

# St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church

2021 SANDRIDGE ROAD • ALDEN, NEW YORK 14004

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

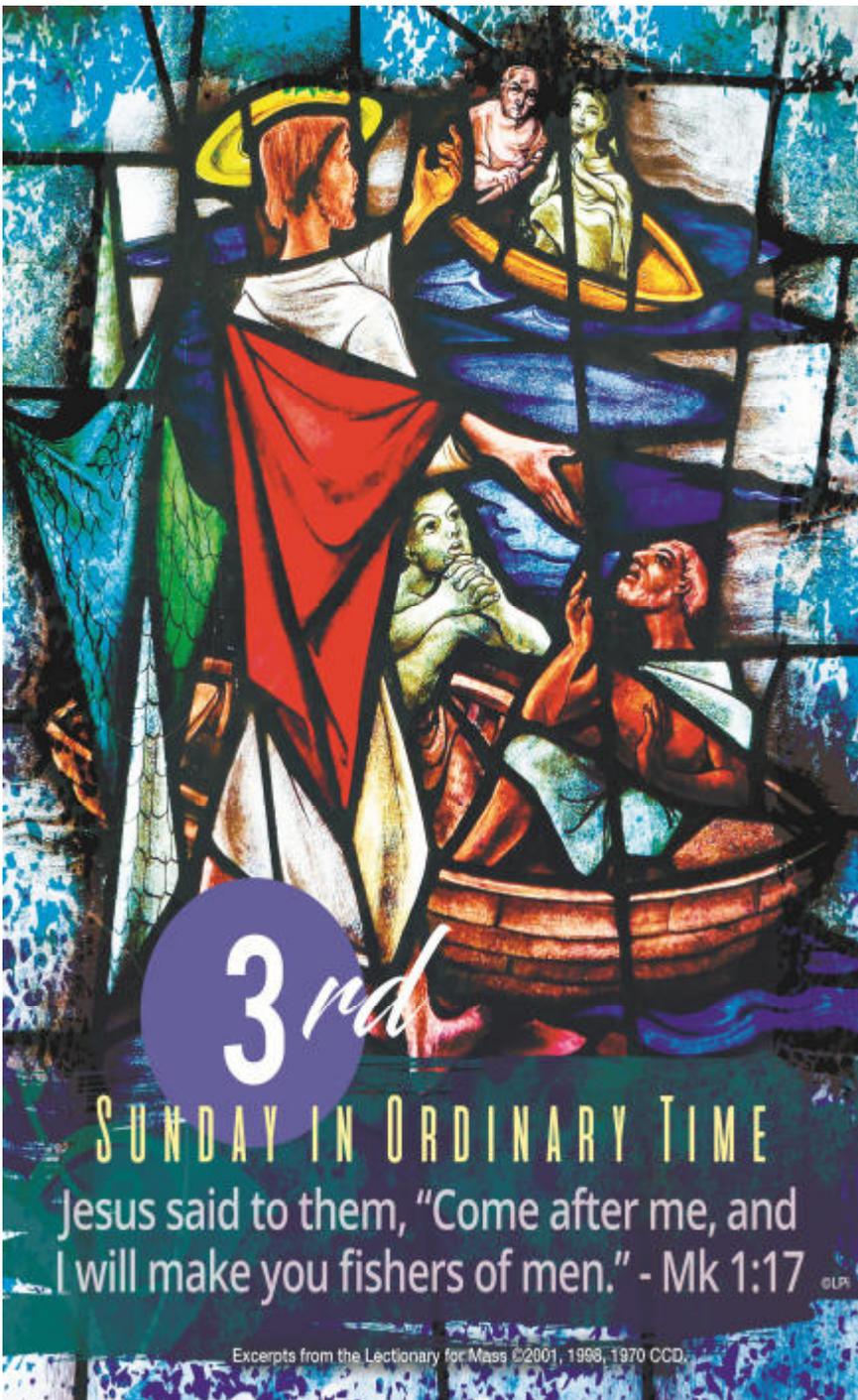
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Website: [www.StJohnAlden.com](http://www.StJohnAlden.com)



*A Parish of  
Ministerial Excellence*

JANUARY 24, 2021 • THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



3<sup>rd</sup>

SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Jesus said to them, "Come after me, and  
I will make you fishers of men." - Mk 1:17

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

## 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**

Our first reading (Jonah 3:1-5,10) is from the book of the minor prophet Jonah. Like last week, this passage is a "call story" which describes how a particular prophet came to hear and accept God's call to take God's word to a specific mission. Jonah actually receives two calls from God to go to the people of Nineveh and tell them to repent. His response to the first call is to jump on a boat headed in the opposite direction to get away from the situation as quickly as possible. His first response is to reject his call. While on the ship, the part of Jonah that probably everyone knows about happens – he is tossed off the boat and is swallowed by a whale. He calls out to God and is rescued. So, when the second call comes – he is ready and says yes. Jonah walked through town prophesying that "forty days more and Nineveh will be destroyed." The result: "The people listened and declared a fast and all of them, great and small, put on sackcloth." After an initial rejection, Jonah answered the call and saved Nineveh. There are some themes here that anticipate Lent – ashes and sackcloth which represent penitence and the number 40 for the days until God decided whether or not to destroy the city. Forty is a significant number for the Jewish people. It is used in other places such as the days Noah and the Ark floated in the flood waters as well as the number of days that Jesus fasted in the desert. It's significance is that it is a LONG time. It probably did not mean exactly forty days but just a significant period of time.

The Gospel (Mark 1:14-20) is Mark's account of the call of the first disciples. Last week we heard John's version. Notice that the passage is near the very beginning of Mark's Gospel. There are three important things to know about Mark's Gospel. 1) Mark's Gospel is the first one written. 2) all of the Gospel of Mark is contained in both Matthew and Luke. They each incorporated some material from other sources but significantly around Mark. And 3) Mark's Gospel has a lot of urgency and moves along very quickly. So knowing all of this, we can presume that this call story of the apostles is the one closest to the actual event. In John's account last week, the first apostles are directed to Jesus by John the Baptist. In this Gospel, Jesus calls them while they are at work. The point of emphasis last week was the value of intermediaries to help us discern our own call. This week, the point of emphasis is that our call to live our Baptism means there are things we have to leave behind. In order to be focused on Jesus and the mission, we have to let go of those things which prevent us from being fully engaged. It is not a matter of abandoning things we need to do, it is more about putting our energy on what God wants us to do.

**FINANCE**

**WEEKEND OF 1/17/2021**

**SUNDAY COLLECTION**

Total.....\$7,154.00

**WESHARE**

1/2-1/8.....Not Available

**FISCAL YEAR TO DATE**

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

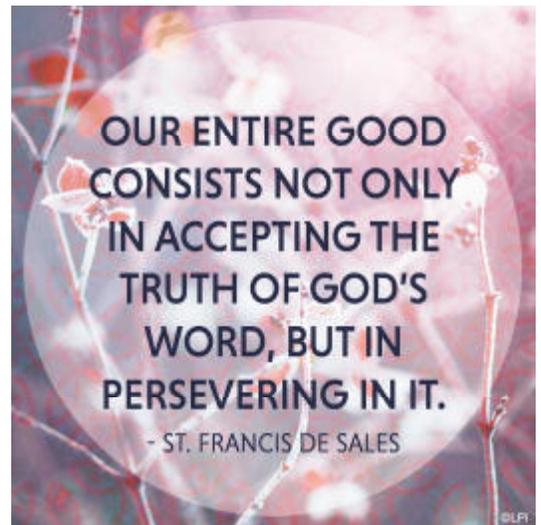
.....\$160,151.71

**Fuel**

Total.....\$1,368.00

**SECOND COLLECTION:** Our next collection is for Catholic Relief Services on January 31<sup>st</sup>

**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 beginning of the Galilean Ministry:* After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God: "This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel." Mk. 1:14-15  
Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass  
©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

*Prayer starter: Father in heaven, may your kingdom come in my life, here and now. I want to repent and believe. Turn my heart toward you*



**FOR THE WEEK OF SUNDAY,  
JANUARY 24**

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

*Our Parishioners*



**READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY:** Deuteronomy 18:15-20/Psalm 95:1-2, 6-7, 7-9 [8]/1 Corinthians 7:32-35/ Mark 1:21-2

## DIocese NEWS

- \* Bishop Mike was installed as our Bishop for the Diocese on January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021.
- \* Monday, February 15<sup>th</sup> - **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](http://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 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020 to December 8<sup>th</sup>, 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 15<sup>th</sup> for a 33 Day Consecration preparation to conclude on March 19<sup>th</sup> - 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 19<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto:parishlife@stjohnsalden.org). We look forward to growing with you.
- ◆ **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 28<sup>th</sup> until Valentines Day February 14<sup>th</sup>. 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](mailto:faith.formation@stjohnsalden.org)



**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 Karlinski, 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 Monoco, Rose Pych, Joanne Mueller, Marcia Kegl, S.T.K Subsara, Phil Walter, Ken Warren, Kathrin Boling, Mitchell, Chuck Jackson, Brian McCormick, Gail Hans and All Special Intentions.

## THE SEASON OF LENT

“Lent is ordered to preparing for the celebration of Easter, since the Lenten liturgy prepares for celebration of the Paschal Mystery both catechumens, by the various stages of Christian Initiation, and the faithful, who recall their own Baptism and do penance.

The forty days of Lent run from Ash Wednesday up to but excluding the Mass of the Lord's Supper exclusive. From the beginning of Lent until the Paschal Vigil, the *Alleluia* is not said.

### **Abstinence**

All Catholics who have reached their 14<sup>th</sup> birthday are bound to abstain totally from meat on the following days: Ash Wednesday, all Fridays of Lent and Good Friday.

### **Fasting**

All Catholics between their 18<sup>th</sup> and 59<sup>th</sup> birthdays are also bound to observe the Law of Fast on the following days: Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. This practice involves limiting oneself to a single full meal and avoiding food between meals. Light sustenance maybe taken on two other occasions in the course of the day.

### **Easter Duty**

After they have been initiated into the Most Holy Eucharist, all the faithful are bound by the obligation of receiving Communion at least once a year. This precept must be fulfilled during the Easter season, unless for a good reason it is fulfilled at another time during the year. This obligation may be fulfilled between February 21, 2021 (First Sunday of Lent) and May 30, 2021 (Trinity Sunday).

### **Baptism**

There is no universal rule that would forbid the practice of baptism during Lent. However, given that Lent is traditionally focused on the preparation for baptism, many parishes have policies that discourage it. This is left to the discretion of the pastor/staff.

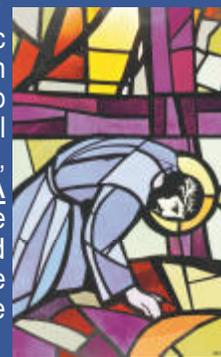
### **Holy Matrimony**

While weddings may be celebrated during the Season of Lent (except for the Sundays of Lent), the priest/deacon preparing the couple should make the couple aware of the special nature of the proposed date for celebration and its penitential character. They should be discouraged from too much pomp or display. (See *Order of Celebrating Holy Matrimony* #32)

### **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)**

The Rite of Election will occur on the First Sunday of Lent, February 21, 2021, at 3:00 PM at Saint Joseph Cathedral.

Scrutinies seek to remove all obstacles to holistic conversion of the elect (unbaptized) and deepen their resolve to bind themselves to Christ, to carry out their mission to love God above all else. They take place in the parish on the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Sundays of Lent. **Year A** readings with appropriate chants are used. The *Roman Missal* contains specific orations and prefaces suited to these celebrations. (See *Roman Missal*, “Ritual Masses: 2. For the Celebration of the Scrutinies”



## 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 will be ordering more cookbooks. If interested, please contact the rectory and we will keep an order list.

### 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.

#### 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,

"Darkness **cannot drive out** darkness, only light can do that. **Hate cannot drive out hate**, only love can do that." This is one of my favorite quotes from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

As we took a day off from school, I encouraged all of our students, staff, and families to reflect on how they are bringing light and love into our world.

Many Blessings,  
Jonna M. Johnson, Principal

**St. John's School Offers Prorated Tuition Rates for the 2020-2021 School Year Now that 2021 is here, are you finding that your child's hybrid school schedule is less than ideal? Pre-K 4 or Kindergarten families looking to test the concept of a 5-day-a-week, in-person model are invited to discover how St. John's School can help. There are just a few spots open for this offer in Pre-K 4 and Kindergarten. We offer in person instruction with affordable, prorated tuition for the remainder of the year. Please call Principal Jonna Johnson at (716) 937-9483 to discuss the flexible options available for your family's unique needs**

**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 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

**Monday, January 25**

8:30 am Edmund Lesinski - Daughter, Judy Luderman

**Tuesday, January 26**

8:30 am Our Parishioners

**Wednesday, January 27**

8:30 am Geraldine Hartman - Family

**Thursday, January 28**

4:00 pm Arthur Nuwer - Estate

**Friday, January 29**

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

**Saturday, January 30**

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

**Sunday, January 31 (3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time)**

8:00 am Antoinette Wiltburger - Audrey Senecal

9:30 am Marie Schalberg - Husband, Larry Schalberg

11:00 am Ken Buczkowski - The Buczkowski 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](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.

# Charles Meyer

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