

St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church

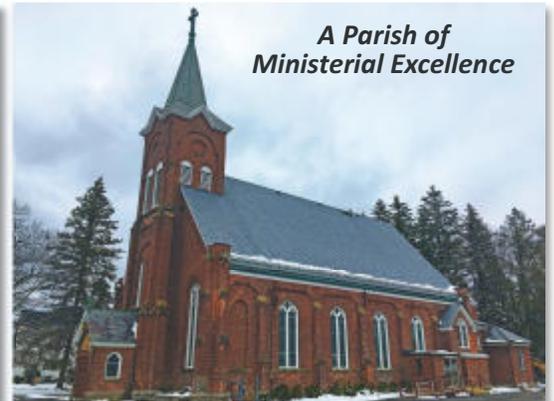
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Rectory Phone: 716-937-6959 • Fax: 716-937-0075

Email: st.johnsaldenparish@gmail.com

Website: www.StJohnAlden.com



*A Parish of
Ministerial Excellence*

NOVEMBER 29, 2020 • FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

St. John the Baptist School: 2028 Sandridge Road • Alden, New York 14004
School Phone: 716-937-9483 • School Fax: 716-937-9794
Parish Email: st.johnsaldenparish@gmail.com

Faith Formation: 716-937-6959
Faith Formation Email: faith.formation@stjohnsalden.org

New Parishioners: Please contact the rectory to register.
Office Hours are Mon-Fri 9:00 am until 2:00 pm

PARISH LIFE

Pastoral Administrator:Deborah A. Brown
Priest Moderator:Rev. Msgr. Vincent Becker
Sacramental Minister:Rev. James A. Walter
Sacramental Minister:Rev. Richard DiGiulio
Permanent Deacon:Marc Leaderstorf
Permanent Deacon:Peter Donnelly
School Principal:Jonna Johnson
Business Manager:Kate Wypij
Director of Music & Liturgy:Dan Stachelski
Catechetical Leader:Jenny Golinski
Administrative Assistant:Stephanie McCormick

SACRAMENTAL LIFE:
WEEKEND MASSES ARE LIVE STREAMED

Saturday-4:00 pm

Sunday Masses-8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 am

Weekdays (Monday-Friday) - 8:30 am
Mass at 33% Capacity

Vigil Mass - As Announced

Holy Day - As Announced

Eucharistic Adoration: First Fridays (9 am - 7 pm)

Reconciliation: Every Saturday at 3 pm

Baptism: Baptisms are being scheduled with the safety of all in mind. If you have any questions, please call the rectory or email Baptism@stjohnsalden.org

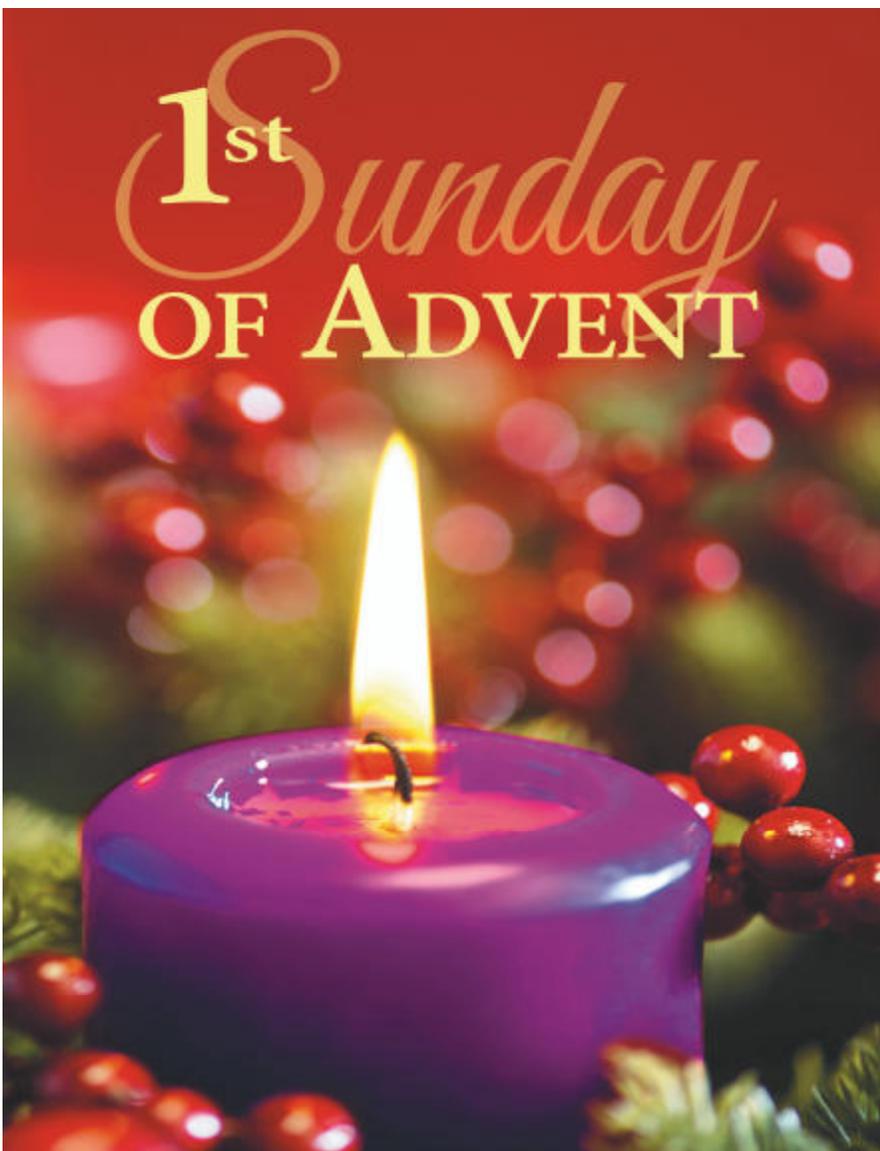
Marriage: Arrangements should be made at least 9 months ahead. A Marriage Preparation Program is required.

Letters of Recommendation: Given to those who attend Mass regularly, are registered at least a month in the parish, and are baptized and confirmed. Also, married parishioners must be married in the Catholic Church.

Bulletin Deadline: Articles and inserts are due 4:00 pm Friday, one week prior to publication.

MISSION STATEMENT

St. John the Baptist is a faith-filled Catholic Christian community, centered on the Lord Jesus Christ, the Gospel, and His Church. We watch and pray as we respond in loving service to the needs of our greater community. We aspire to grow in holiness, dedicated to life, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, in order to inspire faith and hope in all people.



LITURGICAL CORNER BY DEBBIE BROWN, PASTORAL ADMINISTRATOR

The Liturgical Calendar begins a new year on the First Sunday of Advent and with it a different gospel on which we focus. This year we turn to Mark. The Introduction to Mark's gospel in the New American Bible Revised Edition (NABRE) says this about Mark's account: *This shortest of all New Testament gospels is likely the first to have been written, yet it often tells of Jesus' ministry in more detail than either Matthew or Luke (for example, the miracle stories at Mk 5:1-20 or Mk 9:14-29). It recounts what Jesus did in a vivid style, where one incident follows directly upon another. In this almost breathless narrative, Mark stresses Jesus' message about the kingdom of God now breaking into human life as good news (Mk 1:14-15) and Jesus himself as the gospel of God (Mk 1:1; 8:35; 10:29). Jesus is the Son whom God has sent to rescue humanity by serving and by sacrificing his life (Mk 10:45).* Copyright 2019-2020 USCCB.

The United States Bishop's website says this about the liturgical year: *The liturgical year consists of a seasonal cycle and a sanctoral cycle, called the Proper of Time and the Proper of Saints, respectively. Both are organized and published in a liturgical calendar...* The purpose for the liturgical year is: *The Paschal Mystery of Jesus Christ—his suffering, death, and resurrection—is continuously proclaimed and renewed through celebrating the events of his life and in the feasts of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the saints.* (<https://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/liturgical-year-and-calendar>.) Kathy Sutter, the leader of our Worship Committee, has taken the time to prepare a Liturgical calendar for us to use all year. Be sure you get a copy or you can find it on our website.

The Advent readings focus our the preparation for the Solemnity of Christmas and the Epiphany – that is, the time when God dwelled among us and was like us in all ways but sin. The season of Advent gives us pause as we prepare to once again enter into that remarkable act of love that God has shown us. The Old Testament reading today (Isaiah 63:16b-17,19b; 64:2-7) begins with an excellent question that we should ask when we examine our conscience: "Why do you let us wander, O Lord, from your ways, and harden our hearts so we fear you not?" The Psalm (Ps 80:2-3,15-16,18-19) begs God to "come to save us," and "take care of this vine, to protect what your right hand has planted."

In the Gospel (Mark 13:33-37) Jesus takes the Old Testament idea of the need for a savior and our request for such and tells his disciples to watch for God's response. "Be watchful! Be alert! You know not when the time will come." It is like when someone travels abroad and leaves his servants in charge with jobs to do and a gatekeeper to be on watch –"for you do not know when the master will return." Jesus cautions: "May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping."

FINANCE

WEEKEND OF 11/15/2020

SUNDAY COLLECTION

Total.....\$6,154.00

WE SHARE

11/7-11/13.....\$2,044.00

FISCAL YEAR TO DATE

(9/1/2019-8/31/2020).....
.....\$96,483.96

BUILDING MAINTENANCE

Total.....\$1,308.00

WEEKEND OF 11/22/2020

SUNDAY COLLECTION

Total.....Not Available

WE SHARE

11/14-11/20.....Not Available

FISCAL YEAR TO DATE

(9/1/2019-8/31/2020).....
.....\$96,483.96

SECOND COLLECTION: The second collection on December 13th is for Catholic Campaign for Human Development.

**FOR THE WEEK OF SUNDAY,
NOVEMBER 29**

The Sanctuary light is lit to the Glory of
God & for

Our Parishioners

LITURGY

LECTOR TRAINING: Would you like to proclaim the word of the Lord to members of the parish? If so there will be a training on Wednesday, December 16th at 7:00 pm in the church. Please contact Judy Bowman at 523-9287 or the rectory at 937-6959 if you want to attend. All are welcome!

WORSHIP AIDS: Weekly worship aids and daily Mass readings are available on our website by clicking on the "Worship Aids" tab. Feel free to follow along on your phone or device while in church, in your car, or at home! (QR code included for those who have a reader or Google lens)



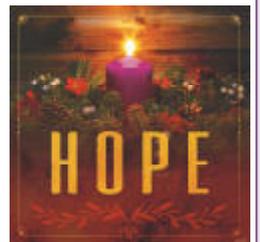
READINGS FOR NEXT

SUNDAY: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11/Psalm 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14 [8]/2 Peter 3:8-14/ Mark 1:1-

A Word from Today's Scriptures

Jesus said to his disciples: "Be watchful! Be alert! What I say to you, I say to all: "Watch!" Mark. 13:33, 37
Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

Prayer starter: As we begin our Advent journey and light the first candle on the Advent Wreath, help me to stay on guard, to keep my heart ready for your coming at Christmas.



ABOUT ADVENT WREATHS: Traditionally, Advent wreaths are constructed of a circle of ever-green branches into which four candles are inserted, representing the four weeks of Advent. Ideally, three candles are purple and one is rose, but white candles can also be used. The purple candles in particular symbolize the prayer, penance, and preparatory sacrifices and goods works undertaken at this time. The rose candle is lit on the third Sunday, Gaudete Sunday, when the priest also wears rose vestments at Mass; Gaudete Sunday is the Sunday of rejoicing, because the faithful have arrived at the midpoint of Advent, when their preparation is now half over and they are close to Christmas.

The progressive lighting of the candles symbolizes the expectation and hope surrounding our Lord's first coming into the world and the anticipation of his second coming to judge the living and the dead. **Source:** <https://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/liturgical-year-and-calendar/advent/about-advent-wreaths>

MINISTRY NEWS!

- ◆ **WELCOME TO ADVENT!** As we celebrate this season of preparation for Christmas, we encourage you to take home a "Little Blue Book", one per family, to use in your home during this season. The Little Blue Book has a daily scripture reading and reflection as well as suggestions for special ways to make Advent more meaningful for you. We sincerely hope you will enjoy this gift from your parish
- ◆ **PLEASE KEEP** the Liturgical Calendar which is included in this week's bulletin. It shows you the liturgical colors for each Sunday celebration and includes information about the meanings behind the colors.
- ◆ **GIVING TREE:** The Giving Tree is up and ready to be picked! As in the past, each mitten lists one gift. Every effort is made to keep the number of presents for each child equal to that of their siblings. We don't want one child in a family to receive more than another. If you wish to purchase more than one gift, please take another mitten. Also our families are always in need of paper products, gift cards for food and gas, shampoo, soap and cleaning supplies. Receiving these items will make everyday living easier for our families. Please remember to return your gift, back to the tree, wrapped with the mitten attached to the package by the weekend of **December 19th and 20th**. The gifts will be picked up at noon on the 20th. All that being said we are aware that some people are not feeling comfortable coming to Mass and are watching Mass from home. If you are one who would rather not be in Church when others are present the Church is open Monday thru Friday after the 8:30 Mass until 12:00 noon, from 3:30 till 5:15 after the 4:00 Mass on Saturday, and Sunday from 7:30 until 12:00 noon when all Masses are finished. As always, thank you for your support and God Bless us all! - Pat and Ed
- ◆ **CARE AND COMFORT THROUGH THE PANDEMIC** – Please help us to help you! St. John's Works of Mercy Ministry wants to be sure none of our parishioners has an unmet need during this new phase of the ongoing pandemic. If you have a need, please call our Helpline at 937-9293 or call the Rectory at 937-6959 and leave a message. If you know or suspect someone is in need and not reaching out for help, PLEASE LET US KNOW! If you want to be part of our team, let us know! worksofmercy@stjohnsalden.org



Please pray for all who are sick and for those who care for them: Ann G, Mackenzie Refermat, Theresa Kwiatkowski, Joe Hoiden, Nicholas Oddo, Tom Pasek, Susan Abramo, David Nowak, Dorothy Czechowski, Dawn Duncan, Kathy & Leonard Wagner, Nicole Lindner, Gretl Karlnoski, Terry Moore, Marlene Smith, Jackie Budnik, TSI Group, MaryAnn Mazurowski, Marian Butler, James Creighton, Scott Meidenbauer, David Borden, Debbie G, Gary Powers, Christine Mayer, Susan Hoiden, Bill Chapman, Jim Nowinski, Ed Monoco, Ann Matthies, Rose Pych, Marcia Keglra and All Special Intentions.

BULLETIN NEWS

Early Deadline Notice: Attention all bulletin contributors! Here is the schedule of deadlines for bulletin submissions: December 3rd for December 13th, December 14th for December 27th, & December 18th for January 3rd. The November 22nd deadline has passed and we cannot accept anything for that bulletin. We apologize for any inconvenience.

FUNDRAISING

COOKBOOKS: Cookbooks should be here before the second week on December! If you have ordered a cookbook, please contact the rectory to arrange for pickup. If you would still like one, we ordered extra and can be purchased at anytime. Please note if you have not paid for your order yet, it is due at the time of pick up. We do have a spreadsheet if you do not remember if you have already paid for your books. Thank you for all of your support. A special thanks goes to all who gave us recipes and the crew who put them into the program: Jean LeBlanc, Judy Downhower, and Wendy Ess. This was not possible without all of you !

PARISH NEWS

- ◆ Christmas Wafers (Oplatki) are now available at the rectory or in the priest's sacristy for the suggested donation of \$1.00. Please call ahead if you would like one and would like to pick it up from the rectory.
- ◆ We wanted to thank everyone again who came out for the Cemetery cleanup. Many showed up and the task was done within a couple of hours. Thank you so much for helping our cemetery stay beautiful.
- ◆ With continuous changes being made with COVID numbers on the rise again, please continue to watch for updates as we adapt to the changes laid out by our governor and the diocese. On the Flap is general guidelines, but we will also send home a mailing within the next week or so. Please check for any changes in that mailing. And call before coming to the rectory.
- ◆ **CHRISTMAS FLOWERS:** To donate a Christmas Poinsettia for the altar in memory of a deceased loved one, please include \$10 and the name of your loved one (printed or typed) in an envelope, which may be dropped in the collection basket or delivered to the rectory by **Sunday, December 15th**. (For office recording purposes, please also include your name and, if known, your parish identification/envelope number.) The names will be listed in the **December 20th** bulletin.

Prayer for Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if you were already there, and I unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You.
(Saint Alphonsus Liguori)

FAITH FORMATION:

Families of Faith Grades 1 - 8 this month we finish the first half of the Finding God book, ending the month with the Christmas lesson Chapter 15. If you are having difficulty accessing the online work please be sure to call the Faith formation Office.

First Eucharist parent meetings will be held December 2nd and December 3rd at 6:30pm. A parent should plan to attend 1 of these 2 meetings. To be invited to the online meeting you need to be registered with Faith Formation or have returned the 1st Eucharist application that was distributed to the school class.

First Reconciliation parent meetings have now passed. If you missed these meetings and plan for your child to make the Sacrament of Reconciliation this spring please call the Faith Formation office to set up a meeting to go over the material.

SCHOOL NEWS

Dear St. John Parish,

Happy Thanksgiving! I hope that everyone had an enjoyable and safe holiday. As a school community we were able to continue with a few of our annual Thanksgiving traditions. Our annual canned food drive was a huge success, and we are thankful for the support of the Works of Mercy committee for their involvement. Our winning class was 1st Grade and their St. Gabriel box. The class enjoyed a dress down day and a movie.

Although it looked a little different, our 2nd Grade class and 8th Grade class participated in the annual Bread Mass on Thursday, November 19th. Prepacked loaves of bread were blessed and distributed to those in attendance. Finally, we found a creative way to hold our school wide Thanksgiving feast. Our amazing lunch staff cooked a turkey and trimmings for lunch and we spread the feast over four lunch periods. We gave the children a chance to see some different faces (still socially distanced) at lunch.

Throughout the pandemic our focus has been, and will always be, on our students. We are a strong community and blessed to have each other!

Many Blessings,
Jonna M. Johnson, Principal

If you ordered Christmas Plants from our sale, they will be available for pick up on Saturday after the 4pm Mass and on Sunday from 9am - 12pm in the school gym. Please use the Westwood doors for pick up. We will have some cash and carry items available for purchase on these days too!

School Office Hours: Please note that the school office is closed to all visitors during our regular school hours. No one will be permitted into the building during school hours. If you need to contact us, please call 937-9483 or email us at school.office@stjohnsalden.org. I appreciate your mindful consideration of this change.

You can like us on Facebook (St. John the Baptist School Home page or Principal Jonna Johnson Home Page) to see more exciting events and school news.

www.stjohnsalden.com



MASSES FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, November 28

4:00 pm Arthur Nuwer - Estate

Sunday, November 29 (1st Sunday in Advent)

8:00 am All Souls

9:30 am Walter & Loretta Diedrich

11:00 am Helen J. Marien - John & Barbara Ertel

Monday, November 30

8:30 am Our Parishioners

Tuesday, December 1

8:30 am Ruth McCormick—The Nicolas Smith Family

Wednesday, December 2

8:30 am Arthur Nuwer - Estate

Thursday, December 3

8:30 am Msgr. David Slubecky - Family & Estate

Friday, December 4

8:30 am Lorain Munn - The Schweigert & Taylor Family

Saturday, December 5

4:00 pm Patrick Comerford - His Wife

Sunday, December 6 (2nd Sunday in Advent)

8:00 am Jean Lacey - Sharon & Jamie Hoelscher

9:30 am Norman Walter - Family

11:00 am Frank Levy - Family

MASS AND LITURGICAL GUIDELINES DURING THE COVID CRISIS.: New York State will color code our situation which will guide our celebration of Mass, funerals and baptisms. **All of our weekend Masses will be live-streamed and available on our website and Face Book pages. For those who do not have the ability to watch Mass online.** NOTE: For those who cannot go online, WGRZ (Channel 2) is broadcasting Sunday Mass at 11 am every Sunday on behalf of the Diocese of Buffalo. If the designation for Alden is:

No designation or Yellow – Maximum is 50% capacity.

Daily Mass continues as is.

Weekend Masses continue as is but our current weekend seating policy remains in effect. Ushers will limit to available seating with 6 foot spacing. When we are full, we are full. No overflow in the gym at this time. The Mass will be broadcast on our FM channel and Holy Communion will be brought to the parking lot at this time.

Baptisms and weddings. Continue 50% capacity limits.

Confessions at 3 pm on Saturday.

The Church will be open for prayers weekdays during business hours.

Orange - Maximum of 25 people in attendance.

Daily Mass will continue as is.

Weekend Mass will be live-streamed at 4pm. No attendees will be permitted. No Holy Communion in the parking lot. NOTE: Even though a maximum of 25 people is allowed, by the time we have the priest, a deacon, music ministry, and lector that number is even lower and there is no safe, fair, way to figure out who those 15 people will be. Remember, there is no obligation to attend.

Baptisms and weddings only if there are 25 people or less.

Confessions by appointment only.

The Church will be open for prayers weekdays during business hours.

Red - Maximum of 10 people.

No daily Mass. Our priests will say daily Mass at home for our intentions.

Weekend Mass. No attendees. One live-streamed Mass at 4 pm on Saturday. No Holy Communion in the parking lot.

Charles Meyer

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St. John the Baptist Church

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