

SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

69 VALLEY STREET, HILLSDALE NJ 07642 • STJOHNHILLSDALE.ORG



DECEMBER 3, 2023

1st Sunday OF ADVENT

*O Lord, you are our father; we are the clay and you the potter:
we are all the work of your hands. — Isaiah 64:7*

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
Dee Ford, Youth Ministry

• ST. JOHN'S ACADEMY 201.664.6364

Ann Mitchell, Principal
Penny Jackson, Tuition Manager / Registrar
Heather Hurley, School Secretary

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

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

On this First Sunday of Advent, we have gathered at the right place to “await” and celebrate - we have come to our Saint John the Baptist Spiritual Home. There are three “spiritual faith-filled giants” of the very last months and years of the era called “B.C. – before Christ”: Our Heavenly Mother and Mother of Jesus - Blessed Virgin Mary, Saint Joseph, and our great patron, Saint John the Baptist. It was John who humbly but resolutely declared that he came into the world in order to prepare the way for the Messiah and His might and splendor will be so great that he is not even worthy to “stoop down and untie His sandals” (Mark 1:7).

While Mary is the “par excellence” example of the Christian longing and awaiting the birth of the Messiah, and we will celebrate her Immaculate Conception once again on December 8, Saint Joseph provided, what we would call in our modern language “the logistics” for all that needed to be taken care of prior to the birth of Christ so that both Mary and her expected baby would always be guarded and protected. When Pope Francis in the late part of 2020 declared the period in the life of the Church between the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception in 2020 (December 8, 2020) and the same Solemnity the following year (December 8, 2021) as the Year of Saint Joseph, he particularly highlighted this significant mission of Saint Joseph - the protector of Christ, Mary, the Church, and also of each and every one of us. And, Saint Joseph always, as the Pope continues to remind us, fulfills this noble mission discreetly, humbly and silently, but with an unfailing presence and utter fidelity, in good times and bad, even when he finds it hard to understand. He is there at every moment with loving care. In the Gospels he is portrayed as a strong and courageous man who is awaiting the birth of the Lord and then always protects him. In his boundless love and tenderness Saint Joseph demonstrates his greatness.

As we begin our Advent 2023 journey, let us all pray that through the intercessions of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Saint Joseph and John the Baptist, it will truly become a blessed period in our lives. May these three spiritual giants who are such wonderful examples of “waiting for the Messiah” and “preparing the way for the Lord,” intercede for us as we await, pray and search, asking together: What am I waiting for? What, at this moment of my life, does my heart long for? What are we waiting for together? What unites our aspirations, what brings them together? May these questions continue to lead us to the faith and joy filled rediscoveries of our Lord and our Catholic faith.

-Fr. Peter

SENDING HEALING PRAYERS TO:

Christine Cleary, Odran Seeley, James Lyons, Mary Schubert, Arlene Norling, Robert Francis Mercandino, Gina Mulroy, John Archene, Robert Lax, Bill Coyle, Jim Surovich, Justina Greene, Reed Lipnick, Martin Huvane, Maricarmen Senande, Aaron Scott, Jr., Mike McCrory, Rod Capawana, Victoria Davis, Lorraine Pasquale, John Luke Bechtold, Craig Williams, Angela Visentini, Mike Bacigalupo, Sonia Spagnoli, Lucas Kelly, Al Spiegel, Sr., Magali Trujillo

REMEMBERING THOSE WHO HAVE PASSED:

Loretta Wilson, Maryann Smith

Mass Intentions

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2

5:00 PM Bob Donfield, Jr.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3

8:00 AM Gloria Truppi

10:00 AM Protection of babies
in the womb &
their families

12:00 PM Helen Brennan

MONDAY, DECEMBER 4

8:00 AM Bob Donfield, Jr.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5

8:00 AM The Huvane &
Rooney Families

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6

8:00 AM Robert Dolce

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7

8:00 AM Anna Devaney

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8

8:00 AM Anna Devaney

12:00 PM Gloria Truppi

7:00 PM Helen Sullivan (20th Anniv.)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9

8:00 AM Elizabeth Ann Smith

5:00 PM Bob Donfield, Jr.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10

8:00 AM Micky Britt

10:00 AM Peter Vidulich

12:00 PM Larry Campbell

THE VOTIVE CANDLE BURNS
IN MEMORY OF

THOMAS QUIGLEY

AT THE REQUEST OF
THE BREEN FAMILY

THE BREAD & WINE IS GIVEN
IN MEMORY OF

BOB DONFIELD, JR.

AT THE REQUEST OF
RAMON & TERESITA KASILAG

Would You Like to Light the Church's Advent Wreath?



Please join those who have had the honor of lighting the church's Advent Wreath candles during Mass over the years. Indicate your interest on the sign-up

sheet in the church vestibule this weekend. The remaining dates for lighting the wreath are: Dec. 9/10, 16/17, 23/24. A member of the Liturgy Committee will contact the parishioners who sign up with further details.

ADVENT WEEKLY *Devotions*

DAILY MASS

8:00am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

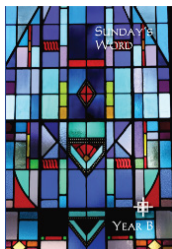
Thursdays 3:00 - 6:00pm

Benediction & Community Prayer
just before 6:00pm.

CHURCH OPEN DAILY

7:00am - 7:00pm

THANK YOU!



Bringing the Word of God to other Brothers and Sisters

We are grateful to our six individual donors and families who through their kindness and generosity fully funded our Sunday Missalettes for the new liturgical year (\$2,200). Beginning this Sunday, we will use these new Sunday's Word Missalettes, for the 2024 Liturgical Year B. These very helpful "Missalettes in our pews" include readings for all Sunday and major feast day Masses, as well as various prayers. They cover the period until the end of the 2024 Liturgical Year — Thanksgiving Day and The Solemnity of Christ the King (November 24, 2024).

May our loving God reward and bless our donors. As we will use the Missalettes for our community's reflections on God's Word and in praise of Him, who is the Giver of all gifts, we will include our donors, in a special way, in our prayers.

journey to the manger

The hope of Christians is turned to the future but remains firmly rooted in an event of the past, the birth of our Redeemer

Advent is a very evocative religious season because it is interwoven with hope and spiritual expectation: every time the Christian community prepares to commemorate the Redeemer's birth, it feels a quiver of joy which to a certain extent it communicates to the whole of society. In Advent, Christians relive a dual impulse of the spirit: on the one hand, they raise their eyes toward the final destination of their pilgrimage through history, which is the glorious return of the Lord Jesus; on the other, remembering with emotion his birth in Bethlehem, they kneel before the Crib. The hope of Christians is turned to the future but remains firmly rooted in an event of the past. In the fullness of time, the Son of God was born of the Virgin Mary: "Born of a woman, born under the law", as the Apostle Paul writes (Gal 4:4). The Gospels invite us to stay on guard as we await the final coming of Christ. "Look around you!", Jesus says. "You do not know when the master of the house is coming" (Mk 13:35). The short parable of the master who went on a journey and the servants responsible for acting in his place highlights how important it is to be ready to welcome the Lord when he suddenly returns. The Christian community waits anxiously for his "manifestation", and the Apostle Paul, writing to the Corinthians, urges them to trust in God's fidelity and to live so as to be found "blameless" (see 1 Cor 1:7-9) on the day of the Lord.

We might say that Advent is the season in which Christians must rekindle in their hearts the hope that they will be able with God's help to renew the world. May Mary Most Holy, Virgin of Advent, obtain that we live this time of grace in a watchful and hardworking way while we await the Lord.

Pope Benedict XVI, Reflection during the Prayer of Angelus, Vatican, 27 November, 2005

OUR PARISH STEWARDSHIP

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26

		2022	BUDGET
Envelope & In Pew Giving:	\$8,221	\$7,485	\$10,627
Online Giving via Faith Direct:	\$5,151	\$4,806	\$3,370
TOTAL	\$13,372	\$12,291	\$13,997

In addition, the collection on November 19 was \$13,837, compared to \$12,365 the previous year, and our Thanksgiving collection was \$2,625. Your financial support enables our parish home to continue the mission of the Church. Thank you and God bless you!

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Friday, December 8, is a Holy Day of Obligation.

**OUR MASS SCHEDULE IS
8:00AM, 12:00PM AND 7:00PM.**

Please also note that the Parish Offices will be closed on that day. Thank you.

GIVING TREES AT ST. JOHN'S

St. John's Human Concerns Committee is diligently working to make the holidays a joyous time for those in need, especially the children. A "Giving Tree" has been placed at each door of the church. On the trees are suggestions for gift cards. If you are able, we ask that you donate one of these cards to help the needy. Checks are also appreciated. We ask that all gifts be placed in the designated box at the Parish Center by December 18.

**We thank you in advance
for your kindness and generosity.**



BECKER FUNERAL HOME Christmas Outreach

You & your family are invited
for a special Holiday memorial service
A TREE OF REMEMBRANCE DEDICATION

at Westwood Elks Club
523 Kinderkamack Road, Westwood
Wed., December 6, 2023 @ 7:00pm

Doors open at 6:30pm for
ornament preparation.

Light refreshments will be provided.

RSVP by Dec 4th: 201-664-0292

**TICKETS
AVAILABLE NOW!**

December 19, 2023 - 7:00pm
A Very Broadway Christmas Concert
To purchase tickets, scan the QR code
above with your phone or visit:
ChristmasConcert.StJohnHillsdale.org

ONLINE GIVING: SIGN UP TODAY!

Faith Direct provides the ability to give to St. John's through electronic donation (credit card or direct debit from your bank). Visit www.faithdirect.net and enroll online using our parish code **NJ48**

With online enrollment, you can access your account any time to view / make changes to account info and gifts.

**"Let the soul of Mary be in each of us to
magnify the Lord, and the spirit of Mary
be in each of us to rejoice in God."**

— Saint Anslem (1033 - 1109)