

St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church

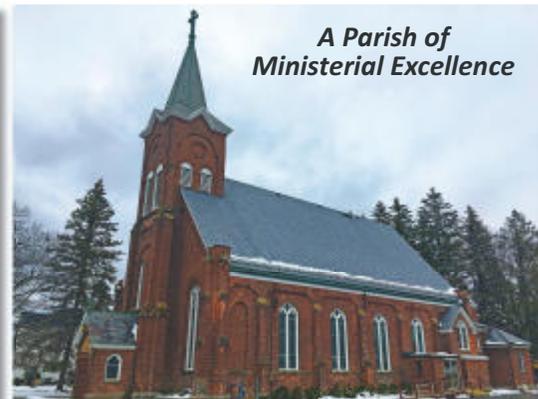
2021 SANDRIDGE ROAD • ALDEN, NEW YORK 14004



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

Email: st.johnsaldenparish@gmail.com

Website: www.StJohnAlden.com



A Parish of
Ministerial Excellence

JANUARY 10, 2021 • THE BAPTISM 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

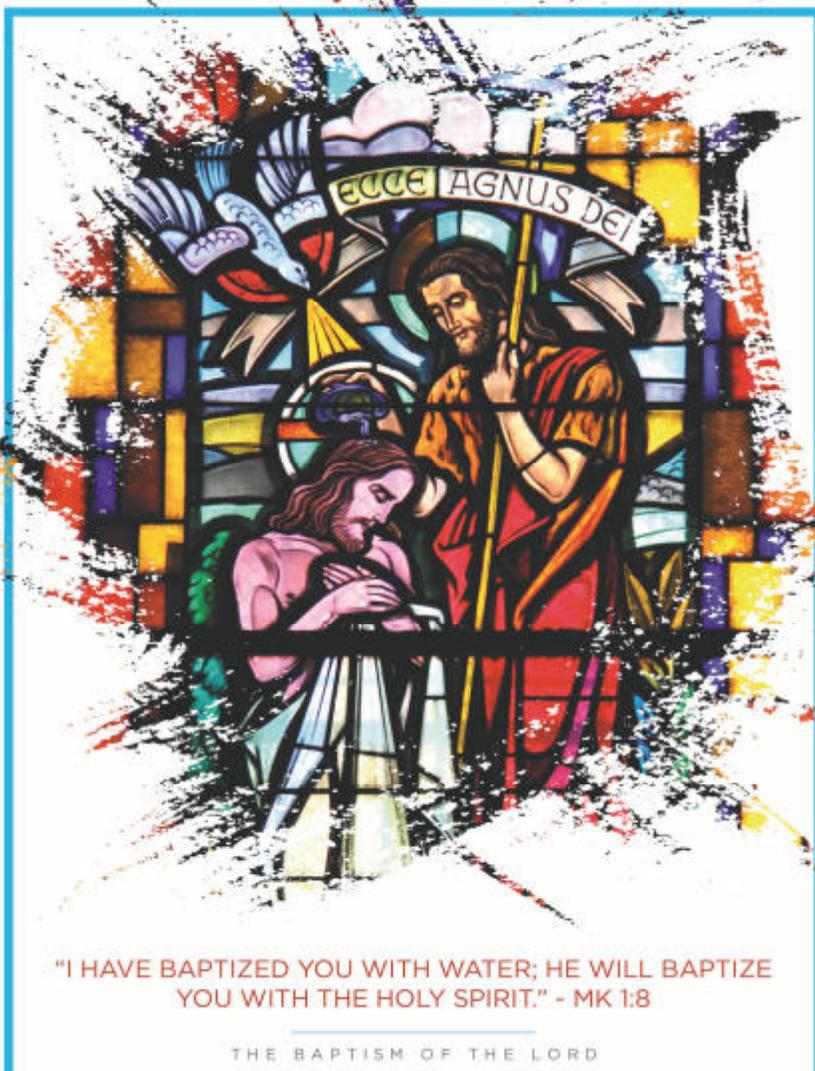
Faith Formation: 716-937-6959

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



"I HAVE BAPTIZED YOU WITH WATER; HE WILL BAPTIZE
YOU WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT." - MK 1:8

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

EXCERPTS FROM THE LECTIONARY FOR MASS #2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. -LLP

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 Old Testament reading today on the Baptism of the Lord is worth reflecting on. Isaiah 55 is the culmination of Chapters 40 – 55 known as Second Isaiah or Deutero-Isaiah. They are generally attributed to an anonymous poet who prophesied toward the end of the Babylonian exile, years after the original Isaiah and his followers wrote the first part. The passage we read today has two parts. The first section describes a banquet and the second tells us what God wants us to know about the way we are to live our lives here on earth as we prepare for Eternal life (a.k.a. the heavenly banquet).

Verses 1-2: "Thus says the LORD: All you who are thirsty, come to the water! You who have no money, come, receive grain and eat; come, without paying and without cost, drink wine and milk! Why spend your money for what is not bread, your wages for what fails to satisfy? Heed me, and you shall eat well, you shall delight in rich fare." Just let those words pour over you for a moment. Tom Conroy explains the heavenly banquet described in these two verses this way: (the author) "imagines a great feast that is not bought and paid for by the economic elite, which satisfies in ways that conventional feasts cannot, and which calls into question the timeworn roles of production and consumption. In the end (and feasts are often signifiers of the end-times) the original abundance and goodness of creation is restored, and the ancient wickedness of greed and hunger is washed away by the symbols of plenty, wine and milk." (Today's Liturgy © 2003, OCP. All rights reserved).

Part two encourages the readers to harken to what the Lord God has to say. "Seek the LORD while he may be found, call him while he is near. Let the scoundrel forsake his way, and the wicked man his thoughts; let him turn to the LORD for mercy; to our God, who is generous in forgiving." If we have forgotten the way, there is no time like the present to convert our lives. Finally, Deutero-Isaiah's description of the word of God is so beautiful and powerful: "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. As high as the heavens are above the earth so high are my ways above your ways and my thoughts above your thoughts. For just as from the heavens the rain and snow come down and do not return there till they have watered the earth, making it fertile and fruitful, giving seed to the one who sows and bread to the one who eats, so shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth; my word shall not return to me void, but shall do my will, achieving the end for which I sent it."

Our Baptism was life-giving and life changing. Really give these words of Scripture some reflection and prayer this week as you strive to live your Baptism.

FINANCE

WEEKEND OF 12/27/2020

SUNDAY COLLECTION

Total.....\$6,164.00

WE SHARE

12/19-12/25.....\$1,239.00

WEEKEND OF 1/3/2021

SUNDAY COLLECTION

Total.....\$10,996.00

CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

Total.....\$8,576.00

SOLEMNITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Total.....\$1,352.00

FISCAL YEAR TO DATE

(9/1/2019-8/31/2020).....
.....\$151,332.71

SECOND COLLECTION: Our next collection is for fuel on January 17th

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

A Word from Today's Scriptures

The Baptism of the Lord: On coming up out of the water he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit, like a dove, descending upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

Mark. 1:10-11

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

Prayer starter: Lord Jesus, you submitted to the baptism of John, as a part of your preparation for your mission. I believe that you are the Son of God, sent as my savior. Thank you for coming to bring me the good news of salvation. I want to repent and believe.

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY: 1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19/Ps 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10 [8a, 9a]/1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20/

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)



FOR THE WEEK OF SUNDAY, JANUARY 10
The Sanctuary light is lit to the Glory of God & for

Our Parishioners

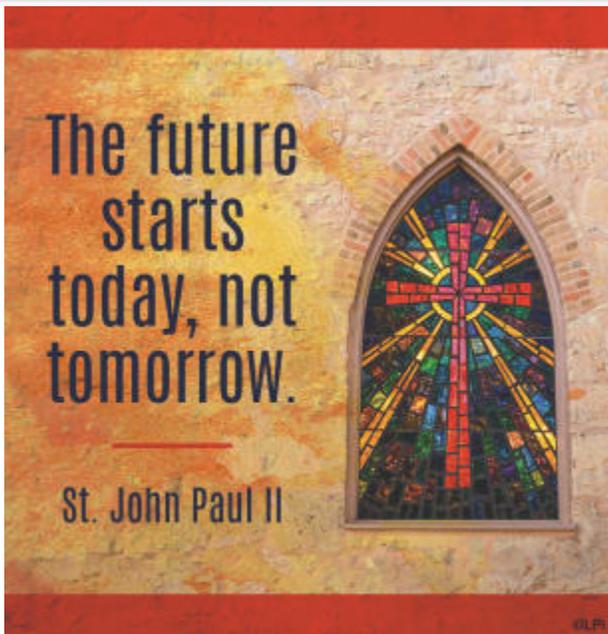


MINISTRY NEWS

- ◆ **COPIES OF MATTHEW KELLY'S "I HEARD GOD LAUGH"** are still available at the entrances. This is our Christmas gift to you! If you know of a parish family who isn't able to attend mass, please feel free to take an extra copy to share with them.
- ◆ **TAKE DOWN CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS:** Request for volunteers to help take down and store our in-church Christmas decorations. Date and time set for Monday, Jan. 11 at 10 AM. Please contact Carl M. at 937-7433 if you have questions. Thank you
- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **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.

RECTORY OFFICE NEWS

- ◆ **The office will be closed on Monday, January 18th in for Marin Luther King Jr. Day**



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 Karnoski, 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, Kathrin Boling and All Special Intentions.

FUNDRAISING

ORNAMENTS: We still have a few ornaments left for sale to commemorate the 170th anniversary of our parish. If you are interested, please call the rectory at 937-6959 or see Debbie after Mass.

COOKBOOKS: We only have a few cookbooks left. If interested, please call the rectory at 937-6959. We can order more at a future date should the need arise. Thank you to Alden Pharmacy, & Kotas & Kotas for helping to sell cookbooks.

DIocese NEWS

- ◆ **INSTALLATION OF OUR NEW 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 (12/1/2020). 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>.

Chastisement vs. Punishment

Question: What is the difference between a chastisement and a punishment?

Answer: The distinction between chastisement and punishment is, in many ways, a subtle one, but which is still relevant in our Catholic tradition. First, chastisement is a concept that is grounded in Sacred Scripture. Here, we see chastisement as a response by God to people's actions that is intended to teach a lesson. As St. John Paul II observed, "chastisement appears to be a kind of divine pedagogy, in which the last word is reserved to mercy: He scourges and then shows mercy, casts down to the depths of the nether world, and he brings up from the great abyss" (Tobit 13:2). The idea here is that in order to capture our attention or to highlight how we have not lived out our covenant-relationship with God as we should, there are times when God uses events in life to draw us back to the quality of relationship or faith that we should have.

The concept of punishment, however, has a different sense. The Catechism of the Church observes that punishment is the consequence of a damaging action that "has the primary aim of redressing the disorder" and to protect the community and the common good from further damage or harm (see no. 2266). Although we always hope that someone who is being punished for a crime or some other harmful action will learn from their actions, punishment isn't necessarily intended to teach a lesson in the same way that a chastisement is. Ultimately, how we make the distinction between chastisement and punishment is a matter of discernment. As with almost everything in life, our experiences can be an opportunity for grace — or for something less — depending on how open we are to recognizing the movement of God's Spirit within them.

©LPi

FAITH FORMATION:

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 9th 9:00am - in person Reconciliation class

January 9th 10:45am - in person Eucharist class

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

January 11th Confirmation class 7:00pm

January 23rd 9:00am - in person Reconciliation class

January 23rd 10:45am - in person Eucharist class

SCHOOL NEWS

Dear St. John Parish,

Happy New Year! It is always so exciting to wish friends and family a "Happy New Year" and with it the promise of a new year full of blessings, good times, and fortune. Although we may not remember it, or be able to see it when times are difficult, it is important to know that GOD loves us. He loves us always, and is with us always. My hope is that with every New Year wish you get, that you and your family will take that as a reminder of God's love!

Many Blessings,
Jonna M. Johnson, Principal

Regular classes resumed on Monday, January 4, 2021. We are thrilled and thankful to continue to have our students in person and learning 5 days a week! .

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, January 9

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

Sunday, January 10 (Baptism of the Lord)

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

9:30 am All Souls

11:00 am Alice Roll - Estate

Monday, January 11

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

Tuesday, January 12

8:30 am Msgr David Slubecky - Family & Estate

Wednesday, January 13

8:30 am Arthur Nuwer - Estate

Thursday, January 14

4:00 pm Raymond J. Fix - Estate

Friday, January 15

9:30 am Marilyn Malucci - Rosemary Hopcia

Saturday, January 16

4:00 pm Geraldine Hartman - Family

Sunday, January 17 (2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time)

8:00 am Paul & Antoinette Wiltberger - The Matthies Family

9:30 am Paul Anderton - Friends

11:00 am Geraldine Hartman - 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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