

# St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church

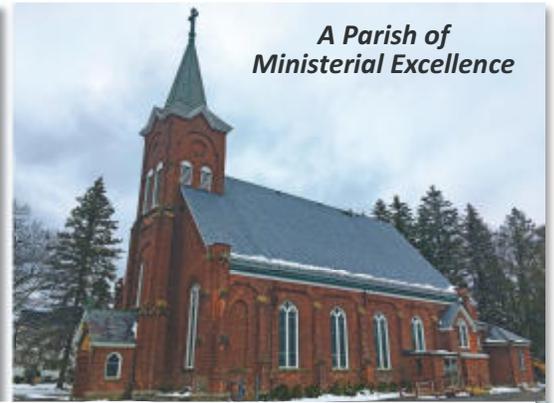
2021 SANDRIDGE ROAD • ALDEN, NEW YORK 14004



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

Email: [st.johnsaldenparish@gmail.com](mailto:st.johnsaldenparish@gmail.com)

Website: [www.StJohnAlden.com](http://www.StJohnAlden.com)



*A Parish of  
Ministerial Excellence*

**DECEMBER 6, 2020 • SECOND 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](mailto:st.johnsaldenparish@gmail.com)

Faith Formation: 716-937-6959  
Faith Formation Email: [faith.formation@stjohnsalden.org](mailto: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](mailto:Baptism@stjohnsalden.org)

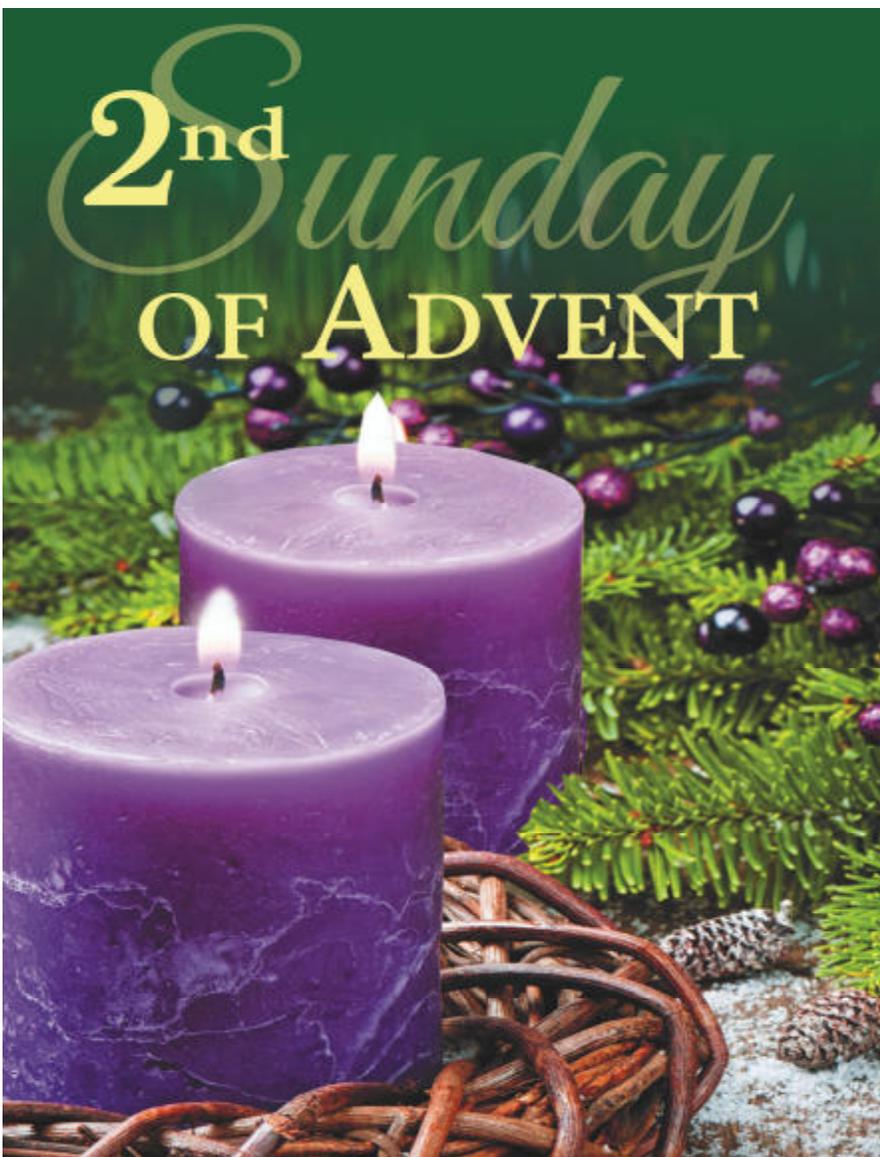
**Marriage:** Arrangements should be made at least 9 months ahead. A Marriage Preparation Program is required.

**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 Second Sunday of Advent is upon us bringing us to the halfway point of the season. It is about this time that all of our best intentions for spiritual preparation begin to unravel a bit. We are caught up in our other Christmas preparations and the world around us and forget all about Advent. It is one of the reasons that our family should have an Advent Wreath to light!

The first reading Isaiah 40:1-5,9-11) speaks to our human journey and the necessity to “prepare the way of the Lord.” The first part tells us how desperate we are for “comfort” from the Lord God. How true is that today in the midst of a world pandemic and so many other concerns? In order to keep God in our life, we need to “make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God.” The use of the word wasteland is jarring. The implication is that land not being used for anything meaningful or productive is just a “wasteland.” The rehabilitation of the landscape of our lives, illustrated by creating a highway (i.e., a quick easy path), amounts to filling in valleys (i.e., pitfalls) and bringing down mountains (i.e., obstacles) so the Lord God can enter our lives. When the highway is opened up, God brings “glad tidings. The Lord God “rules by his strong arm,” and “comes with power.” The *pièce de résistance* : “Like a shepherd he feeds his flock and in his arms he gathers the lambs, carrying them in his bosom, and leading the ewes with care.” How comforting is that?

The Gospel (Mark 1: 1-8) is the very beginning of Mark’s Gospel. He first quotes Isaiah and the prophesy that God will send a messenger ahead of the people in the desert (i.e., those without sustenance and hope). This one’s voice can be heard to cry out: “Prepare the way of the Lord and make straight his paths.” Here is where John the Baptist enters the picture and begins proclaiming a “baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.” He baptized people, who repented of their sins, in the Jordan river. John was a strange figure indeed, but something about him was compelling. Our Gospel writer Mark, reminds us that John was a herald of who was to come. John made it clear: “One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I baptize you with water, he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

John, our patron saint, was a relative of Jesus. But, he did not use that as a claim to fame or as a means to use Jesus’ celebrity for his own purposes. He reminded, to the end committed to point to Jesus as the lamb of God. The parish founding fathers and mothers took this as the inspiration to build this parish in John’s name. So, we need to be following John’s lead and prepare the way of the Lord into our lives!

**FINANCE**

**WEEKEND OF 11/22/2020**

**SUNDAY COLLECTION**

Total.....\$7,117.75

**WE SHARE**

11/14-11/20.....\$1,639.00

**FISCAL YEAR TO DATE**

(9/1/2019-8/31/2020).....  
.....\$105,240.71

**CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT**

Total.....\$411.25

**WEEKEND OF 11/29/2020**

**SUNDAY COLLECTION**

Total.....\$5,282.00

**WE SHARE**

11/21-11/27.....\$1339.00

**FISCAL YEAR TO DATE**

(9/1/2019-8/31/2020).....  
.....\$111,861.71

**SECOND COLLECTION:** The second collection on December 13<sup>th</sup> is for Religious Retirement Appeal.

**FOR THE WEEK OF SUNDAY,  
DECEMBER 6**

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 16<sup>th</sup> 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 61:1-2a, 10-11/Luke 1:46-48, 49-50, 51-54 [Is 61:10b]/1 Thessalonians 5:16-24/John 1:6-8, 19-28**

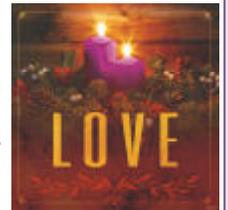
**A Word from Today's Scriptures**

*Second Sunday of Advent:* John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

Mark 1:4

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

*Prayer starter: As we light the second candle on our Advent Wreath, we are called to "Prepare the way of the Lord." Let us respond to John's message of repentance. Let us make a home for Christ in our hearts*



**DIocese NEWS**

- ◆ **WE HAVE A BISHOP:** Washington, D.C. Auxiliary Bishop Michael William Fisher has been appointed by His Holiness Pope Francis as the fifteenth bishop of the Diocese of Buffalo in an announcement from the Vatican today (12/1/2020) at 12:00 noon Rome time. Bishop Fisher’s installation will take place on Friday, January 15, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. in the Cathedral of Saint Joseph in Buffalo. His Eminence Timothy Cardinal Dolan, Metropolitan Archbishop of New York, will preside and Archbishop Christophe Pierre, Apostolic Nuncio to the United States, will be in attendance. For more details on Bishop Fisher, please follow the link <https://www.buffalodiocese.org/bishop-fisher>.

## 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
- ◆ **GIVING TREE:** Just a quick reminder, The wrapped gifts with the mitten attached are to be returned to the Giving Tree no later than noon on December 20<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for your kindness and consideration. - Pat 
- ◆ **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](mailto:worksofmercy@stjohnsalden.org)

**BLESSING OF NATIVITIES:** In its present form the custom of displaying figures depicting the birth of Jesus Christ owes its origin to St. Francis of Assisi, who made the Christmas crèche or manger for Christmas Eve of 1223.

The blessing of the Christmas manger or nativity scene may take place on the Vigil of Christmas or at another suitable time. When the manger is set up in the home, it is appropriate that it be blessed by a parent or another family member.

**All make the sign of the cross as the leader says:**

Our help is in the name of the Lord.

R/. Who made heaven and earth.

One of those present or the leader reads a text of sacred Scripture, for example, [Luke 2:1](#) (lines 1-8) or [Isaiah 7:10](#) (lines 10-15, the birth of Emmanuel).

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

R/. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

The leader prays with hands joined: God of every nation and people, from the very beginning of creation you have made manifest your love: when our need for a Savior was great you sent your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary. To our lives he brings joy and peace, justice, mercy, and love.

**Lord, bless all who look upon this manger;  
may it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus,  
and raise our thoughts to him, who is God with-us and Savior  
of all, and who lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.**

Source: <https://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/sacraments-and-sacramentals/sacramentals-blessings/objects/blessing-of-a-christmas-manger-or-nativity-scene>

## FUNDRAISING

**COOKBOOKS:** There are still some cookbooks available for purchase before Christmas! Please contact the rectory if you are interested in a book for you or a loved one. Those who have ordered, please call ahead for pick up to make sure someone is in the office. With the changing of COVID zones, office staff may be limited with limited office hours.

## PARISH NEWS

- ◆ Information on Christmas Masses will be in the Bulletin for December 13<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for your patience as we navigate these unusual circumstances.
- ◆ 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.
- ◆ 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 for yellow. Please note that even if Alden goes to red, we will remain open with the yellow guidelines.
- ◆ **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 15<sup>th</sup>**. (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 20<sup>th</sup>** bulletin.



## BULLETIN NEWS

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

**Please pray for all who are sick and for those who care for them:** Ann G, Mackenzie Refemat, 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 Keglars, S.T.K Subsara, Phil Walter and All Special Intentions.

#### FAITH FORMATION:

As part of their class the 10th grade, who are studying the Works of Mercy this year, will be going to do service this month at St. Luke's mission of Mercy, the Mother Teresa home, and the Alden/Marilla food pantry.

**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

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

#### SCHOOL NEWS

Dear St. John Parish,

Advent is such an exciting time, especially for our children. As we all begin to prepare our hearts and minds for the arrival of Jesus, we have an excellent opportunity to help teach our children about the true meaning of Christmas. This year students were blessed to receive an Advent calendar and special treat from St. Nicholas. An Advent calendar is a great way to help count down the days to Christmas and a great way to read through scripture. Each morning we begin our day with a music meditation and reflective prayer from our Advent children's guide.

In addition to reaching scripture, increasing meditative prayer, we are also engaging our students and their families in a few service projects. We will be collecting new toys for Oishei Children's Hospital, collecting food in our Reverse Advent Calendar collection, and gently used but clean coats for donation at a local shelter. When we help those in need, we are showing our love for Jesus.

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](mailto: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](http://www.stjohnsalden.com)



**MASSES FOR THE WEEK**

**Saturday, December 5**

4:00 pm Patrick Comerford - His Wife

**Sunday, December 6 (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent)**

8:00 am Jean Lacey - Sharon & Jamie Hoelscher

9:30 am Norman Walter - Family

11:00 am Frank Levy - Family

**Monday, December 7**

8:30 am Living & Deceased Members of the Metz Family - Family

7:00 pm Geraldine Hartman - Family

**Tuesday, December 8 (The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary)**

8:30 am Joseph DeCarolis - Nancy Alex

**Wednesday, December 9**

8:30 am Genevieve J. Kaczmarek - Estate

**Thursday, December 10**

8:30 am Raymond J. Fix - Estate

**Friday, December 4**

8:30 am Raymond & Loretta Roll Jr. - Estate

**Saturday, December 5**

4:00 pm Our Parishioners - Estate

**Sunday, December 6 (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent)**

8:00 am Ann Marie Lindner - Husband, Bink  
Living & Deceased Members of the Holy Name Society

9:30 am Marion Hahn - Anna Marie McCormick & Family

11:00 am Jiggs LeBlanc - Jean & Children

**RCTORY OFFICE NEWS :** Should Alden change to zones orange or red, the following office guidelines are in place:  
**Zone Orange:** Office hours are 9-12pm & visitors are by appointment only. (Volunteers & ministries included)  
**Red Zone:** The Office is closed to the public. **We will continue to answer phone calls and emails regardless of what zone Alden is in.**

**MASS AND LITURGICAL GUIDELINES DURING THE COVID CRISIS.:** All of our weekend Masses will be live-streamed and available on our website ([www.stjohnalden.com](http://www.stjohnalden.com)) and Facebook page. 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.

St. John's Worship Committee has prepared the following guidelines based on the current NY State and diocesan guidelines.

As of November 26, 2020, a color zone designation no longer affects a finite number of attendees at Mass. We will follow the updated protocols below:

- Masks must be worn at all times inside of the church building.
- Daily Mass continues as is.
- Weekend Masses continue as is and our current weekend seating policy remains in effect. Ushers will limit available seating with 6 foot spacing. The Mass will be broadcast on FM 88.9 and Holy Communion will be brought to the parking lot at this time. There will be no overflow in the gym.
- Baptisms, weddings, and funerals continue with 50% capacity limits.
- Confessions at 3 pm on Saturday.
- The church will be open for personal prayer on weekdays during business hours.

# Charles Meyer

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