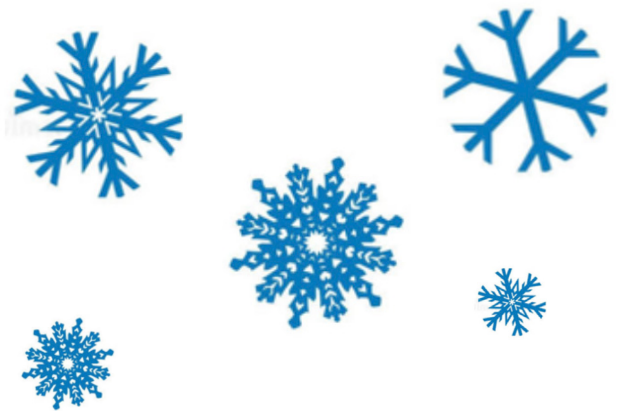
Herodias never ceased plotting against the life of John, who was not silenced even by prison walls. His followers now became even more passionate. To Herodias soon came the opportunity she had long sought to put an end to the "trouble-maker." On Herod's birthday he gave a feast for the chief men of that region. In Matthew's chapter 14, Mark's chapter 6, and Luke's chapter 9, we are given parallel accounts of this infamous occasion which was to culminate in John's death. At the feast, Salome, daughter of Herodias, entertained Herod and his guests so much by her dancing that Herod promised on oath to give her anything that it was in his power to give, even though it should amount to half his kingdom. Salome, acting under the direction and influence of her wicked mother, answered that she wished to have the head of John the Baptist, presented to her on a platter. Such a horrible request shocked and unnerved Herod. Still, he had given his word and was afraid to break it. So, with no legal or procedural formalities whatsoever, he dispatched a soldier to the prison with orders to behead the prisoner and return with it immediately. This was quickly done, and the cruel young lady did not hesitate to accept the platter with its dreadful offering and give it to her mother.

John's brief ministry was thus terminated by a monstrous crime. There was great sadness among the people who had followed him and listened to him, When the disciples of Jesus heard the news of John's death, they came and took the body and laid it reverently in a tomb. Jesus, with some of his disciples, traveled "to a desert place apart," to mourn.

The Jewish historian Josephus, giving further testimony of John's holiness, writes: "He was indeed a man endowed with all virtue, who exhorted the Jews to the practice of justice towards all human beings and piety towards God; and also to baptism, preaching that they would become acceptable to God if they renounced their sins. Thus Jews and Christians unite in reverence and love for this prophet-saint whose life is an incomparable example of both humility and courage.

*Saint John the Baptist, The Precursor. Scriptural Saint. Celebration of Feast Day is June 24. Taken from "Lives of Saints", Published by John J. Crawley & Co., Inc. (ewtn.com)*

# AS ONE FAMILY OF FAITH, LET'S "DIG" OUR SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST OUT OF THE WINTER SNOWSTORMS





- ❄️ **Saturday & Sunday, December 13 – 14, 2025**  
**Hillsdale: 5.0"**
- ❄️ Tuesday, December 23, 2025  
Hillsdale: 2.1"
- ❄️ **Friday & Saturday, December 26 – 27, 2025**  
**Hillsdale: 3.8"**
- ❄️ Friday, January 2, 2026  
Hillsdale: 0.1"
- ❄️ **Saturday, January 17, 2026**  
**Hillsdale: 2.8"**
- ❄️ **Sunday, January 18, 2026**  
**Hillsdale: 2.8"**
- ❄️ **Sunday & Monday, January 25 – 26, 2026**  
**Hillsdale: 15.0" with coating of freezing rain**
- ❄️ **Friday & Saturday, February 6 – 7, 2026**  
**Hillsdale: 0.3"**



- ❄️ Tue & Wed, Feb 10 – 11, 2026  
Hillsdale: Ice coating of freezing rain
- ❄️ **Sunday & Monday, February 15 – 16, 2026**  
**Hillsdale: 0.5"**
- ❄️ **Sunday & Monday, February 22 – 23, 2026**  
**Hillsdale: 21.3"**
- ❄️ Wednesday, Feb 25, 2026  
Hillsdale: 1.2"

**CUMULATIVE SNOWFALL TOTALS:**

**Hillsdale: 54.9 inches**  
**December: 10.9 inches**  
**January: 20.7 inches**  
**February: 23.3" inches**



**A Special Collection to Assist our Parish**

with the missed weekend collections during Saturdays & Sundays of numerous winter storms & with extraordinary expenses during the very cold and challenging **Winter of 2025-2026**



**The Solemnity of The Nativity of Saint John the Baptist, June 24, 2026**  
[online outreach]



<http://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/stjohnhillsdale>

until Sun., June 28, 2026  
[in pew collection]

# A PRAYER FOR GRADUATES

Thank you, our almighty and loving God, for all our children and young people who are graduating during these blessed days.

We pray that You will give them direction, purpose, perseverance and all the blessings they need as they enter the next phase of their young lives.

Give them your wisdom in order to recognize and appreciate the plans and new horizons that You have prepared for them.

May our 2026 graduates gain wisdom from You and may they always grow in faith, love and charity toward others.

We pray that they will always rise above all the wrongs and temptations of this world and have the courage and perseverance to stand up for what is right and noble.

Give them wisdom to spend wisely their time and talents which always come from You.

Grant them success in all their life endeavors, at every turn of their life journeys, and guide their feet to follow your lead and Commandments.

Our Heavenly Mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary, pray for us.  
Saint John the Baptist, pray for us.  
All Saints of heaven, pray for us.

Amen.

## A NOTE OF THANKS

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to the parishioners of St. John's Church for your incredible support of my Eagle Scout fundraiser bake sale. Your generosity, enthusiasm, and willingness to help made the event a tremendous success. Because of your kindness, we raised meaningful support for my Eagle Scout project benefiting The Unbridled Heroes Project, helping further its important mission and impact on those it serves.

I am truly grateful for your donations, kind words, prayers, and encouragement. Seeing so many members of our parish come together in support of this effort was both inspiring and humbling. Your support means so much to me as I work toward achieving the rank of Eagle Scout, and I will always remember the generosity you showed.

I would also like to offer a special thank you to Fr. Peter for championing my cause and helping make the fundraiser such a success. His guidance, encouragement, and unwavering support were deeply appreciated and played an important role in making this event possible.

Thank you again to everyone who contributed, volunteered, purchased baked goods, and supported this effort in any way. I feel truly blessed to be part of such a caring, faith-filled, and generous parish community. Your kindness has made a lasting difference, and I am sincerely grateful for all you have done.

Justin Baker



**It feels different  
because it *is* different.**

**Our top-rated Catholic School!  
From Pre-K to 8th grade,  
our faith-based curriculum  
educates the whole child –  
mind, body and spirit.**

**Join us!**

**Mrs. Ann Mitchell, Principal  
201-664-6364**

**[www.sjahillsdale.org](http://www.sjahillsdale.org)**



# CONGRATULATIONS SJA GRADUATES



*Congratulations and best of luck to our 8th grade students  
who just graduated from St. John's Academy!*

Amelia Barra  
Brielle Brace  
Skylar Callea  
Anthony Costa  
Victoria Delos Reyes  
Simona Donato  
Anna Ewers  
Martin Langan  
Madeline LaSala

Hayden Lauterback  
Gianna Leonard  
Luke Marciano  
Ethan Medina  
John Morgan, Jr.  
Jacob Pacheco  
Maximo Pertuz  
Joseph Porrovecchio  
Avery Portuondo

Matthew Rejent  
Nicolaus Safarowic  
Emma Savage  
Natalie Sayegh  
Christopher James Schiller  
Zachary Seils  
Maria Simonova  
Arianna Stiene  
Michael Tadros



**SAINT JOHN'S ACADEMY**

**CLASS OF 2026**

## OUR PARISH STEWARDSHIP

**SUNDAY, JUNE 14, 2026**

|                               |                 | <b>2025</b>      | <b>BUDGET</b>   |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Envelope & In Pew Giving:     | \$8,639         | \$ 8,238         | \$ 7,900        |
| Online Giving via ParishSOFT: | 5,284           | \$ 4,911         | \$ 5,000        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                  | <b>\$13,923</b> | <b>\$ 13,149</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!*



ARCHDIOCESE  
of NEWARK

ANNUAL <sup>2026</sup> APPEAL

### THANK YOU VERY MUCH TO OUR CARING AA DONORS!

**Thank you so very much (!)** to all our kind and generous donors who through your kindness, concern and generosity have sent a powerful message about the caring and compassionate spirit of our community to the entire Archdiocese of Newark. We are very grateful to the 227 families and individual parishioners who have helped us to raise \$99,598 and surpass our \$98,750 parish goal.

This great news, and our joy, will now be even further multiplied through an important 2% reduction of our Annual Archdiocesan Parish Assessment. In addition, about 50% of the funds collected and exceeding our parish goal will be given back to our parish for our pastoral needs. Please note that only the part of your pledges which is paid by June 30 will be counted toward our parish rebate and the reduction of our Archdiocesan Assessment.

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 and reward you many times for your kind assistance and support. ([www.rcan.org/sharing](http://www.rcan.org/sharing))

### FAITH FORMATION REGISTRATION

Our parish Religious Education Office is excited to share that the 2026-2027 Faith Formation Registration (aka CCD) for St. John's is open & available on our parish website [www.stjohnhillsdale.org](http://www.stjohnhillsdale.org) "Faith Formation".

Our Faith Formation programs are available to all Catholic children in grades 1 - 8 who are attending public school. Our programs are in-person or family-at-home (gathering once a month during a weekday evening for both children and parents). All families who register for faith formation must be registered parishioners of St. John's Parish Community.

Faith Formation is a lifelong journey of growing in our relationship with Jesus and understanding our Catholic faith more deeply. Participating each year helps children remain connected to the parish community, develop friendships rooted in faith, and better understand the importance of living as disciples of Christ in everyday life.

We encourage families enrolling their child in the summer program to register immediately to assist the staff in planning for a successful program.

Families with a child entering second grade in September (who has been baptized and completed 1st grade religious education), please register him/her for First Reconciliation and First Communion along with Faith Formation.

For further information please contact Kathy Breitenbach, Registrar at [kbreitenbach@stjohnhillsdale.com](mailto:kbreitenbach@stjohnhillsdale.com)



**WE ARE HIS  
WITNESSES**

[WeAreHisWitnesses.org](http://WeAreHisWitnesses.org)

for updates, timelines and resources.

***"It is not so essential to think much as to love much."***

*Saint Teresa of Avila (1515 - 1582)*