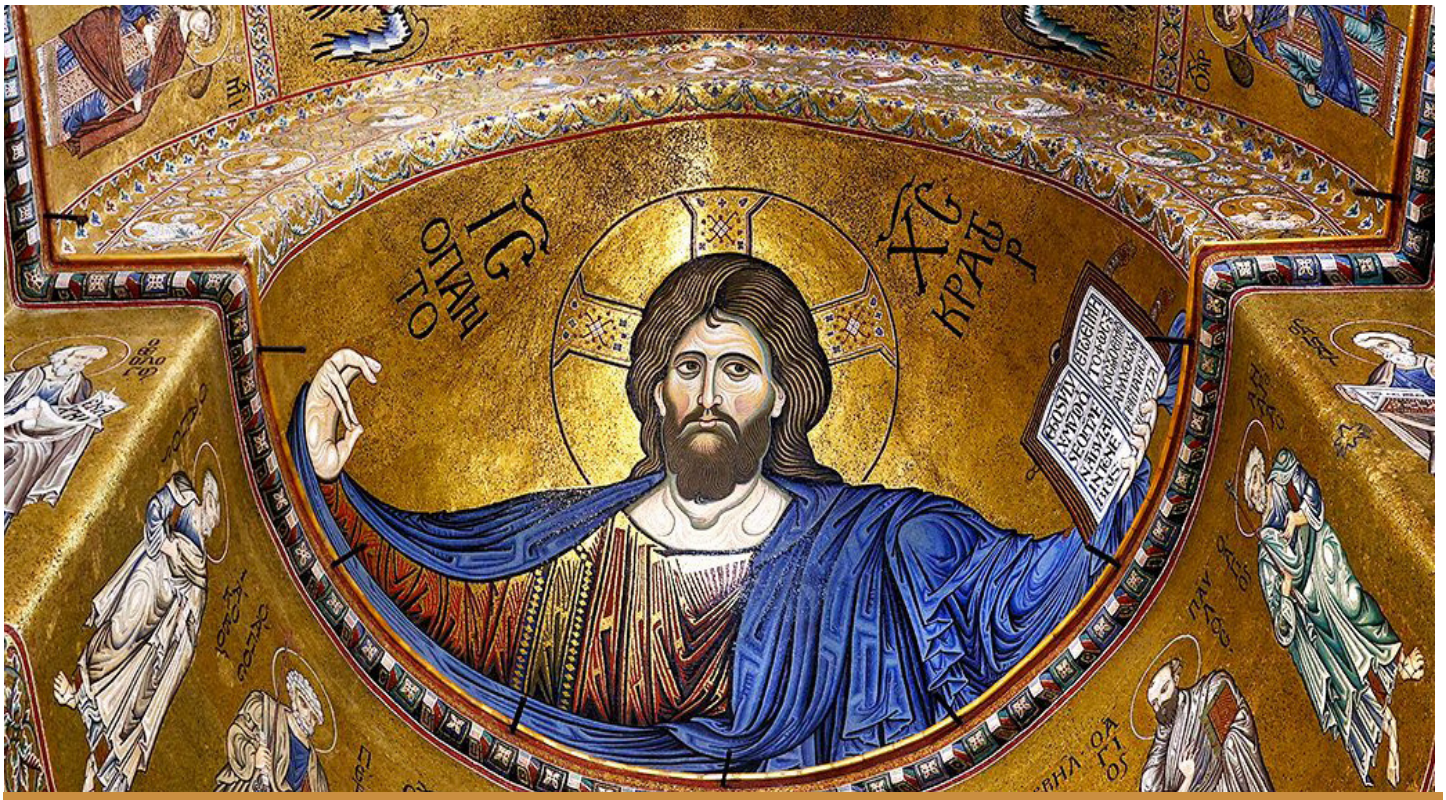
SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST
ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

69 VALLEY STREET, HILLSDALE NJ 07642 • STJOHNHILLSDALE.ORG



NOVEMBER 22, 2026

THE SOLEMNITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me. — Matthew 25:34b-35

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**
  Donald Caputo, *Director of Lifelong Faith Formation*
  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 Saint John the Baptist Parish Family,
Dear Friends of our Parish,

On this special Sunday, as we celebrate the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, and "bid farewell" to the Church's liturgical year, we gather as a community of Jesus' friends, lifting our hearts and voices to the Almighty in **THANKSGIVING** and renewing our commitment to love and **GIVING.**

Our annual celebration of Christ as our Eternal King invites us to reflect on the central place our Savior and Redeemer wishes to hold in our lives. He descended from God's Eternal Kingdom, lived among us, died for our salvation, and continues to guide us on our personal journeys toward His Kingdom. Through His life-giving love, grace, and blessings, He illuminates our everyday human existence.

Throughout this week, so profoundly marked by our Thanksgiving gatherings and celebrations, we will have countless opportunities to recognize just how real and visible His presence is in our lives. Throughout the two thousand years of Christianity, this constant presence of God—even in the most ordinary circumstances of daily life—has been one of the most profound and life-changing discoveries made by the men and women whom we remember and honor as saints.

Whether living through moments of great joy and prosperity or enduring some of the most distressing and sorrowful periods in human history, the saints came to a deep and abiding conviction that they were never alone. Saint Paul beautifully expresses this same faith in his Letter to the Colossians (1:12-20):

Brothers and Sisters,

Let us give thanks to the Father, who has made you fit to share in the inheritance of the holy ones in light. He delivered us from the power of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things he himself might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile all things for him.

I sincerely hope and pray that this Sunday, as well as on Thanksgiving Day, we will all live, pray, gather, share, and celebrate with this same spirit of faith, joy, and conviction.

Wishing all of you, our dear parishioners and friends, and your loved ones, a happy, healthy, and truly blessed Thanksgiving!

Saint John the Baptist, pray for us. All you holy Saints of God, pray for us.

— Fr. Peter

Mass Intentions

We remember our loved ones and community

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21
5:00 PM Albert Green

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22
8:00 AM People of the Parish
10:00 AM Nunzia Maria DiMaria Palladino
12:00 PM Thomas Connellan (10th Anniversary)

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23
8:00 AM Maria De Jesus Rodriguez

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24
8:00 AM Lee Meyer

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25
8:00 AM John J. Cuffe, Sr. & John F. Cuffe, Jr.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26
8:00 AM People of the Parish

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27
8:00 AM Erminia & Giuseppe Caldera

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28
8:00 AM Ken Gibney
5:00 PM Norman Palmeri

SUNDAY,NOVEMBER 29
8:00 AM Ray Greve
10:00 AM Salvatore Messina
12:00 PM Eileen Wynne

Prayers for Healing and Peace:

Thomas Tobin, Ann Walsh, Baby Rocco, Caroline Bisi, Baby Nellie, Eileen Stasiunis, Bruce Hawkinson, Walter Minx, Mary Lou Wilson, John Manning, Alex Rodriguez, Ruth Dell Valle, Linda Palumbo, Anthony Delasey, Joseph Camilleri, Jamie Calabro, Lorraine Tighe, Steven Kudla, Alice L., Nat Mashini, Terry Medino, James Carbone, Laura Carbone, Joanne Hughes, Salvatore Conti

Remembering Those Who Have Passed.

Francesco Saverio Geraci, Linda Tammaro, Rosario Marrella, Beth Ravit, Ann Marie Piano, Dolores Santucci



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. Kindly indicate your interest by adding your name and email address to the sign-up board in the vestibule (main entrance of the church). A confirmation with all the details will be sent the week before your selected weekend.

Thank you for helping us mark the season with light and hope.



JOIN US FOR DAILY MASS

8:00AM

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Wednesday, November 25 • 3-6PM
Benediction & Community Prayer
just before 6PM

THANKSGIVING DAY MASS AT 8AM

We are looking forward to seeing you as we give thanks and praise to Almighty God for his countless gifts and graces.



Let us continually pray and give thanks to our loving and eternal God.

HAPPY, HEALTHY AND BLESSED THANKSGIVING!

Our prayers are very often requests for help in a time of need. Moreover, this is normal for men and women because we need help, we need others, we need God. Thus, it is normal for us to ask God something, to seek help from him; and we must bear in mind that the prayer the Lord taught us, the "Our Father", is a prayer of petition. With this prayer the Lord teaches us the priorities of our prayer and cleanses and purifies our desires and, in this way, he cleanses and purifies our hearts. Therefore, even though it is in itself normal that we should ask for something in prayer, it should not be exclusively so.

There is also cause for thanksgiving in our prayers and if we pay a little attention, we see that we receive very many good things from God. He is so good to us that it is right and necessary to say, "thank you". And our prayer should also be a prayer of praise: if our hearts are open, in spite of all the problems, we also see the beauty of his creation, the goodness that is revealed in his creation. Therefore, we must not only ask but also praise and give thanks, only in this way is our prayer complete. In his Letters St. Paul does not only speak of prayer; he also refers to prayers and of course prayers of petition as well, but prayers of praise and blessing for all that God has worked and continues to work in humanity's history. [...]

It is important to be attentive at this very moment, also in the holiday period, to the beauty of creation and to see God's face shining out in this beauty. The saints showed clearly in their lives what God's power can do in human weakness. And he can also do it in us. In the whole of the history God understands our infidelities, he encourages our commitment and guides us. We learn in prayer to see the signs of this merciful plan in the Church's journey.

Pope Benedict XVI, General Audience, Vatican City, June 20, 2012

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC CHURCH, HILLSDALE NJ

presents

A VERY BROADWAY Christmas 2026

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13

CONCERT AT 3:30PM

Featuring



Heather Bixler



John Cudia



Ciarán Sheehan



James Gregory



Kathy Voytko

Irish tenor and Broadway star **Ciarán Sheehan** *(Phantom, Phantom of the Opera),* returns to Hillsdale, NJ for A Very Broadway Christmas!

Joining him for this special holiday concert are **John Cudia**, *(Phantom, Les Miserables*), **James Gregory** *(Pianist & Singer)*, **Heather Bixler** *(Classical Violinist & Irish Fiddler)*, and **Kathy Voytko** *(Oklahoma!, Nine)*. Enjoy a festive evening of Broadway favorites, timeless Christmas classics, and extraordinary musical talent!

ChristmasConcert.StJohnHillsdale.org

69 Valley St, Hillsdale, NJ • 201-664-3131

For the Women of St. John's Parish

YOU'RE INVITED!

Tea, Treats & Togetherness

Brewing friendships, sharing faith, and building community.

Join us for the kickoff of our parish women's group!

Bring your favorite cookies to share.



St. John's Parish Center

December 9, 2026

7:00 PM

RSVP

St. John the Baptist



Breakfast with St. Nicholas

Join us for a festive breakfast, crafts and goodies!

Sunday, December 6th

— the Feast Day of St. Nicholas! —

Two Seating Times:

After the 10:00 AM Mass
& the 12:00 PM Mass

Join us on our Journey to Jesus this Advent!

REGISTER HERE!



ADDRESS OF POPE LEO XIV TO ATHLETES OF THE MILAN–CORTINA 2026 OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES ***(****Vatican - April 9, 2026)*

Dear Athletes and Friends

I welcome you with joy, shortly after the conclusion of the Milan-Cortina Winter Games, which, alongside top-level competitions, have also spread a noble human, cultural and spiritual message throughout the world. Thank you for what you have shown. Truly, sport, when lived authentically, is not merely a performance: it is a form of language, a narrative made up of gestures, of effort, of anticipation, of falls and of new beginnings. During the Games we saw not only bodies in motion, but stories: stories of sacrifice, of discipline, of tenacity. In particular, in Paralympic competitions we have seen how a limitation can become a source of revelation: not something that holds a person back, but something that can be transformed, even transfigured into newfound qualities. You athletes have become life stories that inspire a great number of people.

Secondly, your team spirit reminds us that no one wins alone, because behind every victory there are many people involved – from family to teams – as well as many days of training, pressure and solitude. It is often precisely in these moments that God reveals himself, as the psalmist sings: "Thou didst give a wide place for my steps under me, and my feet did not slip" (*Ps* 18:36).

Indeed, sport contributes to the maturing of our character, requires a steadfast spirituality and is a fruitful form of education. Through sport, we learn to know our own bodies without idolizing them, to control our emotions, to compete without losing our sense of fraternity, to accept defeat without despair and victory without arrogance. By training the mind, along with the limbs, sport is authentic when it remains humane, that is, when it remains faithful to its first vocation: to be a school of life and talent. A school in which one learns that true success is measured by the quality of relationships: not by the amount of prizes, but by mutual respect, by shared joy in the game. [...}

Dear athletes, I thank you all for your commitment. I pray that Jesus Christ, "God's true athlete" (cf. Saint John Paul II, *Homily for the Jubilee of Sports People*, 29 October 2000, 4), may inspire in each of you ever more virtuous challenges and grant you the strength to live them out with passion. As I accompany you with my blessing, I entrust you with a mission: to continue ensuring that the person remains at the centre of sport in all its forms (cf. Letter *Life in Abundance*).




ADDRESS OF POPE LEO XIV TO A PILGRIMAGE FROM VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY AND THE UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME BASKETBALL TEAMS

Vatican - October 31, 2026

Dear friends,

I am pleased to welcome all of you to the Vatican as part of your pilgrimage to Rome. In a particular way, I greet Father Peter Donohue, President of Villanova University, and Father Robert Dowd, President of the University of Notre Dame, along with the students, faculty, staff, alumni and supporters of these two academic institutions who are present.

There are many activities occurring during your visit, including, of course, the basketball games that will take place tomorrow between the teams from your universities. In this regard, given the enthusiasm and widespread interest surrounding these games, we can see the potential for sport to play an impactful role both in the life of an academic community as well as in the wider society.

Various Christian authors throughout the centuries, including a number of my predecessors, have noted the many praiseworthy effects that result from participation in athletic activities. In this respect, in more recent years, especially through the voices of the popes, the Catholic Church "has proposed a vision of sport centered on the dignity of the human person, on his or her integral development, on education and on relationships with others, highlighting its universal value as a means of promoting values such as fraternity, solidarity and peace" (Letter *Life in Abundance*, 6 February 2026).

As many of us have experienced, by acting as a concrete means of bringing people together, athletics can teach the values of cooperation and mutual sharing. This is increasingly necessary in an age marked by the distance that can be created by technology (cf. *Homily for the Solemnity of the Holy Trinity, Jubilee of Sport*, 15 June 2025). Indeed, "sport is a medicine for both body and spirit, when it is practiced well" (*Address to Members of the Italian Swimming Federation*, 25 June 2026).

During sporting events, there is the natural desire to cheer, often passionately, for one's own side. It is important to remember that in any competition, the members of two teams, even when they have a competitive rivalry, are certainly not enemies (cf. Letter *Life in Abundance*). I hope, therefore, that despite the competitive nature of college basketball, there will be opportunities for the players and the fans of both teams to get to know each other in your days here in Rome.

Providentially, your visit is taking place on the eve of the Solemnity on which the universal Church venerates "in one celebration the merits of all the Saints" (Roman Missal, *Collect for the Solemnity of All Saints*). On All Saints' Day, we remember that God calls everyone to be a saint. Indeed, Saint Peter emphasizes that since the Lord himself is holy, we ourselves are to be holy in all of our conduct (cf. *1 Pet* 1:15). We are invited, therefore, to ensure that every aspect of our lives, including our athletic endeavors, will help us to love God and our neighbor. For a number of saints, including Pier Giorgio Frassati, a patron saint of athletes, sport was an important component of their lives. His life, as well as that of many holy men and women, reminds us that no one is born a champion, just as no one is born a saint. Rather, holiness requires a daily training in love (cf. *Homily for the Solemnity of the Holy Trinity, Jubilee of Sport*).

In this regard, Christians are called to run in the race of life with the objective of winning an imperishable crown of glory (cf. *1 Cor* 9:24-25). I pray that the activities which comprise your pilgrimage, especially your visits to the tombs of the Apostles, who gave their lives in defense of the faith, will serve as a reminder that our true goal, beyond emerging victorious in any one event, is to win the prize of everlasting life.

My dear friends, with these thoughts I once again thank you for your presence, and I entrust all of you to the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, of Saint Augustine, St. Thomas of Villanova and Blessed Basil Moreau. To you, and to the members of your university communities, I willingly impart my Apostolic Blessing. Thank you.



OUR PARISH STEWARDSHIP

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2026		2025	BUDGET
Envelope & In Pew Giving:	$8,054	$ 9,917	$ 6,500
Online Giving via ParishSOFT:	6,814	$ 4,729	$ 7,130
TOTAL	**$14,868**	**$14,646**	**$13,630**

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



All of us who serve and minister within our Parish Community of Saint John the Baptist would like to go beyond the traditional wishes of "Happy Thanksgiving" and "Blessed Thanksgiving" to say: **"Thank you, many times over! Have a Happy and Blessed Thanksgiving!"**

Thank you for who you are, for your friendship with Christ, for your commitment to His Church and to our Parish, and for your faithful stewardship, kindness, and generosity toward this precious House of God—Saint John the Baptist Church.

This is a sacred place entrusted to us by generations past, and it is our privilege and responsibility to maintain, preserve, and enhance it for our young people and for all those God-loving brothers and sisters who will come after us.

May the One who created us, sustains us, and continually showers us with His love, care, and generosity bless you abundantly and reward you for all the goodness, kindness, and generosity you so graciously share with our Parish community.

With heartfelt gratitude, we wish you and your loved ones a very Happy and Blessed Thanksgiving!

Calling All Senior Citizens: Thanksgiving Dinner @IHA

You're invited to Immaculate Heart Academy's Annual Senior Citizen Thanksgiving Dinner. Please join us on **Tuesday, November 24th from 4:00-6:00pm** in the IHA cafeteria for a free Thanksgiving dinner and raffle. Please RSVP by calling 201-445-6800 from 8AM-4PM daily, **Please do not leave a voicemail.** We are located at: 500 Van Emburgh Avenue, Washington Township, NJ. The IHA girls are excited and working so hard to share this meal with you all!

THE PARISH OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED ON NOVEMBER 26 & 27 FOR THE THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY.

ENJOY YOUR CELEBRATIONS!

ParishSOFT Giving **SIGN UP TODAY!**

ParishSoft provides the ability to give to St. John's via electronic donations (credit card or direct debit from your bank.) Please use the QR code or visit:

https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/stjohnhillsdale

Once on the ParishSoft giving page, please click on Sign In to begin account.

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

"In all created things discern the providence and wisdom of God, and in all things give Him thanks."

— St. Teresa of Avila (1515 - 1582)