

SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

69 VALLEY STREET, HILLSDALE NJ 07642 • STJOHNHILLSDALE.ORG



5th Sunday
OF EASTER

& THE SACRAMENT
OF CONFIRMATION
IN OUR PARISH

MAY 2-3, 2026

Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, then you will also know my Father." - John 14:6-7a

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

Fifth Sunday of Easter & The Sacrament of Confirmation — May 2 & 3, 2026

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

The annual celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation is one of the spiritual highlights in the life of our family of faith, reminding us of the precious calling to a relationship and friendship with Christ which we first received in the moment of our own Baptism and Confirmation. Although our celebration of this Sacrament this weekend is particularly joyful and festive, especially for the families of our young parishioners receiving it, the joy, blessings, and spiritual benefits of these memorable moments will once again have a profound meaning and impact for us all.

Our wish to all our newly confirmed brothers and sisters can be expressed through the words proclaimed in the homily of Pope Leo XIV during the Inauguration Mass of his Pontificate: *“We want to say to the world, with humility and joy: Look to Christ! Come closer to him! Welcome his word that enlightens and consoles! Listen to his offer of love and become his one family: in the one Christ, we are one.”* We all pray during this weekend that our young people, especially those receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation, be blessed in every way and led by our loving God, through the intercessions of Saint John the Baptist, on their journeys of life always closer to Christ and the Church.

I am very grateful to Bishop Gregory Studerus for having accepted our invitation to preside at this Saturday celebration and for conferring the Sacrament of Confirmation on our young people. Through decades of his life and service in the Archdiocese of Newark as priest and bishop, and also as pastor, Bishop Studerus has been a truly distinguished servant of the Lord in the local Church of the Archdiocese of Newark. He is coming to us not only as a bishop, successor of the Apostles, but also as a living witness to the fact that those gifts of the Holy Spirit and graces which he received many years ago on the day of his own Confirmation have been life-giving in his own personal and spiritual life, and they continue to grow and bear bountiful fruits until this day.

Let’s continue to remember each other in prayer as we daily strive to re-discover and re-live the boundless and merciful love of Christ. Let us also support all of our young people through our prayers and example of our Christian lives.

— Fr. Peter

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

Remembering Those Who Have Passed:

Margaret Coyne, Florence Sacco, Deanna Perrotto

Mass Intentions

*We remember our loved ones
and community*

SATURDAY, MAY 2

5:00 PM Tommy Ivancich

SUNDAY, MAY 3

8:00 AM Kathleen Foley
10:00 AM Catherine McKeveny
12:00 PM Richard Matcovich

MONDAY, MAY 4

8:00 AM Walter Wilkinson

TUESDAY, MAY 5

8:00 AM Patti Bonomolo

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6

8:00 AM Margaret Wilkinson

THURSDAY, MAY 7

8:00 AM Eileen English

FRIDAY, MAY 8

8:00 AM Joseph Colletti

SATURDAY, MAY 9

8:00 AM Kathleen Rooney &
Patricia Henry
5:00 PM Margaret Coyne

SUNDAY, MAY 10

8:00 AM Mother’s Day
Remembrances
10:00 AM Mother’s Day
Remembrances
12:00 PM Mother’s Day
Remembrances

The **Votive Candle** burns
in memory of

PATTI BONOMOLO

at the request of
The Williamson Family



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.

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

CONGRATULATIONS

to our Children who Received their
First Communion on April 18 and April 25



Ella C. Albanese	John D. Fornazor	Nicholas C. Mourao
Jason A. Andriotis	London F. Fox	Leo M. Munoz
Lily Arricale	Brooke Fredeman	Karina I. Obarzanek
Logan C. Bell	Kamryn T. Fuhrman	Ella O'Gara
Madison N. Bernard	Luca J. Garcia	Sienna J. Paulter
Lorenzo D. Bonfrisco	Theodor R. Goers	Savannah Preston
Kingsley P. Brown	Sienna R. Gray	Ryan Rattacasa
Theodore J. Brown	Andrew Griffin	Demi M. Reap
Ryleigh L. Burke	Mateo Hauer	Alexander Reiprich
Angelina R. Butler	Mia Hauer	Shea N. Roberts
Gemma S. Cali	Dominic Hazen-Pouliot	Gianna Roque
Isabella Canciglia	Liam Hobbs	Dante A. Rosario
Matthew C. Chavez	Taylor Huff	Caiden Carter G. Rubio
Evelyn S. Chicolo	Rocco Illuzzi	Emma Sande
Giavanna R. Ciavirella	Ella J. Jarer	Everett B. Sayers
Ryan J. Compesi	Piper Johnson	Sophia G. Shousha
Dylan Cox	Hailey Jordan	Jacob M. Sonnema
Stuart Cubbon	Timothy Kehoe	Gage M. Speranza
Dean M. D'Agostino	Meghan Lai	Ava Suarez
Julia Daniele	Stephen Landers	Evan Suarez
Olivia Daniele	Sydney Leach	Piper Svenda
Wyatt J. Del Corso	Rory G. Littleton	Juliana G. Tedesco
Viera T. Delos Reyes	Lindy B. Lucia	Arianna R. Testino
Joseph J. Dembowski	Brianna Luciano	Francesca Toms
Emelia R. Denis	Cooper Malysa	Amelia Vicente
Kayla E. DeSimone	Isabella Mattessich	Michael Viggiani
Makenna G. Dickman	Noelle McGrath	Emily N. Voltman
Everett R. Dorr	Robert McMackin	Jackson M. Winchell
Thomas J. Duarte	Alexandra G. Militello	
Lucas Eid	Mateo A. Montesdeoca	
Luke A. Fatovic		



CONGRATULATIONS
TO OUR YOUNG MEN &
WOMEN WHO RECEIVED
THEIR CONFIRMATION
THIS WEEKEND!

Lucien Sebastian Auguste	Andre Martin
Angelo Dante Balletto	Bailey Francis Martin
Mattias Barboni	Benjamin Mattessich, Jr.
Marcello Pietro Barrese	Grace Anne McManus
Savannah Anne Lyne Callea	Briana Elizabeth McNamara
Ryann Cenicola	James McNeil
Shannon Marie Coleman	Marissa Regina Montalbano
Julianna Elizabeth Cox	Tyler Robert Moreda
Michael Daly	Jack Gregory Najarian
Elly Mary DePiero	Vincent Richard Parsells
Nicholas DeSerio	Alexander Pena
Daniel Dineen	Allison Pichardo
Isabela Duarte	Peyton Austin Pranke
Joaquin Francisco Durovcsik	Daniela Joan Proto
Kathleen Eckes	Arianna Carmen Rega
Frankie Michael Falesto	Connor Landis Rettew
Kamila Fernandez	Samantha Ritorto
Kevin Garrett Foley	Amelia Salamone
Emily Lorraine Fucci	Christopher Sardella
Kyle Gagliano	Gianna Siller
Sabrina Catherine Haskell	Gavin Peter Stempkowski
Dario Llorens Jardim	Martino Joseph Tarabocchia
Marco Henrique Jardim	Stephanie Agnes Vitale
Andrew Karcz	Sydney Elizabeth Williams
Madison Mildred Lai	Paige Wizemann
Mary Rita Laux	Peter Andrew Wynne
Reese Lutz	Raymond Zorovich
Taylor Rose Mackey	
Alessandra Lourdes Marinozzi	



A few months ago, in November 2025, the third child of world-renown tenor Andrea Bocelli, his daughter Virginia, received the Sacrament of Confirmation. On this blessed occasion, Andrea, as a proud and grateful father, wrote to his daughter the following heartfelt message.

Certainly, in these Andrea Bocelli's words are also expressed the love, faith, joy and hopes of the parents, grandparents, godparents, family members and friends of the young people of our 2026 Saint John the Baptist Parish Confirmation Class.



Dear Virginia,

to you who remind us every day how love is, when strong and clear, you seek continuity, to you who express with your very presence the miracle of a life that grows between our hands and changes every day, to you we would just like to say: stop this moment and cherish it. It's an important stage that screams – like every sacrament – the adventure of existence.

Confirmation is once again a beginning: the Holy Spirit is a flame you will always carry with you to light your steps, and it will be even more precious every time you come to a crossroads, between choosing what is good or what would be more convenient to do.

"It feels like yesterday": this is a sentence that belongs to those who have already lived so long... But let us say: it seems like yesterday that we were approaching you, in bands, to the baptismal fountain, and now you are a person who chooses, you are confirmed and therefore a conscious witness, in faith and in life.

Let's celebrate and learn too, once again: children teach us the correct perception of impermanence, which is the very essence of the journey: yesterday it was a smiling face from the cradle, today it is an adolescent who extracts talents and energies, tomorrow it will be a woman, and every time we are in sweet necessity - without giving in to melancholy - greeting the child that was and welcoming the girl that is, knowing that everything changes but nothing ceases to be, not today or ever. Because what is loved stays.

Credits: Facebook - Andrea Bocelli and Veronica Berti Bocelli, November 11, 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.



CALLED BY NAME

*HONORING FAITHFUL YOUNG MEN IN
THE ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK*

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



“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 190+ 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 \$89,216 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 26, 2026

	2025	BUDGET
Envelope & In Pew Giving:	\$ 6,477	\$ 7,900
Online Giving via ParishSOFT:	\$ 5,039	\$ 5,000
TOTAL	\$ 11,516	\$12,900

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

St. Joseph Regional High School Presents COME FROM AWAY

.... A musical that tells the remarkable true story of what happened in the town of Gander, Newfoundland, when 38 planes carrying 7,000 passengers were unexpectedly grounded on Sept. 11, 2001.

Performances will take place at the Inserra Theater, on the campus of St. Joseph Regional HS, 40 Chestnut Ridge Road, Montvale, NJ on May 7 & 8 (7pm), May 9 (2pm & 7pm) and May 10 (1pm*). *A light brunch in honor of Mother's Day will be offered at 11:30am. Tickets are \$25.

There is a special Senior Citizen's Preview Performance on Wednesday, May 6 at 4pm, including a Reception beginning at 3:15pm, all for \$15.

Tickets for all performances & preview may be purchased through SJR.Booktix.com or in person one half-hour before each show.

CATHOLIC COLLEGE NIGHT MAY 14

An open invitation to all high school students and their parents to attend the 8th Annual Catholic College Night to be held at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, Ridgewood on Thursday, May 14th from 6:00 – 8:00PM. The event will be held in the Parish Center located in the church building at 1 Passaic Street (please enter through Passaic Street doors). For a full list of the schools attending, please visit Mount Carmel's website: www.olmcridgewood.com

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.

COME CELEBRATE HILLSDALE!

at the Hillsdale Boy Scout Troop 109

MEMORIAL DAY PANCAKE BREAKFAST

7:00am - 10:30am

Before the Parade – Rain or Shine!

Held at Holy Trinity Church
(326 Hillsdale Ave)

Scouts will be at the doors of our church
selling tickets after all Masses
THIS WEEKEND.

Cost is \$10/person (kids under 5 free)
Proceeds to benefit Troop 109
and local charities.

**“When you know how much
God is in love with you,
then you can only live your
life radiating that love.”**

— *St. Teresa of Calcutta*
(1910 - 1997 A.D.)