SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST
ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



NOVEMBER 15, 2026

33RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Well done, my good and faithful servant. Since you were faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities. Come, share your master's joy. — Matthew 25:23

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

Welcome to our celebration of the 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time. We gather just a couple of weeks before the conclusion of this liturgical season, which will take place with our celebration of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, on November 22 this year.

Ordinary Time is the name given to those portions of the Catholic Church's liturgical year that fall outside the major seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter. (Please see the next page of this week's bulletin for more information.) The Latin word *ordinalis,* which refers to numbers in a series, comes from *ordo*, from which we derive the English word order. Thus, the numbered weeks of Ordinary Time represent the ordered life of the Church—a time when we live our faith not in the midst of the great celebrations of Christmas and Easter, nor during the seasons of preparation and penance of Advent and Lent, but in the everyday rhythm of our Christian lives. During *Ordinary Time,* we continue to live, gather, and celebrate our liturgies in watchful expectation of Christ's coming. Along this ordinary, yet extraordinary, journey of faith, Saint John the Baptist is not only our parish patron, but also our inspiring companion and guide. With humility and conviction, John proclaimed that he had come into the world to prepare the way for the Messiah. Through his example, he inspires and guides us each day, as well as during the most extraordinary moments of our lives, to remain steadfast in our faith and always faithful to God. Indeed, he is our own "enduring model of fidelity to God."

We continue to pray for our country, our freedoms, and our many blessings, as well as for all those living and suffering in countries and regions throughout the world torn by war, division, and hardship. More than 25 years ago, in June 2001, just two years before his death, Pope John Paul II made a historic pastoral visit to Ukraine. During that visit, he celebrated Mass at Chayka Airport in Kyiv, where approximately 100,000 faithful gathered in prayer. Millions more around the world followed this special celebration. In his homily that day, Pope John Paul II described Saint John the Baptist as an "enduring model of fidelity to God." It is this enduring fidelity to God, and our desire to follow Him, that brings us together today and every time we gather as a family of faith. The steadfast faithfulness to God demonstrated by generations of our brothers and sisters, and by the members of our own Saint John the Baptist Parish community, continues to inspire us.

May we continue to live, prosper, and grow together as a family of the Lord's disciples, remaining always faithful to God, under the loving protection and through the intercession of our patron, Saint John the Baptist.

Prayers for Healing and Peace:

Thomas Tobin, 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, Anthony Delasey, Joseph Camilleri, Jamie Calabro, Lorraine Tighe, Steven Kudla, Alice L., Nat Mashini, Terry Medino, James Carbone, Laura Carbone, Joanne Hughes, Salvatore Conti

Remembering Those Who Have Passed.

Francesco Saverio Geraci, Linda Tammaro, Rosario Marrella, Beth Ravit, Ann Marie Piano

Mass Intentions

We remember our loved ones and community

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14
5:00 PM Deceased Members of the Susek & Roth Families

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15
8:00 AM Gloria Truppi
10:00 AM Kevin Portuondo
12:00 PM Martin Filon

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16
8:00 AM Larry Angevino

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17
8:00 AM Constance Sadowsky (Living)

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18
8:00 AM Maria Jozelle Acampado

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19
8:00 AM Carol Meyer

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20
8:00 AM Bernard Cullen

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21
8:00 AM Luis Eduardo Arevalo
5:00 PM Albert Green

SUNDAY,NOVEMBER 22
8:00 AM People of the Parish
10:00 AM Nunzia Maria DiMaria Palladino
12:00 PM Thomas Connellan (10th Anniversary)

The Votive Candle Burns for the Intentions of:

CONSTANCE SADOWSKY

at the request of
Nicole Kulick

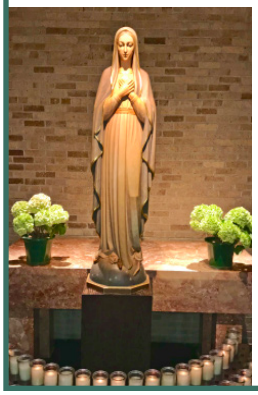
Would You Like to Light the Church's Advent Wreath?



Please join those who have had the honor of lighting the church's Advent wreath candles during Mass over the years. Kindly indicate your interest by adding your name and email address to the sign-up board in the vestibule (main entrance of the church). A confirmation with all the details will be sent the week before your selected weekend.

Thank you for helping us mark the season with light and hope.

The Blessed Mother loves her children's visits.



Mother's doors are open 365 days a year.

✠ Stop by
✠ Say a prayer
✠ Light a candle

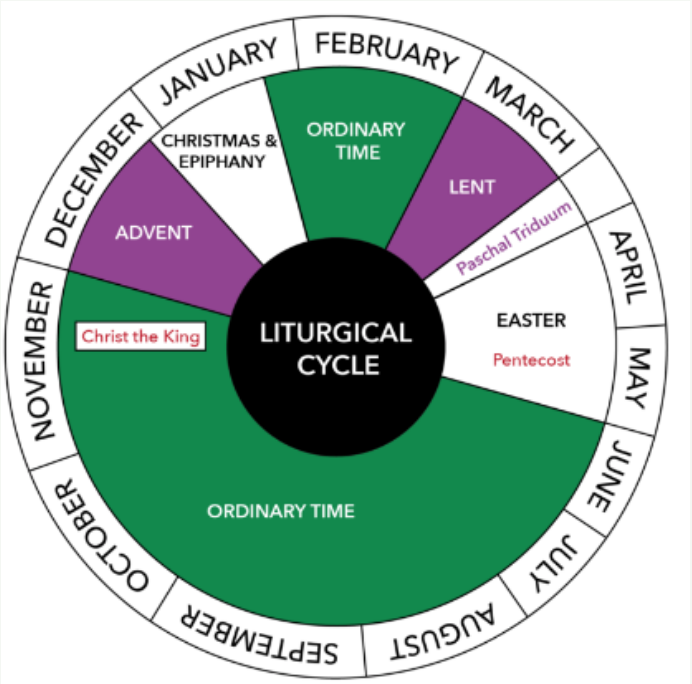
Together in Christ, We Find Peace, Hope & Strength

DAILY MASS: 8:00 AM

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION
Thursdays 3:00 - 6:00 PM
Benediction & Prayer just before 6pm

All Are Welcome

As We Prepare for the Closure of the Liturgical Year of our Catholic Church



Christ's saving work is celebrated in sacred memory by the Church on fixed days throughout the year. Each week on the day called the Lord's Day the Church commemorates the Lord's resurrection. Once a year at Easter the Church honors this resurrection and passion with the utmost solemnity. In fact through the yearly cycle the Church unfolds the entire mystery of Christ and keeps the anniversaries of the saints. During the different seasons of the liturgical year, the Church, in accord with traditional discipline, carries out the formation of the faithful by means of devotional practices, both interior and exterior, instruction, and works of penance and mercy. [...] Each day is made holy through the liturgical celebrations of the people of God, especially through the eucharistic sacrifice and the divine office. The liturgical day runs from midnight to midnight, but the observance of Sunday and solemnities begins with the evening of the preceding day. The Church celebrates the paschal mystery on the first day of the week, known as the Lord's Day or Sunday. This follows a tradition handed down from the apostles and having its origin from the day of Christ's resurrection. Thus Sunday must be ranked as the first holyday of all.

General Norms for the Liturgical Year and the Calendar, Rome, February 14, 1969

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC CHURCH, HILLSDALE NJ

presents

A VERY BROADWAY Christmas 2026

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13

CONCERT AT 3:30PM

Featuring



Heather Bixler



John Cudia



Ciarán Sheehan



James Gregory



Kathy Voytko

Irish tenor and Broadway star **Ciarán Sheehan** *(Phantom, Phantom of the Opera),* returns to Hillsdale, NJ for A Very Broadway Christmas!

Joining him for this special holiday concert are **John Cudia**, *(Phantom, Les Miserables*), **James Gregory** *(Pianist & Singer)*, **Heather Bixler** *(Classical Violinist & Irish Fiddler)*, and **Kathy Voytko** *(Oklahoma!, Nine)*. Enjoy a festive evening of Broadway favorites, timeless Christmas classics, and extraordinary musical talent!

ChristmasConcert.StJohnHillsdale.org

69 Valley St, Hillsdale, NJ • 201-664-3131

St. John's Academy

FAITH • ACADEMICS • SERVICE

Our children, young people, and families

FROM OVER 50 DIFFERENT ZIP CODES IN NJ & NY

already know what a special community of learning, faith, growth, and service we are.



Join us for our

OPEN HOUSE

Tuesday, November 17 • 9:00am - 10:30am

sjahillsdale.org

St. John's Academy I 460 Hillsdale Ave I Hillsdale, NJ

It feels different because it *is* different.

For the Women of St. John's Parish

YOU'RE INVITED!

Tea, Treats & Togetherness

Brewing friendships, sharing faith, and building community.

Join us for the kickoff of our parish women's group!

Bring your favorite cookies to share.



St. John's Parish Center

December 9, 2026

7:00 PM

RSVP

St. John the Baptist



Breakfast with St. Nicholas

Join us for a festive breakfast, crafts and goodies!

Sunday, December 6th

— the Feast Day of St. Nicholas! —

Two Seating Times:

After the 10:00 AM Mass
& the 12:00 PM Mass

Join us on our Journey to Jesus this Advent!

REGISTER HERE!

APOSTOLIC JOURNEY OF HIS HOLINESS POPE LEO XIV TO URUGUAY, ARGENTINA AND PERU

November 6 - 17, 2026



PRAYER VIGIL WITH YOUNG PEOPLE — ADDRESS OF HIS HOLINESS POPE LEO XIV

"Monumento de los Españoles" (Buenos Aires) Tuesday, 10 November 2026

Dear young people, dear friends, welcome, everyone!

[...] The Book of the Prophet Daniel (cf. 1:3-7, 17-20; 2:49; 3:1-93) tells us the story of three young men: Hananiah, Azariah and Mishael. They were living in exile in that land, where they learned another language, received new names and found a place in the administration of the kingdom. They had a future ahead of them. Then came the day when they had to decide to whom they would give their hearts. King Nebuchadnezzar had erected an immense golden statue and ordered everyone to bow down before it. Anyone who refused would be thrown into a blazing furnace. Imagine the scene: a multitude bowing before the colossal statue, while only three young men remain standing. The king offered them one last chance. All it would take was a single gesture for them to continue living their lives in peace. The young men replied that God could deliver them from the fire, but they added: "But if not" (3:18), they would still not worship the statue. What freedom there is in that response! They did not know what was going to happen. They knew the punishment that awaited them, but they also knew that they would find happiness only in God.

Dear friends, today too, idols arise and demand our worship: success at any cost, money, an obsession with appearance, popularity or the unrestrained pursuit of pleasure. Sometimes, in order to win the approval of others, we may go so far as to lie, betray or humiliate someone on social media. Envy can prevent us from rejoicing in the good of another, while selfishness can lead us to treat people as objects. There are also those who make a business of offering pleasures that ultimately enslave us, such as pornography and addictive substances. Agustín told us: "Today I stand firm." How powerful those words become when we remember the three young men in Babylon! You too are called to stand firm before the idols of our time. Do not bow down before anything that cannot give you life. And if you have ever fallen, get back up. Do not allow anything or anyone to take away the freedom God has given you.

During World Youth Day in Lisbon Pope Francis spoke words that spread throughout the world: "Everyone, everyone, everyone!" (3 August 2023). He repeated them with his characteristic insistence, as though he wanted to make sure that no one had failed to hear them. I would like to draw inspiration from those words to speak about what it means to live as disciples of Jesus: *everyone toward Christ, everyone with Christ, everyone like Christ.* First of all, everyone toward Christ. Some of you have grown up close to Jesus, and others are only now beginning to seek him. Others still have not prayed for a long time, or have drifted away from the Church, or have been hurt by people who should have accompanied them. To each of you I would like to say that there is a place for you in the Church, with your questions, your wounds and your story. This is your home too. You do not have to pretend that everything is fine or wait until you have your life sorted out before drawing near. And to you, who think it is already too late to begin again, I would like to say: welcome. Whoever you are and whatever you may have done, Jesus Christ knows you, Jesus Christ loves you and wants you to be close to him.

As we have heard, one question changed Guadalupe's life: "Who told you it was too late?" Tonight, I would like to repeat that question to those who believe they have strayed too far and to those who have at some point perceived from others that there was no place for them in the Church. The Lord is seeking you! Remember Zacchaeus. He climbed a tree to see Jesus and discovered that Jesus was also looking for him. Jesus called him by name and wanted to stay at his house. That encounter led Zacchaeus to make amends for the injustices he had committed (cf. Lk 19:1-10). No one has fallen so low that Christ cannot raise them up. May our communities always keep their doors open; may they know how to welcome those who arrive with questions, assist those who suffer and patiently accompany those who are seeking God.

Now let us return to Babylon. The three young men were bound and thrown into the furnace. The flames rose with such violence that they reached those who were carrying out the sentence. But the king saw something beyond comprehension: he had thrown three men into the furnace, yet now he could make out four, walking freely amid the flames, for the Lord had sent his angel to protect them. They had been thrown in bound, but now they were walking freely! The king had condemned them to the fire, but God had not abandoned them. Here we find our second "everyone": *everyone with Christ.* We know the full meaning of that gesture. Humanity had been subjected to death because of sin, but God came to meet us. The Son of God became man, shared our sufferings and took our sins upon himself. Out of love for us, he gave his life on the Cross and rose again on the third day. Jesus Christ is alive! Jesus Christ He has conquered death and set us free from its power. Dear young people, Christ loves us and wants us to share in his own life. He has promised to remain with his disciples until the end of the age (cf. Mt 28:20). Christ offers you a life that not even death can take away.

There is one detail in the story that moves me deeply. From within the furnace, Azariah raised a prayer: "With a contrite heart and a humble spirit may we be accepted" (Dan 3:39). That young man had stood up to the king, yet he acknowledged before God his need for mercy. What an admirable prayer! We too need to pray it. We all know the distance that sometimes exists between the good we desire and the choices we make. And we all need conversion. Christ loves us as we are, but his love is too great to leave us prisoners of sin, of what destroys us. The fire he came to bring has the power to break our chains and restore our freedom to love. There are wounds to be healed, failings to be acknowledged and, whenever possible, wrongs to be made right. Allow Christ to transform you. Do not be afraid to approach the Sacrament of Reconciliation. How wonderful it is to know that our sins can be forgiven. Pray, read the Gospel and draw near to the Eucharist. The One who gave his life for us awaits us.

In the midst of the furnace, the three young men began to sing. They invited the heavens and the stars, the mountains, the rivers and all living creatures to bless the Lord. They even said: "Bless the Lord, fire and heat" (3:66). They were inviting the very fire that surrounded them to join in their praise. Their song grew ever wider until it embraced all of creation. I like to think that this song continues to this day, and that every generation can add its own voice to it. How beautiful it would be if everything we do could become an act of praise. Perhaps today we could sing: *Art and culture, bless the Lord. Games and sports, bless the Lord. Science and technology, bless the Lord. Social media and screens, bless the Lord. Music and soccer, bless the Lord. Let everything that exists bless the Lord and praise him with hymns forever!* At the beginning of the story, the king had ordered *everyone* to worship his statue. At the end, those young men invited *everyone* to bless the Lord. The king needed threats to make people bow down; the young men, who had no power other than their faith, invited the entire universe to share in their joy. And so we arrive at the third "everyone": everyone *like Christ.*

Dear young people, whoever encounters Christ is called to live as he did (cf. 1 Jn 2:6). And that is what I would like to invite you to do tonight: become saints. The saints too knew their weaknesses, but it was God's grace that transformed their lives and taught them how to love. Jesus showed us the way: "Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another" (Jn 13:34). Behind that "just as" lies an image we should never forget: Jesus kneeling before his disciples to wash their feet. The Lord of everyone became the servant of *everyone.*

You too can wash the feet of your brothers and sisters. Share your bread with those who are hungry, open your doors to those who have no home, visit the sick and those whom no one wants to visit. There are also forms of suffering that cannot be seen: some need guidance or correction, others await words of consolation, and still others need to know that they are loved. The Lord gives us so many opportunities to be like him. May your lives become pages of the Gospel, written in the ink of mercy, so that those who meet you may recognize in you something of the love and joy of Jesus.

Our joy is born of friendship with him and impels us to bring him to others. Remember the disciples on the road to Emmaus. When they recognized the Risen Lord in the breaking of the bread, they said to one another: "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road?" (Lk 24:32). That very night they returned to Jerusalem. They could not keep to themselves the joy of knowing that Christ was alive! At the beginning, I said to you: "Welcome, everyone!" Now, as the Successor of Peter, I entrust to you the second part of our motto: "Go and proclaim!" Go to your cities and towns, to every corner and every periphery. May those who feel far from God discover through you that Christ is seeking them.

In a little while, I will bless the cross that will travel through your communities. As that cross passes from one pair of hands to another, may the fire of Christ's love also pass from one heart to another. May Our Lady of Luján accompany you and always guide you along this path: *everyone towards Christ, everyone with Christ, everyone like Christ! Go and proclaim!*

OUR PARISH STEWARDSHIP

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2026		2025	BUDGET
Envelope & In Pew Giving:	$6,089	$ 7,822	$ 6,500
Online Giving via ParishSOFT:	6,814	$ 4,729	$ 7,130
TOTAL	**$12,903**	**$ 12,551**	**$13,630**

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

ParishSOFT Giving SIGN UP TODAY!

ParishSoft provides the ability to give to St. John's via electronic donations (credit card or direct debit from your bank.) Please use the QR code or visit:

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

Once on the ParishSoft giving page, please click on Sign In to begin account.

BENEFITS TO YOU

CONVENIENT: Access your account anytime and anywhere, online or by phone.

SIMPLE: Manage your account online without calling or visiting the bank or parish.

FUNCTIONAL: Receive notifications for completed and scheduled transactions.

SECURE: Your information is protected by strict PCI/DDS banking security standards.

PERSONALIZED: Choose credit card or checking account withdrawals, select the funds you wish to support (Sunday offerings, maintenance, etc.), and set your contribution amount and frequency.

BENEFITS TO THE PARISH

CONSISTENT: Automatic recurring gifts provide reliable support for parish budgeting and monthly expenses.

EFFICIENT: Reduces parish bookkeeping time and costs.

CONVENIENT: Parishioners can contribute on their own terms and easily update their information.

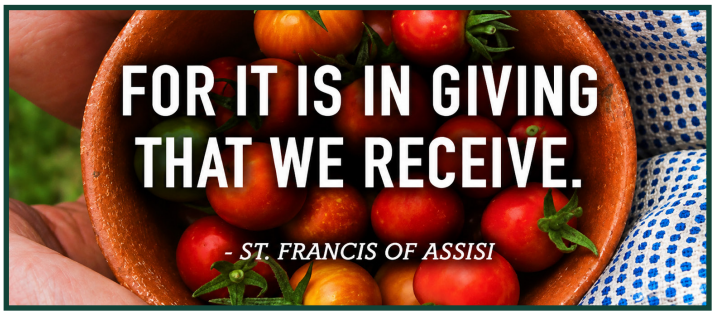
SECURE: Eliminates the need for the parish to store confidential parishioner information.

With online enrollment, you can access your account any time to view or make changes to the account info and gifts.

Helping Hand Food Pantry Turkey Drive

For many years, as a sign of our outreach and generosity, St. John's Parish has supported the efforts of the Helping Hand Food Pantry in providing turkeys to local families in need for their Thanksgiving dinner. **On Saturday, November 21, 2026 from 10:00AM to 1:00PM** please bring your frozen turkey and trimmings as a donation to the food pantry at the Hillsdale United Methodist Church, 349 Hillsdale Avenue in Hillsdale. Thank you for all donations!





Calling All Senior Citizens: Thanksgiving Dinner @IHA

You're invited to Immaculate Heart Academy's Annual Senior Citizen Thanksgiving Dinner. Please join us on **Tuesday, November 24th from 4:00-6:00pm** in the IHA cafeteria for a free Thanksgiving dinner and raffle. Please RSVP by calling 201-445-6800 from 8AM-4PM daily, **Please do not leave a voicemail.** We are located at: 500 Van Emburgh Avenue, Washington Township, NJ. The IHA girls are excited and working so hard to share this meal with you all!

"Each of us is a result of a thought of God.

Each of us is willed; each of us is loved; each of us is necessary."

— Pope Benedict XVI (1927 - 2022)