

# St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church

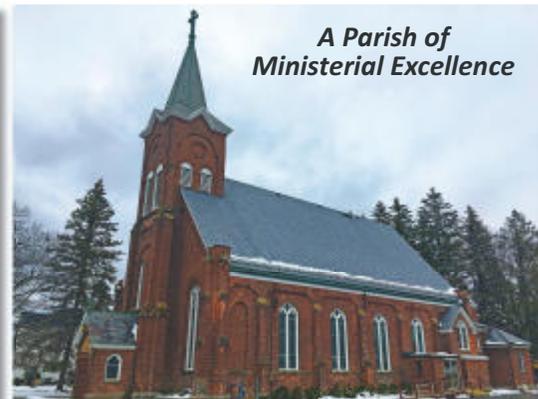
2021 SANDRIDGE ROAD • ALDEN, NEW YORK 14004



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

**JANUARY 3, 2020 • THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**

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**

**\*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](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.



## THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. - Mt 2:10-11

**LITURGICAL CORNER BY DEBBIE BROWN, PASTORAL ADMINISTRATOR**

At Christmas we celebrate the incarnation (that is, God becoming human). God's love and presence is manifested in the person of Jesus. The manifestation begins with a woman, his mother Mary. We celebrate this manifestation on January 1 with the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. The next manifestation is to Jesus' earthly father Joseph. We celebrate this manifestation at the Solemnity of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. The shepherds then come to experience the manifestation – symbolizing the people of Israel who had been awaiting a savior (Messiah).

Today we celebrate Epiphany which is another manifestation and hear about the arrival of the three wise men from the East—the magi. God's love, manifested in Christ, is not just to Israel, but to the entire world. *Today we recall God's defining act in human history—the Incarnation of his Son which begins his work of salvation through his eventual death and resurrection and ascension to the eternal throne.* (From Breaking Open the Word, Mary Birmingham © 2011 ). Epiphany is where we see the impulse to mission begin. Our faith affects not just our immediate family, not just our extended family, not just our parish family, not just our Diocesan family, not just our Catholic family, not just Christians throughout the world, but every person born.

The Old Testament Reading (Isaiah 60:1-6) contains the details of what the day will look like when the prophecy of the Messiah to come would be fulfilled. "Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you. See, darkness covers the earth, and thick clouds cover the peoples; but upon you the LORD shines, and over you appears his glory. Nations shall walk by your light, and kings by your shining radiance." Note here that Isaiah predicts that nations will also see this light through the Israelites. The Responsorial Psalm (Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13) amplifies this thought: "Lord every nation on earth shall adore you."

The Gospel (Mt 2:1-12) is Matthew's story of the magi following the star seeking the king it was announcing who eventually find their way to the Holy Family. The story of the Magi is vivid and full of intrigue – as every good story is, but its essence is the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecy that the Messiah (the anointed one) would come to bring salvation to the world. He would bring light into the darkness of the world. Through this light, wrought by the incarnation, is the sanctification of God all creation, especially the jewel of creation which is humanity. Christ took the form of a human being and in so doing infused the human heart with a divine nature. We partake in this salvation in a unique way whenever we celebrate the sacraments. Baptism is the entry sacrament, Confirmation seals us with the Holy Spirit and Eucharist feeds us on our journey. The light must now be manifest in all the baptized – bringing this light to each and every person we encounter. May your new year, as well as that of your loved ones, be filled with light and holiness and peace.

**FINANCE**

**WEEKEND OF 12/20/2020**

**SUNDAY COLLECTION**

Total.....\$8,158.00

**WE SHARE**

12/12-12/17.....\$1539.00

**FISCAL YEAR TO DATE**

(9/1/2019-8/31/2020).....

.....\$132,933.71

**CHRISTMAS COLLECTION**

Total.....Not Available

**WEEKEND OF 12/27/2020**

**SUNDAY COLLECTION**

Total.....Not Available

**WE SHARE**

12/12-12/17.....Not Available

**2020 TAX STATEMENTS:** Tax Substantiation Letters are being prepared and will be sent out to parishioners who have donated more than \$1,000 to St. John's in 2020. Please call the rectory (937-6959) to request a letter or if you do not receive one by January 29, 2021 and would like one. Happy New Year!



**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)



**A Word from Today's Scriptures**

*The Epiphany of the Lord:* They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Matt. 2:10-11  
Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

*Prayer starter: Lord Jesus, what gifts can I offer you this year*

**READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY: Hebrews 1:1-6/Psalm 97:1 and 2b, 6 and 7c, 9 [cf. 7c]/Mark 1:14-20**

**FOR THE WEEK OF SUNDAY, JANUARY 3**

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

*Our Parishioners*



## MINISTRY NEWS

- ◆ **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
- ◆ **CHURCH CALENDARS:** We thank you for continuing support of our Catholic faith calendar sponsors Alden [Pharmacy, Charles Meyer Funeral Home, Creighton Optical, and Kotas & Kotas CPA. In addition of the beautiful biblical artwork, Mass vestment colors for each day as well as all fest days and Holy Days of Obligation are listed. Calendars are available for free in the rectory, and at both entrances of the church.
- ◆ **NOVEMBER WINNERS FOR THE 200 CLUB DRAWING:**

Week	Winner	Number	Seller
November 8th	Nancy Haungs	100	C. Ley
November 15th	Lynn Miller	179	Zaleski
November 22nd	Chad Bea	62	M. Ley
November 29th	Toni Kryszak	72	Bowman

## RECTORY 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 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 Kegl, S.T.K Subsara, Phil Walter, Ken Warren, Kathrin Boling 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](mailto:faith.formation@stjohnsalden.org) to let us know you are interested and we will go from there.

## UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

*In re The Diocese of Buffalo  
N.Y.*

Case No. 20-10322

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT,** On February 28, 2020, The Diocese of Buffalo N.Y., (“Diocese”) filed for protection under chapter 11 of title 11 of the United States Code (the “Bankruptcy Code”).

**The Bankruptcy Court has established August 14, 2021 at 11:59 p.m. (prevailing Eastern time) as the deadline to file proofs of claim against the Diocese (the “Bar Date”).**

**If you have a claim against the Diocese, including, without limitation, a claim related to sexual abuse committed by any person connected with the Diocese, you must file a claim on or before the Bar Date.**

Please visit <https://case.stretto.com/diocesefbuffalo> or call (855) 292-7696 for more information on how to file your proof of claim.

**IF YOU DO NOT TIMELY FILE A PROOF OF CLAIM, YOU MAY FORFEIT YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE ON ANY PLAN OF REORGANIZATION AND TO SHARE IN ANY DISTRIBUTIONS TO CREDITORS IN CONNECTION WITH THE DIOCESE’S CHAPTER 11 CASE.**

### FAITH FORMATION:

This weekend we celebrate the Epiphany. This is the time when Jesus became known to the world. It's a great reminder to all of us that as Baptized Catholic Christians we are called, like the Wisemen, to make Jesus known in the world through our words and through our actions.

No taking the decorations down yet. The Christmas season ends with the Baptism of our Lord and that happens next weekend and then we return to ordinary time.

**Here are the upcoming dates for Faith Formation:**

***Reminder there is no in person gathering for Families of Faith - please be sure to return your safe environment form this week!***

**January 9<sup>th</sup>** 9:00am - in person Reconciliation class

**January 9<sup>th</sup>** 10:45am - in person Eucharist class

**January 10<sup>th</sup>** - 11:00am Confirmation class **and** makeup class for those who missed the Monday Nov 9<sup>th</sup> class

**January 11<sup>th</sup>** Confirmation class 7:00pm

**January 23<sup>rd</sup>** 9:00am - in person Reconciliation class

**January 23<sup>rd</sup>** 10:45am - in person Eucharist class

### SCHOOL NEWS

**Christmas break for our students and staff will begin on December 21<sup>st</sup> and students will return for instruction on January 4<sup>th</sup>. The school office will be closed on December 24<sup>th</sup>, December 25<sup>th</sup>, and January 1<sup>st</sup>. 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](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, 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

### Monday, January 4

8:30 am Raymond & Theresa Roll sr. - Estate

### Tuesday, January 5

8:30 am Arthur Nuwer - Estate

### Wednesday, January 6

8:30 am Raymond J. Fix - Estate

### Thursday, January 7

4:00 pm Geraldine Hartman - Family

### Friday, January 8

9:30 am Msgr. David Slubecky - Family & Estate

### Saturday, January 9

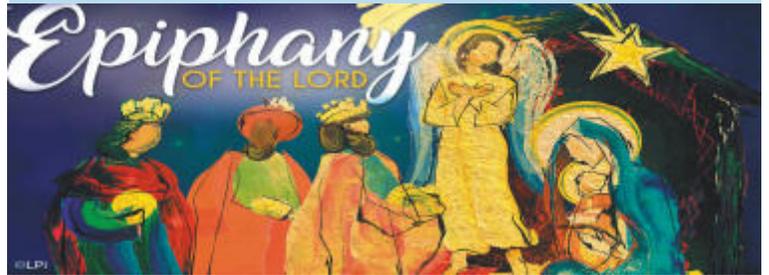
4:00 pm Loraine Munn - The Schweigert & Taylor Family

### Sunday, January 10 (2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time)

8:00 am Living & Deceased Members of the Holy Name Society

9:30 am All Souls

11:00 am Alice Roll - Estate



**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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