

SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

69 VALLEY STREET, HILLSDALE NJ 07642 • STJOHNHILLSDALE.ORG



APRIL 5, 2026

EASTER SUNDAY

This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad. — Psalm 118:24

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,

Wishes for a very happy, healthy and blessed Easter to you and all your loved ones! I am so grateful to our loving God that we can celebrate Easter together and be with our Risen Lord who is the source of life and every blessing. In Him, our Redeemer, we find during these blessed days the reassurance that in every moment of our lives His redeeming and loving presence is with us and that one day we will share in the fullness of His joy, peace and glory in eternity.

The Gospel story of this Easter Sunday (cf. John 20:1-9) provides for us a precise narrative of what happened on the day of the “very first Easter,” the morning of the Lord’s resurrection. We hear about Mary of Magdala, Simon Peter and John, that other disciple whom Jesus loved, arriving at the empty tomb of the Savior. Together with them we are drawn to the countless perplexities of that spectacular moment, as well as to so many sorrows of the days which preceded this triumphant discovery. Right there, by the empty tomb of their friend Jesus, their hopes confront their disappointments, their joys begin to heal their sorrows, and their faith, little by little, scatters the darkness of their disbelief. Saint John is very honest in describing this internal transformation in the very last part of the Gospel story as he tells us that they witnessed what had happened but not yet fully understood. He needed to share this important detail so their stories of faith, as later described by him and three other Evangelists, may continue to unravel and be always deepened not through their own efforts and merits but through the graces and blessings of their friend and Risen Lord.

As we, dear brothers and sisters, as a community of faith gather symbolically around the empty tomb of our Savior and witness together His triumphant resurrection, there is, truly, a piece of Mary of Magdala, Peter, John, and the other disciples and followers of the Lord in each of us. Here, by His empty tomb, our own hopes confront our disappointments, our joys begin to heal our sorrows, and our faith, little by little, scatters the darkness of our disbelief.

Thank you for being those disciples of the Lord who proclaim and celebrate our faith in the Risen Lord and our personal resurrection with Him. May the Mother of Jesus and our own Heavenly Mother, Blessed Virgin Mary, Saint Joseph, Saint John the Baptist and all the Saints of Heaven continue to accompany us and intercede for all of us on our own personal journeys of faith.

— Fr. Peter

Prayers for Healing and Peace:

Kim Costa, Thomas Tobin, Anthony K., Peter Spaccarotella, Florence Sacco, Jim Derbyshire, James Carbone, Terry Medino, Anita Lawrence, Ann Walsh, Elaine McBreen, Baby Rocco, Edward Sandt, Jr., Caroline Bisi, Baby Nellie, Kathy Daly Engel

Remembering Those Who Have Passed:

Gabriel Rohaidy, Brett Kelly, Vivian Fogarty, Joseph Coletti

Mass Intentions

SATURDAY, APRIL 4

8:00 PM People of the Parish

SUNDAY, APRIL 5

8:00 AM People of the Parish

10:00 AM People of the Parish

12:00 PM People of the Parish

SUNDAY, APRIL 6

8:00 AM Gerald S. Crowley
(22nd Anniversary)

SUNDAY, APRIL 7

8:00 AM Bernadette Zacharda

SUNDAY, APRIL 8

8:00 AM Aurelio Iran

SUNDAY, APRIL 9

8:00 AM Gabino M. Roche

SUNDAY, APRIL 10

8:00 AM Eileen Conrad

SUNDAY, APRIL 11

8:00 AM John Cuffe

5:00 PM Autumn Rose Mallet

SUNDAY, APRIL 12

8:00 AM Mary Jane O'Reily

10:00 AM Francesco Leto

12:00 PM Remy Librinca

The **Votive Candle** burns
in memory of

AUTUMN ROSE MALLET

at the request of
The Mallet Family

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

THE ROONEY & HUVANE FAMILIES

at the request of
The Huvane Family

The benefits of ParishSOFT[®] Giving



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

Once you are in the Parish Soft giving page, to begin a giving account, please click on Sign In. Thank you.

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.



Easter gives hope to everyday life.

The Church teaches us to make a living remembrance of the Resurrection every year on Easter Sunday and every day in the Eucharistic celebration, during which the promise of the risen Lord is most fully realized: "Lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age" (Mt 28:20). For this reason, the Paschal Mystery is the cornerstone of Christian life, around which all other events revolve. We can say, then, without any irenicism or sentimentality, that every day is Easter. In what way?

Hour by hour, we have so many different experiences: pain, suffering, sadness, intertwined with joy, wonder, serenity. But through every situation, the human heart longs for fullness, a profound happiness. The Paschal proclamation is the most beautiful, joyful and overwhelming news that has ever resounded in all of history. It is the quintessential "Gospel", which attests to the victory of love over sin and of life over death, and this is why it is the only thing capable of satisfying the demand for meaning that troubles our minds and our hearts. Human beings are inspired by an inner movement, striving towards a beyond that continually attracts them.

Faced with our fragile humanity, the Paschal proclamation becomes care and healing, nourishing hope in the face of the frightening challenges that life presents us with every day on a personal and global level. Easter does not eliminate the cross, but defeats it in the miraculous duel that changed our human history. Christ's Resurrection is not an idea, a theory, but the Event that is the foundation of faith. He, the Risen One, through the Holy Spirit, continues to remind us of this, so that we can be His witnesses even where human history does not see light on the horizon.

Pope Leo IX, General Audience, Vatican, November 5, 2025

CHRIST THROUGH HIS DEATH AND RESURRECTION GIFTED US A FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT: THE RIGHT TO HOPE



[...] At dawn the women went to the tomb. There the angel says to them: “Do not be afraid. He is not here; for he has risen”. They hear the words of life even as they stand before a tomb... And then they meet Jesus, the giver of all hope, who confirms the message and says: “Do not be afraid”. Do not be afraid, do not yield to fear: This is the message of hope. It is addressed to us, today. These are the words that God repeats to us this very night.

Today we acquire a fundamental right that can never be taken away from us: the right to hope. It is a new and living hope that comes from God. It is not mere optimism; it is not a pat on the back or an empty word of encouragement, uttered with an empty smile. No! It is a gift from heaven, which we could not have earned on our own. Over these weeks, we have kept repeating, “All will be well”, clinging to the beauty of our humanity and allowing words of encouragement to rise up from our hearts. But as the days go by and fears grow, even the boldest hope can dissipate. Jesus’ hope is different. He plants in our hearts the conviction that God is able to make everything work unto good, because even from the grave he brings life.

The grave is the place where no one who enters ever leaves. But Jesus emerged for us; he rose for us, to bring life where there was death, to begin a new story in the very place where a stone had been placed. He, who rolled away the stone that sealed the entrance of the tomb, can also remove the stones in our hearts. So, let us not give in to resignation; let us not place a stone before hope. We can and must hope, because God is faithful. He did not abandon us; he visited us and entered into our situations of pain, anguish and death. His light dispelled the darkness of the tomb: today he wants that light to penetrate even to the darkest corners of our lives.

This is the Easter message, a message of hope. It contains a second part, the sending forth. “Go and tell my brethren to go to Galilee” (Mt 28:10), Jesus says. “He is going before you to Galilee”, the angel says. The Lord goes before us; he goes before us always. It is encouraging to know that he walks ahead of us in life and in death; he goes before us to Galilee, that is, to the place which for him and his disciples evoked the idea of daily life, family and work. Jesus wants us to bring hope there, to our everyday life. [...] Returning to Galilee means remembering that we have been loved and called by God. This is always the point from which we can set out anew, especially in times of crisis and trial, remembering always our Galilee.

Pope Francis, Easter Vigil 2020 Homily (an excerpt) April 11, 2020 – the early weeks of the global COVID-19 pandemic

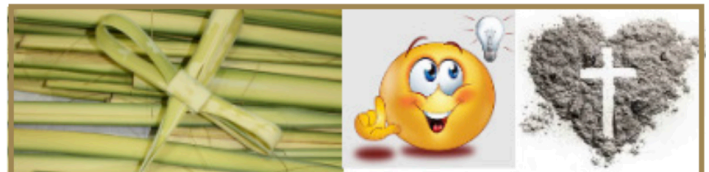
Prayer for Easter

Almighty Father,
We thank you for the gift of your son,
Jesus Christ, who rose from the dead
and redeemed humankind.

Fill us with the fire of the Holy Spirit,
that we may be faithful disciples
and enthusiastic witnesses of our Catholic
faith.

Alleluia, Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed.

Amen



What do we do with our Blessed Palms and Palm Crosses from previous years?

We respectfully collect them and then burn them, during a prayerful gathering. Ashes from our palms and palm crosses **become another precious symbol of our faith and our love of God.** These are the ASHES which we use on ASH WEDNESDAY of the following year in order to mark our foreheads with the sign of the cross, as a mark of our humility, repentance, and desire for spiritual growth.

During the coming weeks you can bring your older palms and palm crosses and place them into designated baskets by our church entrance areas. Thank You!



"Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of the least brothers of mine, you did for me" – Matthew 25:40

PLEASE JOIN THE 150+ ST. JOHN'S PARISHIONERS WHO HAVE ALREADY PLEDGED!



Saint John the Baptist Parish Family in Hillsdale, NJ, reaches out to those in need in our local Church of the Archdiocese of Newark. Please join the effort of this loving and caring community of faith.

- ✘ **Proclaiming the Gospel**
- ✘ **Passing on the Faith**
- ✘ **Caring for the Poor and Vulnerable**
- ✘ **Forming Future Priests and Supporting Elderly, Infirm and Retired Priests**

Many acts of charity and good deeds in **2026** through our small sacrifices. We are grateful for the \$68,956 in pledges and donations we have received so far. Every donation gets us closer to our goal of \$98,750.



WOULD YOU PLEASE HELP US HELP THOSE IN NEED?

\$2/DAY: \$730 | \$1/DAY: \$365 | 50 CENTS/DAY: \$182.50



rcan.org/sharing

Please, make a donation online, drop in our Sunday collection baskets, or, if you wish, mail directly to Annual Appeal, Archdiocese of Newark, Gift Processing, PO Box 7146, Kensington, CT 06037-7146, with a special note - "Saint John the Baptist, Hillsdale, NJ."

OUR PARISH STEWARDSHIP

SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 2026 (Palm Sunday)

	2025	BUDGET	
Envelope & In Pew Giving:	\$ 9,877	\$ 9,119	\$ 7,900
Online Giving via ParishSOFT:	5,241	\$ 4,813	\$5,000
TOTAL	\$15,118	\$ 13,932	\$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

2026

Wedding Anniversary Masses

The Office for Family Life Ministry will honor couples celebrating their 5th, 25th, 50th or 60th+ wedding anniversary with a Mass celebrated by Cardinal Tobin on Sunday, May 3, at 3 pm at the Cathedral Basilica in Newark.

Registration deadline is April 14. Please contact the rectory at 201-664-3131 during office hours to register.

PARISH OFFICES CLOSED

The Parish Offices will be closed
on Easter Monday, April 6.
May you all have a blessed Easter!

We Acknowledge with Gratitude...

...The children and grandchildren of
Norman & Louise Ann Palmeri,
who have underwritten the cost of the
Paschal Candle in their Loving Memory.

The Paschal Candle is lit for the first time
at the Easter Vigil and signifies the light
of Christ. It will adorn our sanctuary
throughout the year.

... All our parishioners who contributed
toward the beautiful Easter flowers.

THANK YOU!!!

KNIGHTS TO HOST LASAGNA DINNER

The St. Thomas More Council 2188 will host a **Lasagna Dinner** on **Friday, April 10**, at the **Knights of Columbus Hall**, 40 Crest Street, Westwood, NJ 07675.

Doors open at 6:00 PM.

Menu (*) includes:

Salad, Lasagna (meat & vegetarian), meatballs and dessert/coffee/tea/soda. **Cash Bar.**

Cost:

- \$20.00 per person
- Couples (65 and over): \$35.00
- Children 12 and under: \$15.00

Reservation deadline: Wednesday, April 8th.
For reservations, contact **John** at **201-245-7555**.

Checks should be made payable to **“Knights of Columbus 2188.”**

Funds raised will be used to provide **scholarship support.**

*“He has risen. This is the heart of our faith.
Mary was a silent witness of all these events.
Let us ask her to help us also to receive
the fullness of this Easter message.”*

— *Saint John Paul II*
(1920 - 2005 A.D.)