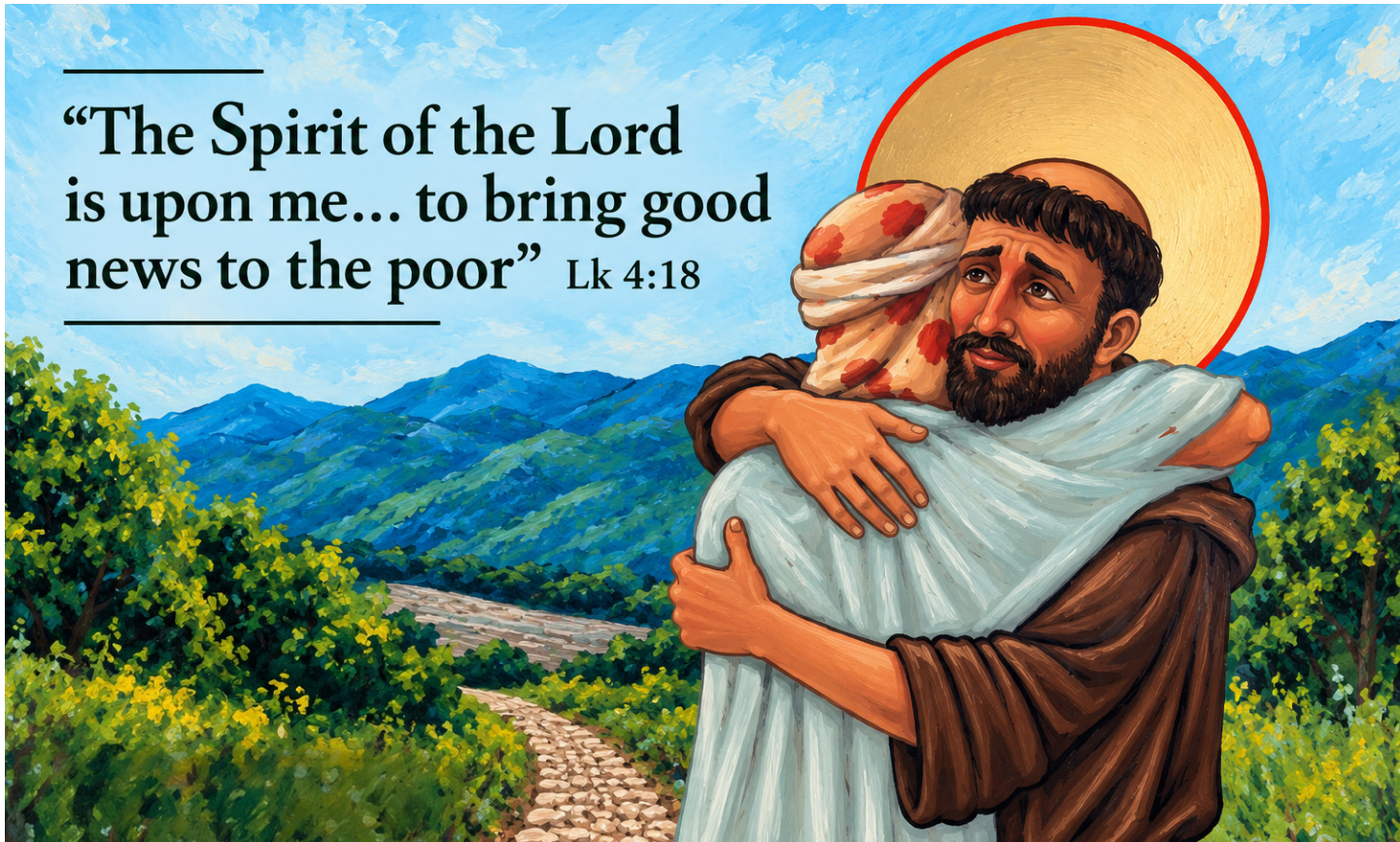


SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

69 VALLEY STREET, HILLSDALE NJ 07642 • STJOHNHILLSDALE.ORG

**“The Spirit of the Lord
is upon me... to bring good
news to the poor” Lk 4:18**



SEPTEMBER 20, 2026

25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME & CATECHETICAL SUNDAY

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 & Sisters of St. John the Baptist Parish Family,
Dear Friends of our Parish,

Welcome to our celebration of the Eucharist on this 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time. As we celebrate **Catechetical Sunday** here in the United States again this year, we are given a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the role that each of us, by virtue of our Baptism, is called to play in handing on the faith and being a witness to the Gospel.

Today, we acknowledge, bless, and celebrate all those who have dedicated their lives to assisting us—and especially our children and young people—in growing in faith and becoming faithful witnesses to the Gospel. At the same time, we are all invited to pause, pray, and rediscover the “catechetical mission” entrusted to each one of us.

One of the great lessons we learn from the saints is that each day, our good Lord gives us countless opportunities to be His witnesses and to bring His love, compassion, mercy, kindness, forgiveness, generosity, and the promise of our eternal destiny into the lives of the brothers and sisters we encounter—even in the most ordinary circumstances of daily life. On this journey of faith, the Eucharist and our family of faith have been given to us by our Redeemer as priceless gifts that guide, strengthen, and sustain us each day.

I am deeply grateful, as is our entire parish family, to every one of our catechists and “instructors in faith.” Above all, I offer my heartfelt gratitude to you, our dear parents and grandparents, who each day make a conscious and life-giving decision to share the precious treasure of our Catholic faith with our children and young people.

As we gather this Sunday to listen to the Word of God, celebrate the Holy Mass, and receive the Eucharist, let us give thanks and praise to Almighty God for His countless gifts and blessings.

Saint John the Baptist, our great heavenly patron, pray for us and for all our loved ones! May the Blessed Virgin Mary intercede for our beautiful church and for each of our homes and families. May God bless you and your families, and may He strengthen each of us in our call to share the gift of faith and to be faithful witnesses to the Gospel.

— Fr. Peter

Mass Intentions

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

5:00 PM Frances Delasey

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

8:00 AM Betty Mackie

10:00 AM Gregory Arthur
Harrison

12:00 PM Valentin Tarasenko
(5th Anniversary)

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

8:00 AM Lyon Carter, II

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

8:00 AM Jose Manuel Alvarez

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

8:00 AM Angelo Casbarro

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

8:00 AM Polly Mavridis (Living)

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

8:00 AM Melissa Baranski

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

8:00 AM Mercedes Victoria
Loor Quiroz

5:00 PM Michael Edward
Keating

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

8:00 AM Virginia (Ginna)
Sapanara

10:00 AM Thomas Lawlor
12:00 PM Hubert Stigliano, Jr.

The **Votive Candle** burns
in memory of

MELISSA BARANKSI

*at the request of
Nancy Higgins*

The **Bread & Wine** are given
in memory of

MARTIN FILON

*at the request of
The Sunday Collection Group*

Prayers for Healing and Peace:

Thomas Tobin, Terry Medino, 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

Remembering Those Who Have Passed.

St. John the Baptist Office of Lifelong Faith Formation Registration Open!



As we begin the new catechetical year,
families still have time to register
their children for **Faith Formation**,
First Holy Communion, and **Confirmation**.

Registration forms and program information are
available online. Scan or visit:

stjohnhillsdale.org/ccd-program



or for Confirmation **ONLY**:



**Please submit your registration
by October 1st** so we can finalize
class rosters and materials.

For any questions or additional information,
please contact:

Donald Caputo, Director
donald.caputo@stjohnhillsdale.com

Kathleen Breitenbach, Registrar
kbreitenbach@stjohnhillsdale.com



People ask what is the meaning of the word, Catechetical or Catechesis. It sounds strange yet the word might be more familiar than you think. Many Catholics have used the word “catechism” for years, and they know it has something to do with the compendium of the Church’s teachings. The root word, “catechesis,” is from a Greek word meaning “to echo, or resound.” Catechesis is the act of resounding or bringing the Church’s teachings to the world. A catechist is one who teaches in the name of the Church.

The Vatican published a document in 1935 directing that every country acknowledge the importance of the ministry of Catechesis. The Bishops of the United States established Catechetical Sunday on the third Sunday of September. Each year they choose a theme. This year: **“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me...to bring good news to the poor.”**

Each year we honor those who actively serve as Catechists with a special blessing at each Mass. We are grateful for our volunteers and teachers who serve in this ministry. There is a special role of parents who are truly the primary teachers of the faith. We commend our parents and guardians who plant the seeds of faith by their lives.

A PARENT’S PRAYER

Loving God, may our children come
to know you, the one true God,
and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.

May your Holy Spirit help them to grow
in faith, hope, and love, so they may
know peace, truth, and goodness.

May their ears hear your voice.
May their eyes see your presence in all things.

May their lips proclaim your word.
May their hearts be your dwelling place.

May their hands do works of charity.
May their feet walk in the way of Jesus Christ,
your Son and our Lord. Amen.



FAITH FORMATION

A Lifelong Journey Together

What does it mean to be on a formation journey? It isn't a classroom you graduate from or a checklist to finish; it's an ongoing path of discovering God's grace woven into the fabric of daily life. Whether you're taking your very first steps in exploring the Catholic faith, raising young disciples, rediscovering your prayer life after years away, or seeking deeper wisdom in your senior years, faith formation is truly lifelong.

*At St. John the Baptist,
you never walk this road alone.*

Our Office of Lifelong Faith Formation is dedicated to meeting you exactly where you are, at every age and stage of life's journey. There are no prerequisites and no expectations to have all the answers.

"Come as you are; leave transformed."

Join us as we learn, pray, and grow closer to Christ together.

Contact Us For More Information:
lifelong.faith.formation@stjohnhillsdale.com
donald.caputo@stjohnhillsdale.com

Your seat at the table is waiting.





Prayer for Catechists

Loving Father, we pray today for our catechists.
We thank you for their gift of ministry in your Church.

Grant them your wisdom that they may grow in the
understanding and teaching of your Word.
Grant them also your love that they may be fruitful heralds
of your Word and lead others to love you.

Pour forth your Holy Spirit upon them to grant them wisdom
about what is important; knowledge of the truths of faith;
understanding of their meaning; right judgement about how
to apply them in life; courage to persevere even in the face
of adversity; reverence before all that is sacred and holy;
and that loving zeal which leads others to a transforming
encounter with your Son.

We pray this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Prayer for Catechists Copyright © 2026, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, DC.

STATEMENT OF CARDINAL TOBIN REGARDING THE NEW APPOINTMENT OF BISHOP SAPORITO

I join the faithful of the Archdiocese of Newark in congratulating Bishop Michael Saporito on his appointment by Pope Leo XIV as Bishop of Metuchen.

While his presence among us will be deeply missed, we are grateful for the many ways he has served our local Church, particularly his ministry as Regional Bishop for Bergen County, where he has accompanied our priests, parishes and people with great care and dedication. He has been a faithful servant of the Gospel and, to me, a brother and friend. The Holy Father has now entrusted him with a new flock, and I know he will serve the people of Metuchen with the same generous spirit he has shown in his ministry among us.

I ask the faithful of the Archdiocese of Newark to join me in praying for Bishop Saporito and for the people of Metuchen as they begin this new chapter together. May the Lord guide him, strengthen him and fill his ministry with joy. Ad multos annos!



OUR PARISH STEWARDSHIP

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2026

Envelope & In Pew Giving:	\$7,300	2025 \$ 7,840	BUDGET \$ 7,900
Online Giving via ParishSOFT:	5,902	\$ 5,244	\$ 5,000
TOTAL	\$13,202	\$ 13,084	\$12,900

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

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL OPEN HOUSES

BOYS' SCHOOLS

Bergen Catholic, Oradell
Thurs, Oct. 8 at 6:30PM
Sun, Oct. 25 at 12:00PM
Register - bergencatholic.org

Don Bosco Prep, Ramsey
Thurs, Sept. 25 at 6:30PM
Sun, Oct. 19 at 12:00PM
Register - donboscoprep.org

St. Joseph Regional, Montvale
Sun, Oct. 4 at 11:00AM
Tues, Nov. 3 at 6:30PM
Reserve your spot - sjrnj.org

GIRLS' SCHOOLS

Academy of the Holy Angels, Demarest
Sun, Oct 4 at 10:00PM
Wed, Nov. 18 at 5:30PM
Register - holyangels.org

Immaculate Heart Academy, Twp. Washington
Sun, Oct 18 at 11:00AM
Thurs, Oct 22 at 6:30PM
More info - ihanj.org

COED SCHOOLS

Paramus Catholic, Paramus
Wed, Sept. 30 at 6:00PM
Info - paramuscatholic.com

Albertus Magnus, Bardonia
Tues, Sept. 29 at 6:00PM
Sun, Oct 25 at 12:00PM
Register - albertusmagnus.net



ST. JOHN'S EAGLES

ST. JOHN'S SPORTS ASSOCIATION WINTER BASKETBALL PROGRAM HAS BEGUN!

Both of our popular programs will be offered again this year:

- Competitive **CYO Basketball** for boys/girls grades 3-8
- Saturday morning **Instructional Clinic** for boys/girls grades K-2

Registration is first-come, first-served. There are no reserved spots. Our basketball program is very popular and has been growing every year. We try to get everyone in, but we are limited by capacity, coaches, roster sizes, etc. If capacity is reached, there will be a waiting list with no guarantee of team placement. PLEASE do not delay in registering. If you or your spouse can coach/assist, please mark that on your registration form. The more coaching help, the more players we can accept.

For more info and to register, visit <http://sjsports.org>

Join Us in Celebrating Cathy Wollyung's Retirement

Please join us as we celebrate Cathy's retirement and thank her for more than 30 years of devoted service to St. John the Baptist Parish.

**Saturday, October 3rd
Following the 5:00 PM Mass
in the Parish Center**

Please RSVP by **Sat, Sept. 26** to:

Marie Rocco: 201-666-1626

Mary Musella: 201-410-3272

*"The primary goal in the
education of children is to teach,
and to give the example
of a virtuous life."*

— St. John Chrysostom (347-407 A.D.)