

SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

69 VALLEY STREET, HILLSDALE NJ 07642 • STJOHNHILLSDALE.ORG

DECEMBER 14, 2025



3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

John the Baptist is the one about whom it is written:

Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way before you.

— Matthew 11:10

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
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

3rd Sunday of Advent • December 14, 2025

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

On this Third Sunday of Advent we will once again hear in the Gospel the name of our great patron, Saint John the Baptist. While reflecting on the Scripture passages from this “Gaudete/Rejoice Sunday,” I have been, as always, touched by a very special role of Saint John the Baptist in the history of salvation. So often we refer to this role in the past tense: he lived, preached, prepared the way for Christ, suffered and heroically died. However, through this spiritual heritage of Saint John the Baptist even in our own times - and in our own wonderful community of faith - we are daily “transforming” his witness and message “to the present tense”: Through the life, ministry and mission of our Parish dedicated to Saint John the Baptist his witness and message continue to live and thrive in our midst. This beautiful interchange of John’s role and our own very important and precious roles in God’s plan of salvation is so profoundly described through the words of Jesus in the final part of today’s Gospel (cf. Matthew, 11: 2-11):

“John the Baptist is the one about whom it is written:

*Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you;
he will prepare your way before you.*

Amen, I say to you, among those born of women
there has been none greater than John the Baptist;
yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”
(cf. Matthew 11: 10-11)

In the New Testament’s Letter of James, our Second Reading of this Sunday, we find a practical recipe for that fruitful and honorable life to which once aspired, and still continue to aspire, all followers of Saint John the Baptist as we grow in our friendship and relationship with Christ: “Be patient, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. [...] Make your hearts firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand. Do not complain, brothers and sisters, about one another, that you may not be judged. [...] Take as an example of hardship and patience, brothers and sisters, the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.” (James 5, 7-10)

Let’s listen this Sunday again to Jesus through the personal witness of this spiritual giant of the early days of Christianity, our patron, Saint John the Baptist. As we are nearing the celebrations of the glorious days of Christmas, may he continue to inspire us and may this great witness of God’s love intercede for us, our loved ones, and our entire parish.

— Fr. Peter

Mass Intentions

*We remember our loved ones
and community*

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13

5:00 PM Teresita Kasilag

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14

8:00 AM Benedetto Pedata

10:00 AM Judith Hammett

12:00 PM Pete Fimble

MONDAY, DECEMBER 15

8:00 AM Teresita Kasilag

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16

8:00 AM Anne McCrory

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17

8:00 AM Bobby Mackie

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18

8:00 AM Rosetta Graziano

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19

8:00 AM Mr. DiBella

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20

8:00 AM People of the Parish

5:00 PM The Caulfield &
Caldera Families

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21

8:00 AM Michael Byrnes
(Living)

10:00 AM Eileen Heffernan

12:00 PM William Vermiglio

Prayers for Healing and Peace:

Michael Delehanty, Maricarmen Senande, Dash Richards, Theresa Gorman, Rosalind Campos, Pamela Osbourne, Mark Miller, Joe Wolfe, James Carbone, Ramona Suarez-Rose, Kim Costa, Rose Lyons, Thomas Tobin, Anthony K., Peter Spaccarotella, Frank Angiolelli, Brian Keating, Ryan Artinger, Ronnie Vera

Remembering Those Who Have Passed:

MaryAnn Jones, Virginia Danaher, Raymond Breitenbach, Marlene Iapalucci, Sean Flynn

The **Votive Candle** burns in memory of **ROBERTO SEMBIANTE** at the request of Marie & Jamie Rocco

JOIN US FOR **CHRISTMAS** MASS!

CHRISTMAS EVE

4:00 pm
(Children's Liturgy)

6:30 pm

10:00 pm

12:00 am
(Midnight Mass)

CHRISTMAS DAY

8:00 am

10:00 am

12:00 pm

PLEASE HELP US DECORATE OUR CHURCH FOR

Christmas!

We will be decorating our church for **Christmas** on **Sunday, December 21** following the 12:00pm Mass.

We invite you to join us as we prepare our church for the Christmas season.



THE MAGNIFICAT

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed:
the Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him
in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm,
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,
and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
the promise he made to our fathers,
to Abraham and his children forever.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the
Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and
will be forever. Amen.

OUR PARISH STEWARDSHIP

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2025

		2024	BUDGET
Envelope & In Pew Giving:	\$8,713	\$8,848	\$7,900
Online Giving via Faith Direct:	4,876	4,842	\$5,000
TOTAL	\$13,589	\$13,690	\$12,900

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

GIVING TREES AT ST. JOHN'S

St. John's Human Concerns Committee is working to make the holidays a joyous time for those in need, especially the children. A "Giving Tree" has been placed at each door of the church. On the trees are suggestions for gift cards. If you are able, we ask that you donate one of these cards to help the needy. Checks are also appreciated. We ask that all gifts be placed in the Sunday collection basket, or brought to the Rectory Office by December 18.

We thank you in advance for your kindness and generosity.

OUR 2026 PARISH CALENDARS HAVE ARRIVED!

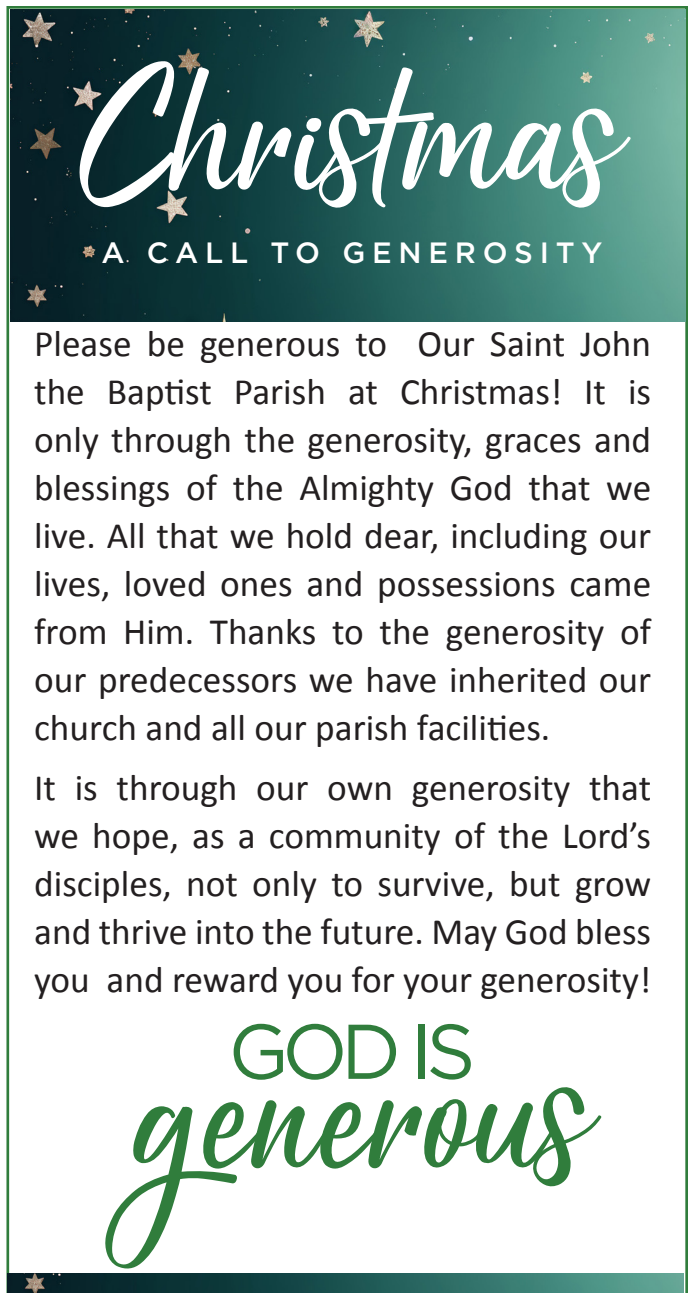
PLEASE GET YOUR COPY TODAY!

They may be found on the tables by the doors of the church. We are very grateful to Becker Funeral Home for their generosity in underwriting the cost of the calendars each year.

HELP IS NEEDED AT OUR CHRISTMAS MASSES!

Are you available to assist us as an usher at any of our Christmas Eve or Christmas Day Masses? If so, please sign up by sending an email to WeAreStJohns@gmail.com Please include your name and at which Mass you can help.

Thank you! Your assistance is so very much appreciated!



Christmas
A CALL TO GENEROSITY

Please be generous to Our Saint John the Baptist Parish at Christmas! It is only through the generosity, graces and blessings of the Almighty God that we live. All that we hold dear, including our lives, loved ones and possessions came from Him. Thanks to the generosity of our predecessors we have inherited our church and all our parish facilities.

It is through our own generosity that we hope, as a community of the Lord's disciples, not only to survive, but grow and thrive into the future. May God bless you and reward you for your generosity!

**GOD IS
generous**



Visit WeAreHisWitnesses.org
for updates, timelines and resources.

"Advent is the time we are given to welcome the Lord who comes to encounter us, and also to verify our longing for God, to look forward and prepare ourselves for Christ's return."

— Pope Francis (1936 - 2025)