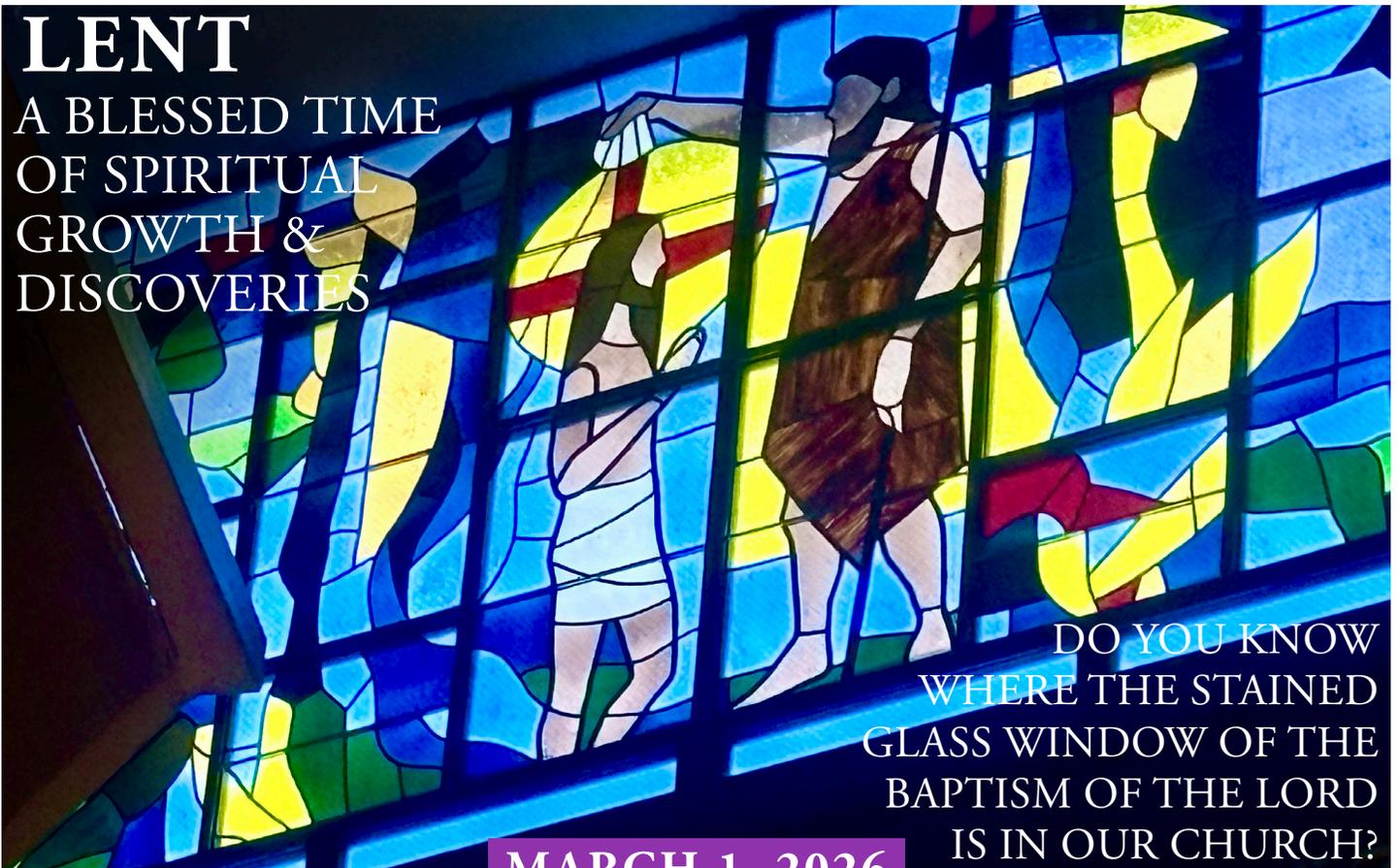


# SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

69 VALLEY STREET, HILLSDALE NJ 07642 • STJOHNHILLSDALE.ORG

## LENT

A BLESSED TIME  
OF SPIRITUAL  
GROWTH &  
DISCOVERIES



DO YOU KNOW  
WHERE THE STAINED  
GLASS WINDOW OF THE  
BAPTISM OF THE LORD  
IS IN OUR CHURCH?

**MARCH 1, 2026**

## 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT

*Our soul waits for the LORD, who is our help and our shield.  
May your kindness, O LORD, be upon us who have put our hope in you. — Psalm 33:20,22*

**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

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

Prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, have for two thousand years been three important spiritual realities so deeply connected to Lent. As we reflect on their significance for us and all brothers and sisters around us, we realize that while the first two allow us to deepen our own personal relationship with God, the third one, so deeply connected to those first two, immediately challenges us to express that connection, discipleship and friendship with the Lord in our concern for others. In one of the Scripture passages from Ash Wednesday, Saint Paul called the community of the early Christians in Corinth - and also us - “the ambassadors for Christ” (cf. 2 Corinthians 5:20). That spectacular title and recognition should always be for us a great affirmation, and a source of inspiration. Practicing daily kindness, generosity, and charity during this year’s Lent, we will once again bring a ray of Christ’s light and love into the lives of people around us and will become “His ambassadors” day by day, wherever He sends us. On our Lenten journey, we also remember in the intentions of daily Masses and prayers in our beautiful church those who are ill, homebound, or those who face any difficulty, sorrow, or struggle. May our Lord, who is “the light of the world” (cf. Jn 3:19), the One who through his love and self-sacrifice shattered every darkness of our human and spiritual existence, bless us all and guide us throughout this entire season in our actions, thoughts, prayers, fasting and charitable works.

Thank you, in a special way, to all of you who have already responded to the request to help those in need in our Archdiocese of Newark, through the 2026 Annual Appeal. Let us join our efforts and our God-given resources in this important charitable initiative. Among those who will benefit from our generosity are children, young people, adults and elderly who need our human concern and assistance. As always, I am very grateful for your support and all your kindness, witness of faith, and the goodness of your hearts.

Please know that on this challenging but beautiful journey of Lenten renewal 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

### *Prayers for Healing and Peace:*

Kim Costa, Rose Lyons, Thomas Tobin, Anthony K., Peter Spaccarotella, Ronnie Verra, Florence Sacco, Daniel Tintle, Jr., Jim Derbyshire, James Carbone, Terry Medino, Anita Lawrence, Nick Hodgman, Deacon Jack Gray, Ann Walsh

### *Remembering Those Who Have Passed:*

Jerry Vitti, John Brogan

## *Mass Intentions*

*We remember our loved ones  
and community*

### **SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28**

5:00 PM Ernie Panacek

### **SUNDAY, MARCH 1**

8:00 AM People of the Parish

10:00 AM Joan Thalman

12:00 PM Salvatore Lopiccolo

### **MONDAY, MARCH 2**

8:00 AM Aly Belisonzi

### **TUESDAY, MARCH 3**

8:00 AM Kathleen Foley

### **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4**

8:00 AM Nicholas Donato, Sr.

### **THURSDAY, MARCH 5**

8:00 AM Nicholas Donato, Sr.

### **FRIDAY, MARCH 6**

8:00 AM James Farrell

### **SATURDAY, MARCH 7**

8:00 AM People of the Parish

5:00 PM Gerri Hickey

### **SUNDAY, MARCH 8**

8:00 AM JoAnn Greene

10:00 AM Claire Donaghy

12:00 PM Alessandro Valenti  
(Grandfather &  
Grandson)

# OUR *Lent* 2026 +

## The benefits of **ParishSOFT®** Giving

### 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.



### Almsgiving during Lent is teaching us to share with others whatever we possess through divine goodness.

Each year, Lent offers us a providential opportunity to deepen the meaning and value of our Christian lives, and it stimulates us to rediscover the mercy of God so that we, in turn, become more merciful toward our brothers and sisters. In the Lenten period, the Church makes it her duty to propose some specific tasks that accompany the faithful concretely in this process of interior renewal: these are *prayer*, *fasting* and *almsgiving*.

The practice of almsgiving, in particular, represents a specific way to assist those in need and, at the same time, an exercise in self-denial to free us from attachment to worldly goods. The force of attraction to material riches and just how categorical our decision must be not to make of them an idol, Jesus confirms in a resolute way: "You cannot serve God and mammon" (*Lk* 16,13). Almsgiving helps us to overcome this constant temptation, teaching us to respond to our neighbor's needs and to share with others whatever we possess through divine goodness. In this way, inward cleansing is accompanied by a gesture of ecclesial communion, mirroring what already took place in the early Church. In his Letters, Saint Paul speaks of this in regard to the collection for the Jerusalem community (cf. *2 Cor* 8-9; *Rm* 15, 25-27). According to the teaching of the Gospel, we are not owners but rather administrators of the goods we possess: these, then, are not to be considered as our exclusive possession, but means through which the Lord calls each one of us to act as a steward of His providence for our neighbor.

### Daily Mass

8:00 am

### Eucharistic Adoration

Thursdays 3:00 - 6:00 pm

Benediction just before 6:00pm

### Church is Open Daily

7:00 am - 7:00 pm

### Come & Pray with Us The Stations of the Cross



**Fridays** 8:30 am

(following 8:00 am Mass)

**Fridays** 7:00 pm

**Sundays** 9:15 am

# OUR PARISH STEWARDSHIP

## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2026 (Snowstorm)

		2025	BUDGET
Envelope & In Pew Giving:	\$6,825	\$ 7,965	\$ 7,900
Online Giving via ParishSOFT:	5,241	\$ 4,813	\$5,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$12,066	\$ 12,778	\$12,900

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

## FIRST COMMUNION

The First Communion Day of our child is a very special occasion – a day to be celebrated and always remembered!

There are families in our community, and so many in Newark, NJ, who cannot afford to purchase a First Communion outfit for their child. Please help to make another child's First Communion Day one that will be cherished by donating used or new Communion dresses, suits, shirts, ties, head pieces or shoes.

We have set aside ONE DAY when donations will be received: Saturday, March 21st from 10AM to 1PM at St. John the Baptist Church Parish Center, Hillsdale, NJ 07642 (or call Kathy at 201-666-4185). Please bring all donations clean, on hangers, and covered in plastic.

Monetary donations will also be graciously accepted. Checks can be made payable to St. John's Human Concerns.

If you or anyone that you know may need an outfit, please contact Kathy. **Thank you so very much!**

## WOMEN'S CORNERSTONE

Step away, unplug, and do something just for you. You'll be uplifted, inspired, and surrounded by women walking through the same challenges, growing in faith together, and forming friendships that feel like a breath of fresh air. Every need is taken care of - simply show up, rest, reflect, and soak in God's presence. Come alone or bring a friend!

The retreat is Friday, March 6 - 7pm to 10pm and Saturday, March 7 - 7:00am to 8:00pm in the parish center. Take an invitation at the door and pray on it. You'll be so grateful you said yes!

Suzanne Pearson: 201.267.7502;  
Stefanie Streeter: 201.415.2577  
or email SJWCornerstone@gmail.com



WE ARE HIS  
WITNESSES

Visit  
[WeAreHisWitnesses.org](http://WeAreHisWitnesses.org)  
for updates, timelines  
and resources.

## PLEASE HELP US REACH OUR GOAL!

# ANNUAL<sup>2026</sup> APPEAL



Next weekend, March 7-8 is the "In Pew Weekend" and the Official Launch of the 2026 Annual Appeal. So far we have received \$29,456 in pledges and donations, which represents more than 1/4 of our parish goal of \$98,742. We are very grateful to the 89 families and individual parishioners who have helped us launch this campaign, but we are still very far from achieving our goal.

Please complete a pledge envelope - they can be found at the doors of the church and in the pews next weekend. The envelopes may be returned in the collection basket or to the Rectory Office or even mailed directly. You may also make your pledge online by using the QR code or by visiting [www.rcan.org/sharing](http://www.rcan.org/sharing). **Please indicate on all pledges & donations that you are a member of St. John the Baptist Parish in Hillsdale.**

May God bless you always for helping those less fortunate than ourselves.

*"Lent is a good time for sacrificing.  
Let us deny ourselves something  
every day to help others."*

— Pope Francis (1936 - 2025)