

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 17, 2021 • SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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

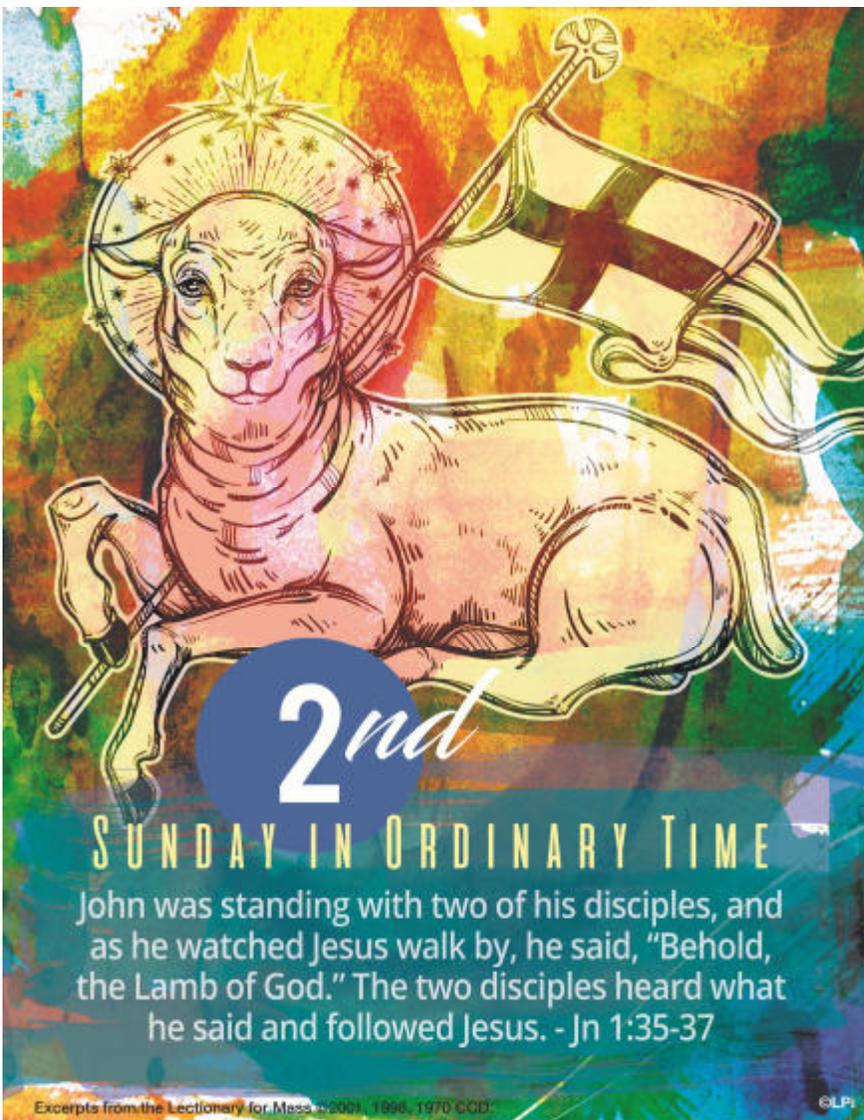
Marriage: Arrangements should be made at least 9 months ahead. A Marriage Preparation Program is required.

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

This week begins the short Winter Ordinary Time part of the Liturgical Cycle which fills the time between Epiphany, the end of the Christmas season, and Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the Lenten season. This portion of Ordinary Time focuses on the beginning of the public ministry of Jesus which begins with the Baptism of the Lord by John the Baptist which we celebrated last week. Today the readings focus on the exegetical term "call story." This is the account of the time that a prophet or saint begins to know that God has a plan for them.

In the first reading (Sam 3:3b-10, 19), we find Samuel, a young man who was a priest in training, asleep in the Temple of the Lord. While he is sleeping, he hears a voice call to him and so he naturally goes to his leader whom he presumed was the one calling him and says: "Here I am. You called me." Eli was asleep and simply tells Samuel: "I did not call you. Go back to sleep." It happens again. Same response from Eli. When it happens the third time, Eli gets a clue that it is the Lord who is calling Samuel so he tells him to next time respond to the voice by saying: "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening." The result in verse 19 says: "Samuel grew up, and the Lord was with him, not permitting any word of his to be without effect." Samuel heard the call and answered it. He grew in faith and remained faithful and effective.

The Gospel (John 1:35-42) has another call story. John the Baptist, whom we know is the "precursor" - that is, the one who prepared the way for Jesus, is standing there with two of his own disciples. He points to Jesus and says to them: "Behold the Lamb of God." Andrew, the brother of Simon, was one of the two. They approach Jesus who asks them: "what are you looking for?" They respond, "Rabbi (teacher), where are you staying?" And Jesus gives them their call, their invitation: "Come and you will see." Andrew goes and tells his brother that they have found the "messiah" - the anointed one promised since the fall of Adam, the savior for whom Israel longed. When Simon gets there, Jesus gives him a new name "Cephas" which translates to Peter, the rock.

Both of these call stories have some common elements. The two items that are most important, I think, are (1) the fact that the call is interpreted and encouraged by someone farther along the faith journey and (2) that the call is subtle and not immediately recognized - it takes time to realize and then respond. For us, we were called at our own Baptism to follow Jesus. Our Confirmation helps us to engage the Holy Spirit in developing our call. The Eucharist nourishes our journey and response. Think this week about your own call. How have you been called? What have you been called to do? Who were those who helped interpret for you? Whose guidance do you need to continue to live your call?

FINANCE

WEEKEND OF 1/10/2021

SUNDAY COLLECTION

Total.....\$6,186.00

WESHARE

1/2-1/8.....\$2,633.00

FISCAL YEAR TO DATE

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

.....\$160,151.71

SECOND COLLECTION: Our next collection is for Catholic Relief Services on January 31st

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!



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, Marian Butler, James Creighton, Scott Meidenbauer, David Borden, Debbie G, Gary Powers, Christine Mayer, Susan Hoiden, Bill Chapman, Jim Nowinski, Ed Monaco, Rose Pych, Joanne Mueller, Marcia Kegl, S.T.K Subsara, Phil Walter, Ken Warren, Kathrin Boling, Mitchell, Marilyn & Chuck Jackson, Brian McCormick and All Special Intentions.

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)



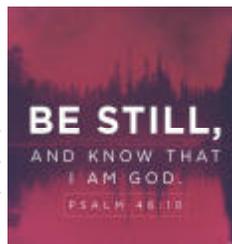
A Word from Today's Scriptures

John was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he said, "Behold, the Lamb of God." The two disciples heard what he said and followed Jesus.

John 1:35-37

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

Prayer starter: Heavenly Father, help me to be like John the Evangelist and point out Jesus to others and invite them to "come and see."



FOR THE WEEK OF SUNDAY, JANUARY 17

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

Art & Pat Lehman & Karl



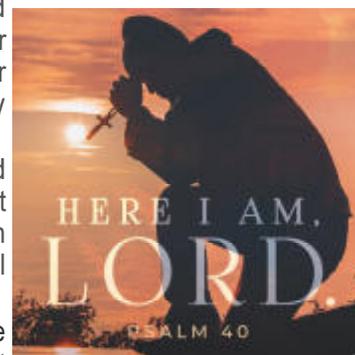
READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY: Jonah 3:1-5, 10/Psalm 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [4a]/1 Corinthians 7:29-31/Mark 1:14-20

DIocese NEWS

- ◆ **DUE TO COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS THE DIOCESE OF BUFFALO WILL BE PARTICIPATING IN THE FOLLOWING UPCOMING EVENTS:** A Mass marking the observance of the 48th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court Decision Roe v Wade legalizing abortion will take place on Sunday, January 24, 2021 at 10:30 a.m. at St. Joseph Cathedral, 50 Franklin Street, Buffalo, NY. Rector, Reverend Seán Paul Fleming, main Celebrant, His Excellency, The Most Reverend Michael William Fisher. During the Mass, the diocesan Office of Pro-Life Ministries will present the annual Pro-Vita Awards. These awards are intended to recognize people who have labored tirelessly for the pro-life cause and to give them strength, encouragement, and support. This year's recipients include: • Reverend Mr. Daniel R. Ulmer • Deacon Mark & Linda Hooper • Mark Bittner & Lisa Parker (Prayers on the Sidewalk) • Dr. Hope Woodroffe (Piver Center for Women's Health & Wellness) • Rick Cummings (Infant of Prague) (also available Livestream) *E-TICKET IS REQUIRED FOR ADMITTANCE, please call the office at 847-2205 for further information.*
- * • From Now until Friday, January 22nd – **Rosary Novena for Life** – Blessed Sacrament Church will be livestreaming beginning January 14th at 6:30pm each evening, everyone is welcome to tune in to their YouTube channel, to pray the rosary in unison for the end of abortion. On the last night of the novena, Friday, January 22nd we invite people to join in person for Mass following the Rosary celebrated by Fr. Matt Nycz. The Mass will also be Livestreamed for those who are unable to make it. Blessed Sacrament Church, 263 Claremont Ave., Tonawanda, NY. The Stream can be found by searching for "Blessed Sacrament Tonawanda" on YouTube, or click the "Live-Stream" link on the parish website, or contact coordinator, Mary Fick at 716-432-2133.
- * • Sunday, January 17th - **Martin Luther King Memorial Mass & Scholarship Award** at St. Anthony Parish, Lackawanna at 11:30am (also available Livestream)
- * • Friday, January 22nd – **Light a Candle for Life** (Place a candle electric, battery-operated, or wax) in the front window of your home at sundown on the evening of January 22nd. The candle serves as a reminder of 50 million unborn babies who have been aborted since the 1973 Supreme Court decision).
- * • Thursday, January 21st - Friday, January 29th - **9 Days For Life** - Novena for the protection of human life. Join today at www.9daysforlife.com
- * • Friday, January 22nd - **Mass for Life at Our Lady of Victory Basilica**, Lackawanna 6:00 pm Rosary in the Basilica (led by high schoolers), 6:30 pm Mass in the Basilica, Celebrant, Msgr. David LiPuma, Concelebrant, Fr. Paul Cygan. **LIMITED TO 250 PEOPLE.** Collection during Mass will benefit the Diocesan Pro-Life Office, a separate collection of canned goods, diapers, and baby wipes will be collected. *All COVID-19 guidelines will be followed; masks are required at all times and social distancing will be followed.* Thursday, January 28th - Friday, January 29th - **National Prayer Vigil for Life & Holy Hour** at Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, DC (Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the National Prayer Vigil for Life will be closed to the public but will still be televised by EWTN.) For further details visit <https://www.usccb.org/prolife/national-prayer-vigil-life-schedule>
- * • Monday, February 15th - **Consecration to St. Joseph** begins: Please see ministry news for details. More information on these events may be obtained by calling the Office of Pro-Life Ministries at 847-2205 or by visiting our website at www.buffalodiocese.org/prolife.

MINISTRY NEWS

- ◆ **WOULD YOU LIKE TO GROW CLOSER TO AND LEARN MORE ABOUT ST. JOSEPH, THE PATRON OF OUR DIOCESE?** Pope Francis announced a special year from December 8th, 2020 to December 8th, 2021 dedicated to St. Joseph. St. Joseph is the Patron of the Universal Church, and St. Joseph is also the Patron of our Diocese of Buffalo. Come join our parish beginning on February 15th for a 33 Day Consecration preparation to conclude on March 19th - The Feast of St. Joseph. We will be using the book by Father Donald Calloway, MIC, entitled, *Consecration to St. Joseph*. Readings are daily on an individual basis and we hope to set up an evening in the Church once a week to discuss the readings. Consecration Day will be on Friday, March 19th, 2021. More details to follow. If you are interested in coming closer to the Saint who cared for and tended to raising Jesus, please let us know so that we may order a book for you. Books will cost \$10. Please email your intent to parishlife@stjohnsalden.org. We look forward to growing with you.
- ◆ **Thank you to all for the Christmas cards, wishes, gifts and prayers during this Christmas Season. We are so fortunate to be a part of the St John's Church family. May you be blessed with health and peace in the New Year.-Deacon Marc & Delphine**
- ◆ **PRO-LIFE PROJECT:** The St. Gianna Molla Pregnancy Center is in great need of new not used Baby items. In unison with the March for Life that we are sadly unable to participate in this year we are hosting a Marching -in-Love Baby Shower. There will be a bassinet in vestibule for collecting the much needed items for the Center from January 28th until Valentines Day February 14th. Details for specific needs forthcoming
- ◆ **BIBLE STUDY:** Would you be interested in knowing more about the Sacred Scriptures? We would like to begin a Bible study in the spring semester. It could be online or it could be in person and it could be morning or evenings. Let me know what you are interested in and we will come up with a plan. Please call the Faith formation office at 937-6959 or email faith.formation@stjohnsalden.org
- ◆ **VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU NOTE:** We wish to thank all those who helped to put up and take down all our Christmas decorations. As always, we had a very good response, even on short notice, of many volunteers who made this faith-filled project happen with relative ease. -Gretchen S. and Carl M.



FAITH FORMATION:

A reminder that if you didn't send in your safe environment form they are now past due. Please email them to Mrs. Golinski at the faith formation office.

The next First Eucharist class for chapters 3 & 4 Faith formation students is January 23rd (school children will complete these in class)

Upcoming dates:

February 6 - Saturday 10:45am 1st Eucharist class - cafeteria

February 7 - Sunday 11:00 Confirmation class - cafeteria

February 8 - Monday 7:00 Confirmation class - cafeteria

February 8 - Monday 9th grade - online class

February 27 - Saturday 10:45 1st Eucharist class - cafeteria

SCHOOL NEWS

Dear St. John Parish,

This past week we celebrated the Epiphany which celebrates the journey the Three Wise Men took to see the baby Jesus. A tradition that my family observes, and one I have brought to the school, is to bless the doors. Using a piece of chalk mark the current year and the initials of the Magi: Kasper, Melchoir, and Belshazzar (2021 K+M+B). Once that is completed you can burn a piece of incense and say the following blessing:

*May all who come to our home this year, be
Blessed
and rejoice to find Christ among us.
May we Seek to find Christ in all the People we
meet.*

Many Blessings,
Jonna M. Johnson, Principal

We are excited to have our youngest students begin attending mass in person. We will still have our older students there to help, and we are conscious of limiting the number of students that attend mass. It has been such a joy to see how excited our PreK, K, and 1st grade students are when they get to physically be present in the church. I also want to thank all of the daily mass parishioners for making them feel so welcome.

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 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

Monday, January 18

8:30 am Genevieve Dischner - The Volk Family

Tuesday, January 19

8:30 am Genevieve J. Kaczmarek - Estate

Wednesday, January 20

8:30 am Albert & Estelle Palistrant - Estate

Thursday, January 21

4:00 pm Raymond J. Fix - Estate

Friday, January 22

9:30 am Arthur Nuwer - Estate

Saturday, January 23

4:00 pm In Memory of Lucielle Pontillo - Pontillo Family

Sunday, January 24 (3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time)

8:00 am Donna Bonnes - The Matthies Family

9:30 am Norman & Betty Walter - Family

11:00 am Msgr David Slubecky - Estate & Family

COVID-19 PROTOCOL FOR ASH WEDNESDAY: Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, ashes *should not* be imposed on a person's forehead in the usual manner. Instead, the European custom of sprinkling ashes on the crown of a person's head should be employed. We have had a year filled with different ways of living and praying. There are fewer people in church. No water in the front. Less singing. Communion primarily in the hand. Yet we still pray. Instead of giving ashes as a cross on the forehead — unsafe in this COVID time — we can still receive them by sprinkling on the top of the head (permitted by our ritual rules). Sprinkling ashes on the crown of the head recalls the biblical method of putting on sackcloth and ashes as a sign of penance: "Now on the twenty-fourth day of this month the people of Israel were assembled with fasting and in sackcloth, and with earth upon their heads" We will look a little cleaner. We can still repent, and believe in the Gospel. We will still bear ashes home to begin our Lenten practices, borne of our hearts.

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.

Charles Meyer

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