

St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church

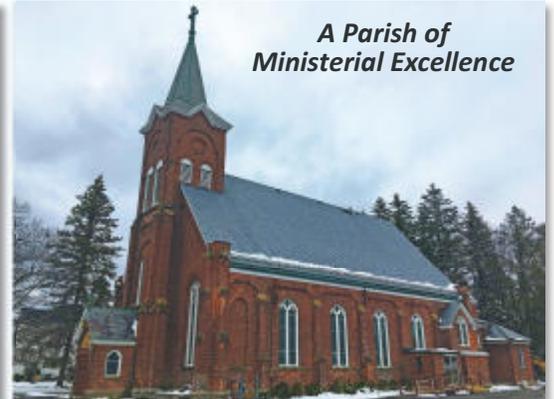
2021 SANDRIDGE ROAD • ALDEN, NEW YORK 14004



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

Email: st.johnsaldenparish@gmail.com

Website: www.StJohnAlden.com



*A Parish of
Ministerial Excellence*

DECEMBER 27, 2020 • THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, & JOSEPH

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

Office hours may change due to zoning, please call before visiting

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

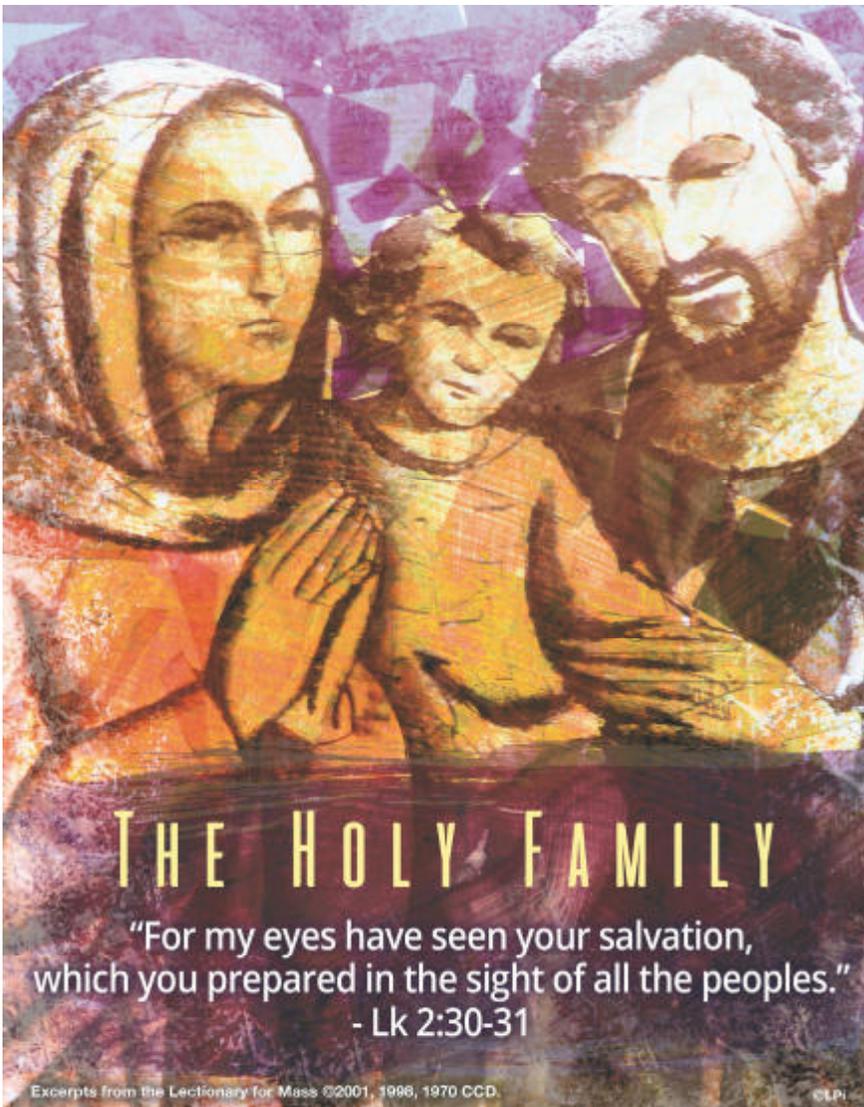
Marriage: Arrangements should be made at least 9 months ahead. A Marriage Preparation Program is required.

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

Today we celebrate the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. Jesus' earthly family gives us an example of not only how to be in relationship with those around us, our immediate family but all those in our parish and community with whom we are also in relationship in the family of Christ which we joined at Baptism. The second reading (COL 3:12-21) provides a wonderful summary of the way to be in relationship with both families – our birth family and our faith family. "Put on, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if one has a grievance against another; as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do. And over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection. And let the peace of Christ control your hearts, the peace into which you were also called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly." Our attitude of love calls us to compassion /kindness, forgiveness, the peace of Christ, and thankfulness. This will help keep all of our relationships right and filled with mutual love. Our world both at home and beyond desperately needs these qualities.

The Gospel (Lk 2:22, 39-40) gives us an important insight into family life. The first part describes the proforma obligations, religious and civic, that families had to do when they have children. "When the days were completed for their purification according to the law of Moses, they took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord." Parents get that – you have to do what you have to do. "When they had fulfilled all the prescriptions of the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth." They went home to take on the task of parenting – that is to give protection, education, and values to their children as they are growing up. Mary and Joseph did that for Jesus as well. "The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him."

The totality of the faith lessons of the New Testament, inaugurated with the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem that night ages ago, are summed up in two very simple yet profound proclamations by Jesus. First are the Beatitudes (Matt 5:3-12). Next is the greatest commandment (Matt 22:38; Luke 10:27 ; Mark 12:30-31; John 13:34 and 14:21). The focus of these profound directives is on relationships. The important thing is love – love of God and love of neighbor. Our love must be extended to everyone – those we live with everyday as well as those most in need around us. There are no exceptions. The family is known as the "domestic church." So, as the family loves and forgives, and cares for those in need it provides the model for the whole church. Just as the Trinity demonstrates for us perfect love among the triune deity of Father, Son, and Spirit, so too the family and the church must be perfect in love.

FINANCE	
WEEKEND OF 12/20/2020	
SUNDAY COLLECTION	
Total.....	Not Available
WE SHARE	
12/12-12/17.....	Not Available
FISCAL YEAR TO DATE	
(9/1/2019-8/31/2020).....	
.....	\$132,933.71
CHRISTMAS COLLECTION	
Total.....	Not Available

FOR THE WEEK OF SUNDAY,
DECEMBER 27
The Sanctuary light is lit to the Glory of
God & for
Kat & Art Lehman &



LITURGY

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 60:1-6/ Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 [cf. 11]/ Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6/Matthew 2:1-1**

A Word from Today's Scriptures

Feast of The Holy Family of Jesus:
When they had fulfilled all the prescriptions of the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him ."

Luke 2:39-40

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

Prayer starter: O God, who were pleased to give us the shining example of the Holy Family. Graciously grant that we may imitate them in practicing the virtues of family life. Pour out your love on every family today.



MINISTRY NEWS

- ◆ **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, or want to join our team, please let us know! worksofmercy@stjohnsalden.org
- ◆ **LAP ROBES** are available at the Rectory for anyone in need. They are blessed and made with love by our Pray Shawl Ministry.
- ◆ **CARE PACKAGES** are available for anyone in need in the front entry of the Rectory. Please do not hesitate to take a couple.
- ◆ **THE GIVING TREE 2020 UPDATE!!** The New Year is upon us, Christmas is over for this very trying year, and we have put the Giving Tree away! Ed and I didn't know if this was the year to step back and not set up the tree, then certainly realized the need is greater than ever this year and so it went up again. And as much as we hesitated, you did not. Your response was wonderful as always. When the mittens were gone from the tree I had two ladies call me looking for more! This year you made Christmas possible for 6 families; Two single Moms with 1 child each, another single Mom with 5 children, 3 sets of parents, 2 with 3 children and the third with 2. You are amazing! Saying thank you just doesn't seem enough. We had a lot going on with asking for donations the last weeks before Christmas, but St. John's is a family and you showed that without a thought. So we thank you again and wish you and your family blessings for a safe, healthy and happy New Year. God Bless you all. Pat and Ed



RECTORY OFFICE NEWS

- ◆ The office will be closed December 31st - January 1st to ring in the New Year. Please have a safe and enjoyable holiday!
- ◆ 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 zones.**

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, Rose Pych, Joanne Mueller, Marcia Kegljar, S.T.K Subsara, Phil Walter, Ken Warren and All Special Intentions.

PARISH NEWS

- ◆ **Bible study** We would like to begin a Bible study in the new year. We have several options available to us, but before deciding our plan, we want to find out who is interested and what Bible study any of the participants may have done before. Once we know who is interested we will look at time of day as well as where we will be able to hold it with proper social distancing. We may even need to go to an online meeting format if the group is large or if the virus changes our ability to meet in person. So please email Jenny at the Faith Formation office faith.formation@stjohnsalden.org to let us know you are interested and we will go from there.

FUNDRAISING

ORNAMENTS: St. John's Church is selling snowflake ornaments commemorating our 170th anniversary. If you would like one, they are \$5 and available at the rectory and at Church, just ask Debbie.

CHRISTMAS SEASON SCHEDULE:

Solemnity of Mary Schedule

Vigil (December 31): 4pm

*No Morning Mass

- January 1: 9:30 am

Epiphany (January 3)

- Normal weekend schedule



FAITH FORMATION:

This Sunday we celebrate the Holy Family. They are a model for us all in sharing faith together. This week, take a few minutes as a family to pray together. Pray a rosary, pray for those affected by the Covid-19 virus, pray for our military around the world, pray for those who will spend the New Year away from home. There are so many who need our prayers right now!

No taking the decorations down yet, the Christmas season ends with the Baptism of our Lord and that happens the Weekend of January 10th!



SCHOOL NEWS

Dear St. John Parish,

Christmas break for our students and staff will begin on December 21st and students will return for instruction on January 4th. The school office will be closed on December 24th, December 25th, and January 1st. Please call the office prior to coming to ensure that someone will be there to assist you.

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, December 26

4:00 pm Living & Deceased Members of the Earsing & McCormick Families - Earsing Family

Sunday, December 27 (The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph)

8:00 am All Souls

9:30 am Bill Brown - His Wife

11:00 am Dad Krantz - Diane Frys

Monday, December 28

8:30 am Raymond J. Fix - Estate

Tuesday, December 29

8:30 am Geraldine Hartman - Family

Wednesday, December 30

8:30 am Robert Hamilton - The Hamilton Family

Thursday, December 31

4:00 pm Living & Deceased Members of the Metz Family - Family

Friday, January 1 (Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God)

9:30 am Deacon Richard & Mary Mahaney - Gene & Nancy Mahaney

Saturday, January 2

4:00 pm Deceased Members of the Refermat Family - Mary Refermat

Sunday, January 3 (Epiphany of the Lord)

8:00 am Deacon Richard & Mary Mahaney - Gene & Nancy Mahaney

9:30 am Our Parishioners

11:00 am Living & Deceased Members of the Metz Family - Family

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) 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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