

# St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church

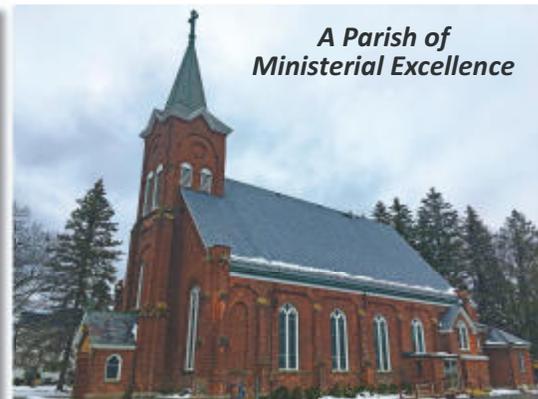
2021 SANDRIDGE ROAD • ALDEN, NEW YORK 14004



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 31, 2021 • FOURTH 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](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:

WEEKENDMASSES AND SCHOOL MASSES ARE LIVE  
STREAMED

**Saturday Mass** - 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)

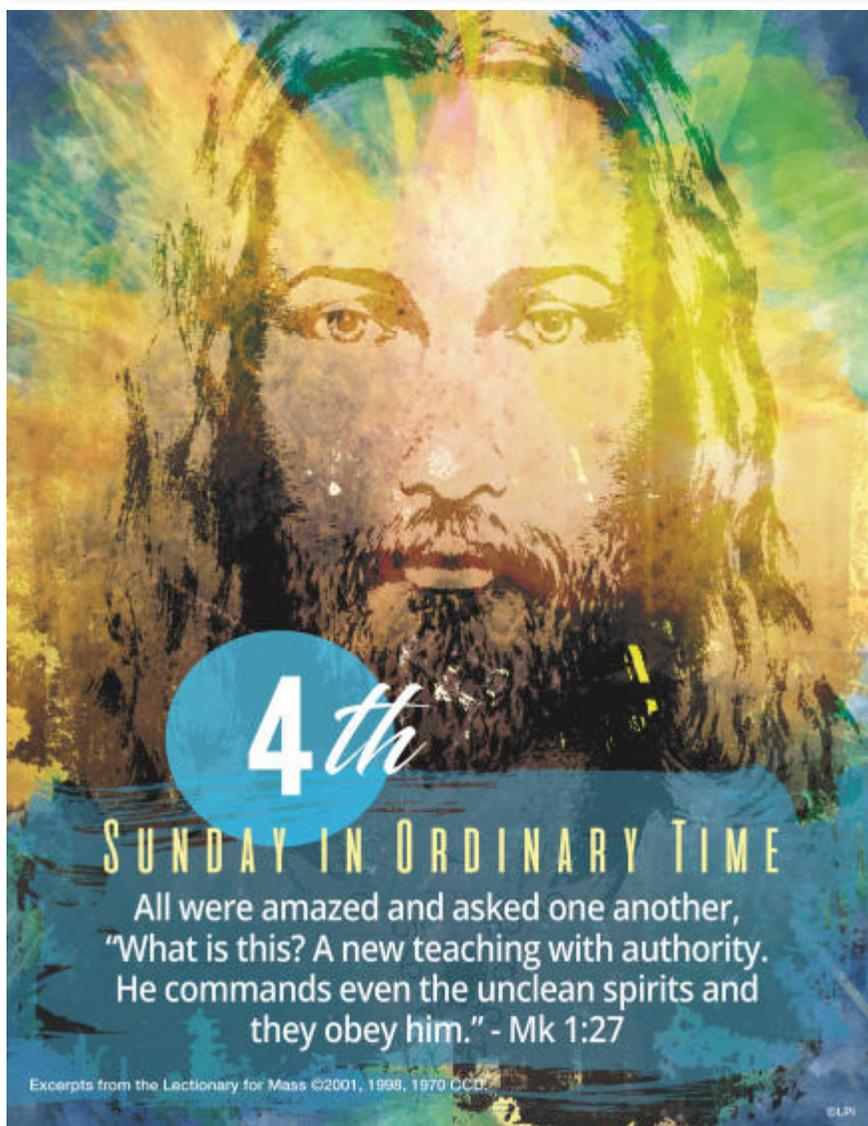
**Marriage:** Arrangements should be made at least 9 months ahead. A Marriage Preparation Program is required.

**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.



4<sup>th</sup>

SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

All were amazed and asked one another,  
"What is this? A new teaching with authority.  
He commands even the unclean spirits and  
they obey him." - Mk 1:27

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCC

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LITURGICAL CORNER BY DEBBIE BROWN, PASTORAL ADMINISTRATOR

The Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time is upon us and we find Jesus teaching in the Temple. He is has assembled a group of disciples and now has begun the process of formation. He is a rabbi – a teacher. His mission is to bring the word of God to people and let God’s word change their lives to become the people God has called them to be. In this way Jesus is acting as a prophet. Remember, a biblical prophet gives human voice and meaning to words God wants God’s creatures to know and understand. By the many accounts of the Bible, the life of a prophet is not easy, popular, or rewarded in this life. But, the work of the prophets have kept humanity on the path to salvation which was once and for all definitively won by Jesus’ death and resurrection. The prophets did not have all the knowledge of how God was to accomplish this, but they were inspired to do their part to bring the transformative message of God to everyone and anyone who would listen.

We look, as we do every Sunday, to the Old Testament reading which, by the design of the lectionary from Christian antiquity, points to the Gospel and sheds light on it. The subject of the passage from Deuteronomy (DT 18:15-20) is Moses’ statement about how God’s word will continue to be proclaimed moving forward. Moses did something that was thought humanly impossible – he was able to see the face of God and live to tell about it. Humans had always previously thought that God, however you define God to be, is so powerful that you could not survive being in God’s presence. The Law, which contains the most sacred and important of all God’s words is contained in the first five books of the Old Testament and Moses is the subject (and author in the mind of the Jews) of the law. In the passage today, Moses says, on behalf of God, that “I will raise for them a prophet like you from their kin, and will put my words into his mouth; he shall tell them all that I command them.” There were many prophets that followed but of course the most important one was Jesus.

In the Gospel (Mark 1:21-28) today, Jesus gets down to the business of proclaiming God’s word. The key element today is that Mark establishes that Jesus is legitimately a prophet of God. Mark says that Jesus “teaches with authority.” We are not even to the end of the first chapter of Mark’s Gospel, and we are seeing Jesus get to work. The critical point here is not just that Jesus exorcised a demon, it is the fact that this incredible act of power demonstrates Jesus’ authority. “What is this? A new teaching with authority. He commands even the unclean spirits and they obey him.” Jesus, like Moses, has seen the face of God and has access to all God is and all God wants us to know. The Gospels, then, are the Law for all Christians. Unlike Moses, however, Jesus is the incarnation – he is God.

FINANCE

WEEKEND OF 1/24/2021

SUNDAY COLLECTION

Total.....\$6,271.00

WESHARE

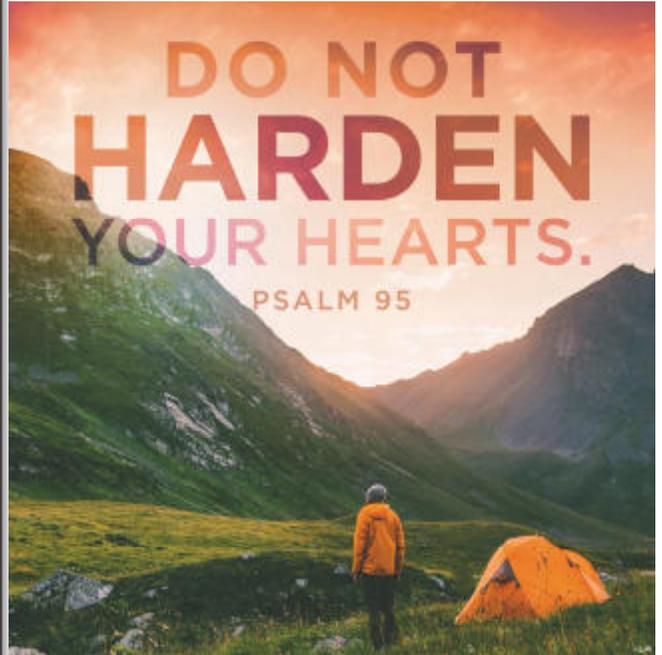
1/16-1/22.....\$1,379.00

FISCAL YEAR TO DATE

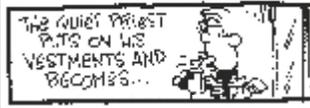
(9/1/2019-8/31/2020).....

.....\$174,955.71

SECOND COLLECTION: Our next collection is for Snow Removal on February 14<sup>th</sup>.



1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



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)



FOR THE WEEK OF SUNDAY, JANUARY 31

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

*Our Parishioners*



READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY: Job 7:1-4, 6-7/Psalm 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [cf. 3a]/1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23/Mark 1:29-39

**A Word from Today's Scriptures**

Then they came to Capernaum, and on the Sabbath Jesus entered the synagogue and taught. The people were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority and not as the scribes.

Mark. 1:21-22 Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

*Prayer starter: Lord Jesus, I want to accept your teaching as the authoritative Word of God. Open my heart so that your Word will richly dwell within me and bear fruit.*

## 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 he 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>.
- ◆ **ST. JOHN'S WORKS OF MERCY MINISTRY (SWMM)** is a group of parishioners working together while following the Corporal Works of Mercy. Through funds collected from our Poor Box and donations, they have so far been able to help others in many ways. Please let them know if you or anyone you know may need help with anything. Perhaps a visit, a ride, groceries, a bill you can't pay, whatever it may be. Please call the Rectory and leave a message or email [worksofmercy@stjohnsalden.org](mailto:worksofmercy@stjohnsalden.org).



## PARISH NEWS

- ◆ Please remember to check your seats before you leave Mass to make sure all tissues and other debris that may have been accidentally dropped are picked up. We have a garbage can near the front entry of the church as well as in the restroom for anyone in need.

### 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, 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, Gail Hans and All Special Intentions.

## FUND FOR THE FAITH

In addition to supporting Catholic Charities, Appeal 2021 also helps support the Fund for the Faith. Established in 1937 by Bishop John Duffy out of concern for those in need of spiritual comfort due to hardships of the Great Depression, the Fund for the Faith continues to provide spiritual nourishment throughout our diocese today. Proceeds provide ministry support services that are instrumental to the vitality of our faith experience and enable us to more effectively spread the Gospel message of Christ's love. With the COVID-19 Pandemic, donations to the Fund for the Faith are more important than ever as we expand comfort to all of God's people - our family, friends and neighbors alike. Our hope and prayer is that a successful Fund for the Faith drive will help restore and support expanded ministries including Catholic education and formation programming for youth and young families. For a list of the programs the Fund for the Faithful supports, go to [www.cwny.org/appeal-programs](http://www.cwny.org/appeal-programs). You can make a secure online donation at [www.cwny.org/donation](http://www.cwny.org/donation).

## THE SEASON OF LENT

"Lent is in ordered to prepare 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

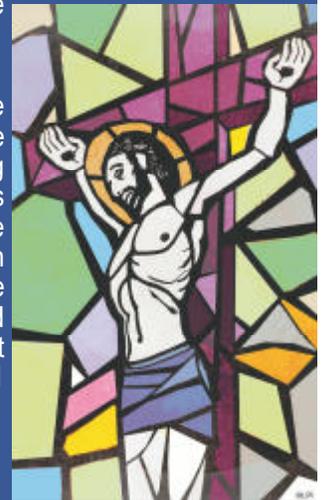
All Catholics who have reached their 14<sup>th</sup> birthday are bound to abstain totally from meat on the following days: Ash Wednesday, all Fridays of Lent and Good Friday.

### 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 may be 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).



## 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 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 10:45 1st Eucharist class - cafeteria

**February 7** - Sunday 11:00 Confirmation class - cafeteria

**February 8** - Monday 7:00 Confirmation class - cafeteria

**February 8** - Monday 9<sup>th</sup> grade - online class

**February 27** - Saturday 10:45 First Eucharist class - cafeteria

## SCHOOL NEWS

Dear St. John Parish,

Catholic Schools Week is a wonderful way for us to celebrate what it means to be in a Catholic environment. Our teachers are not just teachers, they are **Catholic** teachers. Our students are not just school students, they are **Catholic** school students. I am not just a principal, I am a **Catholic** school principal. In a society where faith often doesn't have a place it is exciting, as a woman of faith, to work everyday in an environment that openly celebrates faith.

Catholic Education offers a choice for parents that are looking for a different type of learning environment. Most of our families choose St. John the Baptist because of our dedication to faith and our strong sense of community. I am also thankful for the many parishioners that choose to support Catholic Education through your weekly donations, and your commitment to Friend's of St. Johns.

Although we are not able to celebrate with some of our traditional activities, we are still excited to showcase all the great ways we learn in Faith! Students have been working on prayers and we hope you enjoy a free mask and a prayer as you leave Mass today!

Many Blessings,  
Jonna M. Johnson, Principal

Our in house registration begins on February 1<sup>st</sup> for our current school families. We will then open registration for everyone on March 1<sup>st</sup>. You are welcome to call the school to be placed on our waiting list. We anticipate classes filling quickly so we recommend that you do not wait!

**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 30**

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

**Sunday, January 31 (4th 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

**Monday, February 1**

8:30 am Genevieve Dischner - The Volk Family

**Tuesday, February 2**

8:30 am Irene Richter - The Steck Family

**Wednesday, February 3**

8:30 am Diana Schlicht - Steve & Joan Wesolowski

**Thursday, February 4**

4:00 pm Geraldine Hartman - Family

**Friday, February 5**

9:30 am Souls in Purgatory

**Saturday, February 6**

4:00 pm Anthony & Rosemarie Agone - Family

**Sunday, February 7 (5th Sunday in Ordinary Time)**

8:00 am Diana Schlicht - Christine Feheley

9:30 am Geraldine Hartman - Family

11:00 am Deacon Richard & Mary Mahaney - Gene & Nancy Mahaney

.....  
: **COVID-19 PROTOCOL FOR ASH WEDNESDAY:** Due to the ongoing :  
: COVID-19 pandemic, ashes will 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 will 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 font, 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 them on the top of the head :  
: (permitted in the ritual rite). 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." (Nehemiah 9:1) We will look a little :  
: cleaner, but 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 are 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.

- Masks must be worn at all times inside of the church building.
- Hymnals have been removed from the pews, but worship aids are available on our website.
- 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

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