

SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

69 VALLEY STREET, HILLSDALE NJ 07642 • STJOHNHILLSDALE.ORG



JULY 12, 2026

15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest. —Luke 8:8

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 & 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 the Saint John the Baptist Parish Family,
Dear Friends of our Parish,

The passage from Matthew's Gospel which we read and reflect on as we gather to celebrate the 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time (cf. Matthew 13: 1-23) is a well-timed reminder that the seeds of God's love, mercy, wisdom, grace and His blessings are being constantly sowed into our hearts and souls even during these ordinary days of summer. It is also a reminder that even during this season of vacations, travels, school breaks, family gatherings, and parties every moment of our lives is a grace-filled opportunity to grow in our love of God, our Church and all those whom the Almighty has placed into our lives.

While we certainly have - as a part of our "Catholic faith treasure chest" - many detailed accounts of the extraordinary events from the three years of the public life and ministry of Jesus, about thirty years leading to the fulfillment of His messianic mission were years of his ordinary, loving and self-giving life. And even those precious three years of preaching, miracles, and of the unraveling of God's plan of our salvation, were filled with countless ordinary moments never recorded by the Gospel writers or the early Christians. It was also during these ordinary moments of the life of Christ that the plan of our salvation mysteriously unraveled; it is, as well, during the most ordinary moments of our lives that God's plan of our life and salvation continues to unravel in our own times. Even during this summertime when we have more time to reflect and pray, the beautiful and so ordinary prayer of "Our Father" reminds us about the fact that even our seemingly ordinary experiences, and our ordinary "daily bread," come from our loving God. These moments could be, and should be, transformed through our kindness, goodness, charity and generosity - combined with the always loving presence and intervention of Jesus - into extraordinary and life-giving moments for us and for those who God in his divine providence has placed around us. Every one of us has been given by the Almighty our own personal uniqueness, dignity and mission in life, and each one of us has received, as a part of this "providential divine life package" our own unique gifts.

Please know that on this challenging but beautiful journey of rediscovering the extraordinary even in the most ordinary moments of our lives, and in God's daily gifts, 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

Mass Intentions

*We remember our loved ones
and community*

SATURDAY, JULY 11

5:00 PM Margaret Coyne

SUNDAY, JULY 12

8:00 AM Maria Picinic

10:00 AM Very Rev.
Peter T. Sticco, S.A.C.

12:00 PM Susan & Eric
DiGregorio (*Living*)
50th Wedding
Anniversary

MONDAY, JULY 13

8:00 AM People of the Parish

TUESDAY, JULY 14

8:00 AM Deacon Michael
De Roberts

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15

8:00 AM Gregory A. Harrison

THURSDAY, JULY 16

8:00 AM Barbara Collins
(30th Anniversary)

FRIDAY, JULY 17

8:00 AM Geraldine Piserchia

SATURDAY, JULY 18

8:00 AM Edward Laux

5:00 PM Ester Captan

SUNDAY, JULY 19

8:00 AM Aurelio Iran and
Arthur Garcia

10:00 AM Kathy Fagnano

12:00 PM Aine Garino

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

**THOMAS &
JOSEPH HOLL**

at the request of
Theresa Holl

Prayers for Healing and Peace:

Kim Costa, Thomas Tobin, Anthony K., Peter Spaccarotella, Jim Derbyshire, James Carbone, Terry Medino, Anita Lawrence, Ann Walsh, Elaine McBreen, Baby Rocco, Caroline Bisi, Baby Nellie, Liam Fanning, Ken McGlone, Eileen Stasiunis, Maria Spaccarotella, Bruce Hawkinson, Walter Minx, Maricarmen Senande, Mary Lou Wilson, John Manning

Remembering Those Who Have Passed

✠ Stop by ✠ Say a prayer
✠ Light a candle.



**The Blessed Mother,
like every mother,
loves her children's visits.**

**7am – 7pm
Mother's doors open
365 days a year.**

Weekly Devotions

DAILY MASS

8:00 am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Thursdays 3:00 – 6:00pm

Benediction & Community Prayer
just before 6pm

CHURCH OPEN DAILY

7:00 am – 7:00 pm

Jesus, Our Savior

**Jesus constantly invites us
to become a Church that gets up,
setting out to meet the world, with
the courage to open doors.**

The Acts of the Apostles tell us of the night that Peter was freed from the chains of prison. An angel of the Lord tapped him on the side as he was sleeping, “and woke him, saying, ‘get up quickly’” (Acts 12:7). The angel awakens Peter and tells him to get up. The scene reminds us of Easter, because it contains two verbs present in the accounts of the resurrection: awaken and get up. In effect, the angel awakens Peter from the sleep of death and urges him to get up, to rise and set out towards the light, letting himself be guided by the Lord in passing through all the closed doors along the way. This image has great meaning for the Church. We too, as disciples of the Lord and the Christian community, are called to get up quickly, to enter into the mystery of the resurrection, and to let the Lord guide us along the paths that he wishes to point out to us.

Still, we experience many inward forms of resistance that prevent us from setting out. At times, as Church, we are overcome by laziness; we prefer to sit and contemplate the few sure things that we possess, rather than getting up and looking to new horizons, towards the open sea. Often we are like Peter in chains, imprisoned by our habits, fearful of change and bound to the chains of our routine. This leads quietly to spiritual mediocrity: we run the risk of “taking it easy” and “getting by”, also in our pastoral work. Our enthusiasm for mission wanes, and instead of being a sign of vitality and creativity, ends up appearing tepid and listless. Then, the great current of newness and life that is the Gospel becomes in our hands a faith that falls into formalism and habit.

We are called to become a Church that gets up, one that is not turned in on itself, but capable of pressing forward, leaving behind its own prisons and setting out to meet the world, with the courage to open doors. A Church without chains and walls, in which everyone can feel welcomed and accompanied, one where listening, dialogue and participation are cultivated under the sole authority of the Holy Spirit. The Church that is free and humble; a Church that does not linger in its sacred precincts, but is driven by enthusiasm for the preaching of the Gospel and the desire to encounter and accept everyone.

Pope Francis, Homily on the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul, Apostles, June 29, 2022



Pope Leo's Advice for Summer

It is by receiving Him in His Word and in the Eucharist that we become what we receive. We become the Body whose Head is the risen Christ, seated at the right hand of the Father.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

When Saint Augustine wanted to explain the mystery of the Body of Christ to those who were newly baptized, he took up the passage from Saint Paul that we have just heard: “Now you are Christ’s body, and individually parts of it.” (1 Cor 12:27). He adds: “It is your own mystery that you receive. To what you are, you respond: Amen, and your response is like your signature. You are told, ‘The Body of Christ,’ and you reply, ‘Amen.’ Be therefore members of the Body of Christ, so that your Amen may be true. [...] Be what you see, and receive what you are” (*Sermon 272*: PL 38, 1247).

Immediately after recalling Jesus’ Last Supper, the Constitution on the Liturgy speaks of the Eucharist in these Augustinian terms. For Christians, taking part at the Lord’s table means being “instructed by God’s word and ... nourished ... [giving] thanks to God” (cf. Second Vatican Council, Constitution *Sacrosanctum Concilium*, 48). It is by receiving Him in His Word and in the Eucharist that we become what we receive. We become the Body whose Head is the risen Christ, seated at the right hand of the Father (cf. Col 1:18), who prepares a place for us in heaven (cf. Jn 14:3). Thus, the Eucharist is the sacrament of the Kingdom that is to come. It is the Bread for the journey that leads us to our heavenly homeland, until that blessed day when “God will be all in all” (1 Cor 15:28).

The liturgical assembly offers the Sacrifice “not only through the hands of the priest, but also with him” (*SC*, 48). From this perspective, the Eucharist is the form of the spiritual sacrifice of Christians (cf. Heb 13:16; Rom 12:1), as the path to union with God and with one another. By participating in it, they learn “to offer themselves; through Christ the Mediator, they should be drawn day by day into ever more perfect union with God and with each other” (*ibid.*). Thus, by incorporating us into Christ, the Eucharist teaches us to adopt the very style of life of the Lord Jesus, which was marked by the free gift of Himself. This gift draws us into the dynamic of unity, offering a powerful antidote to the forces of division that undermine our world, our communities, our families, and our hearts (cf. *SC*, 47).

The beginning of Chapter II of *the Constitution on the Liturgy* is woven with references to the great river of Tradition, that continues from the Fathers of the Church down to us. I will quote from it: “At the Last Supper, on the night when He was betrayed, our Saviour instituted the eucharistic sacrifice of His Body and Blood. He did this in order to perpetuate the sacrifice of the Cross throughout the centuries until He should come again, and so to entrust to His beloved spouse, the Church, a memorial of His death and resurrection: a sacrament of love, a sign of unity, a bond of charity, a paschal banquet in which Christ is eaten, the mind is filled with grace, and a pledge of future glory is given to us.” (*SC*, 47).

Dear brothers and sisters, let us draw with faith from this source of divine life and allow ourselves to be transformed by the mystery we celebrate.

AS ONE FAMILY OF FAITH, LET'S "DIG" OUR ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST OUT OF THE WINTER SNOWSTORMS

- ❄️ **Saturday & Sunday, December 13 – 14, 2025**
Hillsdale: 5.0"
- ❄️ Tuesday, December 23, 2025
Hillsdale: 2.1"
- ❄️ **Friday & Saturday, December 26 – 27, 2025**
Hillsdale: 3.8"
- ❄️ Friday, January 2, 2026
Hillsdale: 0.1"
- ❄️ **Saturday, January 17, 2026**
Hillsdale: 2.8"
- ❄️ **Sunday, January 18, 2026**
Hillsdale: 2.8"
- ❄️ **Sunday & Monday, January 25 – 26, 2026**
Hillsdale: 15.0" with coating of freezing rain
- ❄️ **Friday & Saturday, February 6 – 7, 2026**
Hillsdale: 0.3"
- ❄️ Tue & Wed, Feb 10 – 11, 2026
Hillsdale: Ice coating of freezing rain
- ❄️ **Sunday & Monday, February 15 – 16, 2026**
Hillsdale: 0.5"
- ❄️ **Sunday & Monday, February 22 – 23, 2026**
Hillsdale: 21.3"
- ❄️ Wednesday, Feb 25, 2026
Hillsdale: 1.2"

CUMULATIVE SNOWFALL TOTALS:

Hillsdale: 54.9 inches

December: 10.9 inches

January: 20.7 inches

February: 23.3" inches



A Special Collection to Assist our Parish

Due to missed weekend collections caused by numerous winter storms and the extraordinary expenses incurred during the harsh winter of 2025–2026.



<https://bit.ly/Winter-Recovery>

OUR PARISH STEWARDSHIP

SUNDAY, JULY 5, 2026

		2025	BUDGET
Envelope & In Pew Giving:	\$5,328	\$ 7,182	\$ 7,900
Online Giving via ParishSOFT:	<u>5,284</u>	<u>\$ 4,854</u>	<u>\$ 5,000</u>
TOTAL	\$10,612	\$ 12,036	\$12,900

Due to the 4th of July holiday, vacations, and the damaging weekend storms, our Sunday collection was considerably lower than usual. If possible, please make up any missed collections.

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



ST. JOHN'S SPORTS ASSOCIATION FALL GIRLS CYO VOLLEYBALL SEASON

Open to girls only in grades 5 - 8, who are either students at SJA or actively enrolled in the St. John's Parish CCD program. This is a competitive season with approximately 12 games, plus playoffs. The season runs from September to mid-November. Fees are \$170 per player, plus \$45 for a jersey (if you don't already have one). Sign up ASAP - registration will close on July 17 or when full.

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



**Thanks
for Your
Support!**

Thank you for your support during these summer months, and always.

2026-2027 FAITH FORMATION (CCD) REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

Registration information & forms are available on our parish website at www.stjohnhillsdale.org under the Faith Formation tab.

Faith Formation is open to all Catholic children in **Grades 1-8** who attend public school. Families may choose between **in-person classes**, or the **family-at-home** program, which includes one weekday evening gathering each month for both children and parents. Families must be registered parishioners of St. John's Parish. Faith Formation helps children grow in their relationship with Jesus, deepen their understanding of the Catholic faith, and remain connected to our parish community.

Families enrolling in the **Summer Program** are encouraged to register as soon as possible.

Children entering **Second Grade** this September who have been baptized and completed First Grade Faith Formation should also register for **First Reconciliation** and **First Holy Communion**.

For more information, contact Kathy Breitenbach, Registrar, at kbreitenbach@stjohnhillsdale.com.



WeAreHisWitnesses.org

for updates, timelines and resources.

"You are rewarded not according to your work or your time but according to the measure of your love."

— Saint Catherine of Sienna (1347 - 1380 A.D.)