

SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

69 VALLEY STREET, HILLSDALE NJ 07642 • STJOHNHILLSDALE.ORG



“I am the light of the world. ✦✦ He who follows me does not walk in the darkness, ✦ but will have the light of life.” ✦✦✦
John 8:12

REGISTER
RENEW
GROW



APRIL 28, 2024

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

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

Sara Armstrong, We Are Young Choir Leader

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

Fifth Sunday of Easter • April 28, 2024

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

On this Fifth Sunday of Easter the love of Jesus and his personal relationship with each and every one of us continues to be the main spiritual theme of this blessed Season. The Gospel of this Sunday invites us to be those disciples of Jesus who remain connected to the true source of love, hope, and all blessings, the Redeemer, Jesus Christ (cf. Jn 15:1-8). He is the vine; we are the branches. "Just as a branch cannot bear fruit on its own unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in me," he is assuring us in today's Gospel.

In order for us to understand how personal and boundless the love of Christ truly is, a similar radical and humanly unexplainable story is presented to us in today's First Reading. The harshness of Saul's heart and his cruelties in persecuting the early followers of Jesus were so known among the apostles and in the early Christian communities that they had certainly placed Saul on the list of those helpless and "hopeless" situations. Then, even the apostles realized that the same boundless love of Christ which led them to their own personal conversions and friendship with Christ, was fully "in action" in the life of a confused and vicious man formerly known as Saul - now Saint Paul, another great saint of the Church.

Thank you to many of our parishioners and families who have already assisted us in our 2024 Register-Renew-Grow initiative and have re-registered as members of our parish with their current and updated personal information. Those who have not yet done so, I kindly ask you to find a moment today, or sometime this week, and re-register as members of our community of faith. You will find more information on the following page of our bulletin. Many of our parish records regarding our parishioners are outdated and we need to address this situation with urgency. In addition, together with all of you, we hope and desire to renew and grow our parish family, so that we can all be those "new life and new growth-bringing branches" always connected to our Lord and Savior, Jesus, and the Church which he has established. Thank you for your support and all your kindness, including the ongoing 2024 Annual Appeal, and the goodness of your hearts. I pray for each one of you, as well as for all your loved ones. And, as always, I humbly ask you to pray for me and for all those who serve and minister to you in our wonderful Parish Family.

-Fr. Peter

SENDING HEALING PRAYERS TO:

Victoria Davis, John Luke Bechtold, Angela Visentini, Sonia Spagnoli, Lucas Kelly, Al Spiegel, Sr., Debbie Kral, Michelle Mangano, Martin Filon, John Bibby, Michael McKay, James Carbone, Mary Schubert, Carole Ann Bersano, Tim Mangano, Lourdes Munson, Jim Lyons, Maxine Fleming, Joanne Hughes, Christine Mulcahy, Carolyn Graham

REMEMBERING THOSE WHO HAVE PASSED

Mass *Intentions*

SATURDAY, APRIL 27

5:00 PM Gerard Caporino

SUNDAY, APRIL 28

8:00 AM Elizabeth Frances Burke

10:00 AM Mary Toohey

12:00 PM B.W. Michael Choo

MONDAY, APRIL 29

8:00 AM Thomas Connolly

TUESDAY, APRIL 30

8:00 AM Bob Donfield, Sr.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 1

8:00 AM Peter Schultz

THURSDAY, MAY 2

8:00 AM Charles Donohue

FRIDAY, MAY 3

8:00 AM Jean McGoldrick

SATURDAY, MAY 4

8:00 AM Walter Wilkinson

5:00 PM Ellen Caulfield

SUNDAY, MAY 5

8:00 AM Bob Donfield, Sr.

10:00 AM Isabelle Mango

12:00 PM Jennifer Kalajian

THE VOTIVE CANDLE BURNS
IN MEMORY OF

BOB DONFIELD, SR.

AT THE REQUEST OF
THE ROSARY SOCIETY

THE BREAD & WINE ARE GIVEN
IN MEMORY OF

MARY ANN LYON

AT THE REQUEST OF
THE LYON & DAMKEN FAMILIES



REGISTER RENEW GROW

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
HILLSDALE, NJ



renew.stjohnhillsdale.org

Our Phase 1

Holy Thursday, March 28 - Pentecost, May 19, 2024

- I We have now launched our Register-Renew-Grow parish journey of updating all our parishioners' data and contact information, in the process of our parish's renewal and growth. Our secure website renew.stjohnhillsdale.org contains a renewal and registration form which is very easy to complete. For those who would rather fill out a paper renewal and registration form, those forms are now provided in our church's entrance and exit doors and areas.

- II We will reach out, via a personal letter to all our parishioners who have not been active in our parish during the past two years, who continue to receive, at our parish's expense, donation envelopes and who have not made any (even \$1) contribution to the parish community during these past two years. Through our internal review, we have identified a very large number of registered individual parishioners and families who are in this category.



To Jesus, our Friend and Redeemer &



To the Parish and Community We



OUR *Easter Season* 2024

A Prayer for This Week

Grant me, O Lord my God,
a mind to know you,
a heart to seek you,
wisdom to find you,
conduct pleasing to you,
faithful perseverance in waiting for you,
and a hope of finally embracing you. Amen

—St. Thomas Aquinas

A Special Thank You from Deacon Jack

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
Thank you so much for all your prayers,
calls, texts, emails and expressions of concern.
I am doing well. I experienced no serious injury
and am in no pain. God bless you all
and please know that you are
in my prayers always.

— Deacon Jack



**I Am the Vine, You are the Branches.
Remain in Me, as I Remain in You**

In the Gospel of this Fifth Sunday of Easter (Jn 15:1-8), the Lord presents himself as the true vine, and speaks of us as the branches that cannot live without being united to Him. And so He says: “I am the vine, you are the branches”. There is no vine without branches, and vice versa. The branches are not self-sufficient, but depend totally on the vine, which is the source of their existence. Jesus insists on the verb “to remain”. Before leaving this world and going to the Father, Jesus wants to reassure His disciples that they can continue to be united with Him. He says, “Remain in me, and I in you.” This remaining is not a question of *remaining passively*, of “slumbering” in the Lord, letting oneself be lulled by life: no, no! It is not this. The remaining in Him, the remaining in Jesus that He proposes to us is *remaining actively*, and also reciprocally. Why? Because the branches without the vine can do nothing, they need sap to grow and to bear fruit; but the vine, too, needs the branches, since fruit does not grow on the tree trunk. It is a reciprocal need, it is a question of a reciprocal remaining so as to bear fruit. We remain in Jesus and Jesus remains in us.

First of all, we need Him. The Lord wants to say to us that before the observance of His commandments, before the beatitudes, before works of mercy, it is necessary to be united to Him, to remain in him. We cannot be good Christians if we do not remain in Jesus. With Him, instead, we can do everything (cf. Phil 4:13). With Him we can do everything. But even Jesus needs us, like the vine with the branches. Perhaps to say this seems audacious to us, and so we ask ourselves: *in what sense does Jesus need us?* He needs our witness. Like the branches the fruit we must give is the witness to our lives as Christians. After Jesus ascended to the Father, the task of the disciples - it is our task - is to continue to proclaim the Gospel in words and in deeds. And the disciples - we, Jesus’ disciples - do so by bearing witness to His love: the fruit to be borne is love. Attached to Christ, we receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and in this way we can do good to our neighbor, we can do good to society, to the Church. The tree is known by its fruit. A truly Christian life bears witness to Christ.

Pope Francis, *Regina Caeli Noon Prayer*, Vatican, May 2, 2021

OUR *Easter Season* 2024



EASTER SEASON WEEKLY

Devotions

Daily Mass

8:00 am

Eucharistic Adoration

Thursdays 3:00 - 6:00 pm

Church is Open Daily

7:00 am - 7:00 pm



**FAITH + FAMILY + FRIENDS + GROWTH
THAT IS
OUR PARISH'S
FAITH FORMATION**

REGISTRATION 2024-2025



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

St. John's offers several faith formation programs each year:

Sunday Weekly Program (Grades 1st - 6th)

Summer Program with Monthly Family Gatherings (Grades 1st - 8th)

Home Program with Monthly Family Gatherings (Grades 1st - 6th)

Junior High Home Program (for children entering Grades 7 and 8)

Families who currently have a child registered in St. John's Faith Formation Program have received information via email and the link to register.

Registration for the Summer Program is closed, and other programs by May 15th. This is for current registered families.

New families to St. John's Parish please contact Kathy Breitenbach, Registrar, Faith Formation: kbreitenbach@stjohnhillsdale.com for further info.

"WE ARE YOUNG" CHOIR

**ALL PRIMARY & MIDDLE SCHOOL
FRIENDS OF JESUS ARE INVITED!**

9:15 AM REHEARSAL

10:00 AM MASS

APRIL 28

MAY 12 & MAY 19

JUNE 2 & JUNE 16

Contact Sara Armstrong to sign up
or with any questions:
sarmstrong@sjh-hillsdale.org

OUR PARISH STEWARDSHIP

SUNDAY, APRIL 21, 2024

		2023	BUDGET
Envelope & In Pew Giving:	\$ 7,692	\$ 7,135	\$ 7,900
Online Giving via Faith Direct:	\$ 5,073	\$ 5,114	\$ 5,000
TOTAL	\$12,765	\$ 12,249	\$12,900

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



Thank you for your support & personal sacrifices on behalf of our parish.
Please continue to generously support our spiritual home.

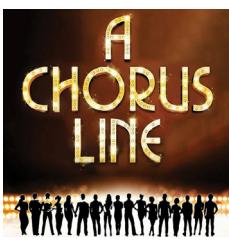
“Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.”

Saint Paul’s Letter to Galatians 6:2

DIAPER DRIVE AT ST. JOHN’S

The Respect Life Ministry is conducting its Annual Baby Diaper Drive April 28 - May 12! The proceeds will be given to New Hope, an outreach organization in Westwood which assists first time single mothers. New Hope is in desperate need of large size baby diapers. Your donations may be placed in the porta-cribs at the church entrances. Monetary donations will also be accepted. Thank you for your generosity, and may God bless you always.

St. Joseph Regional High School Presents A CHORUS LINE (Teen Edition)



Performances will take place at the Inserra Theater, on the campus of St. Joseph Regional HS in Montvale, NJ on May 10 (7pm), May 11 (3pm & 7pm), May 12 (2pm). There is a special Senior Citizen’s Discount Preview Performance on May 8 at 3pm.

Tickets are sold online SJRBOOKTIX.NET and at the box office. Group discounts for parties of 10 or more (Email: SJRTheater@sjrnj.org).

NOTICE REGARDING CONFESSIONS ON MAY 4

Confessions will not be held on Saturday, May 4 due to the First Communions.

Please call the Rectory for an appointment.

ARCHDIOCESE of NEWARK ANNUAL 2024 APPEAL



Please complete a pledge envelope - they are at the doors of the church, and have also been mailed to your home. The envelopes may be returned in the collection basket or to the Rectory Office, or even mailed directly to the Archdiocese. You may also make your pledge online at www.rcan.org/sharing or by using the QR code. Please indicate on all pledges and donations that you are a member of St. John the Baptist Parish in Hillsdale and that your donation should be credited to our Parish.

May God bless you always for helping those less fortunate than ourselves. Let us make our annual goal together, as a family of faith. Every donation counts and every donation makes a big difference, as every donation demonstrates far beyond our local area the great spirit of Saint John the Baptist Parish!



**“We all have a vocation.
We need to believe that
God has placed us in this life
to fill a special need that
no one else can accomplish.”**

— St. Francis de Sales (1567 - 1622)