

St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church

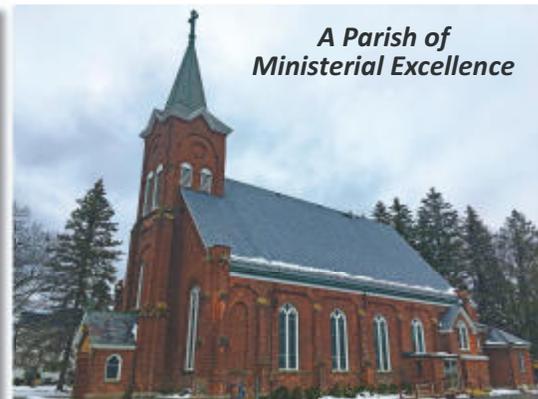
2021 SANDRIDGE ROAD • ALDEN, NEW YORK 14004



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

Email: st.johnsaldenparish@gmail.com

Website: www.StJohnAlden.com



A Parish of
Ministerial Excellence

FEBRUARY 7, 2021 • FIFTH 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 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

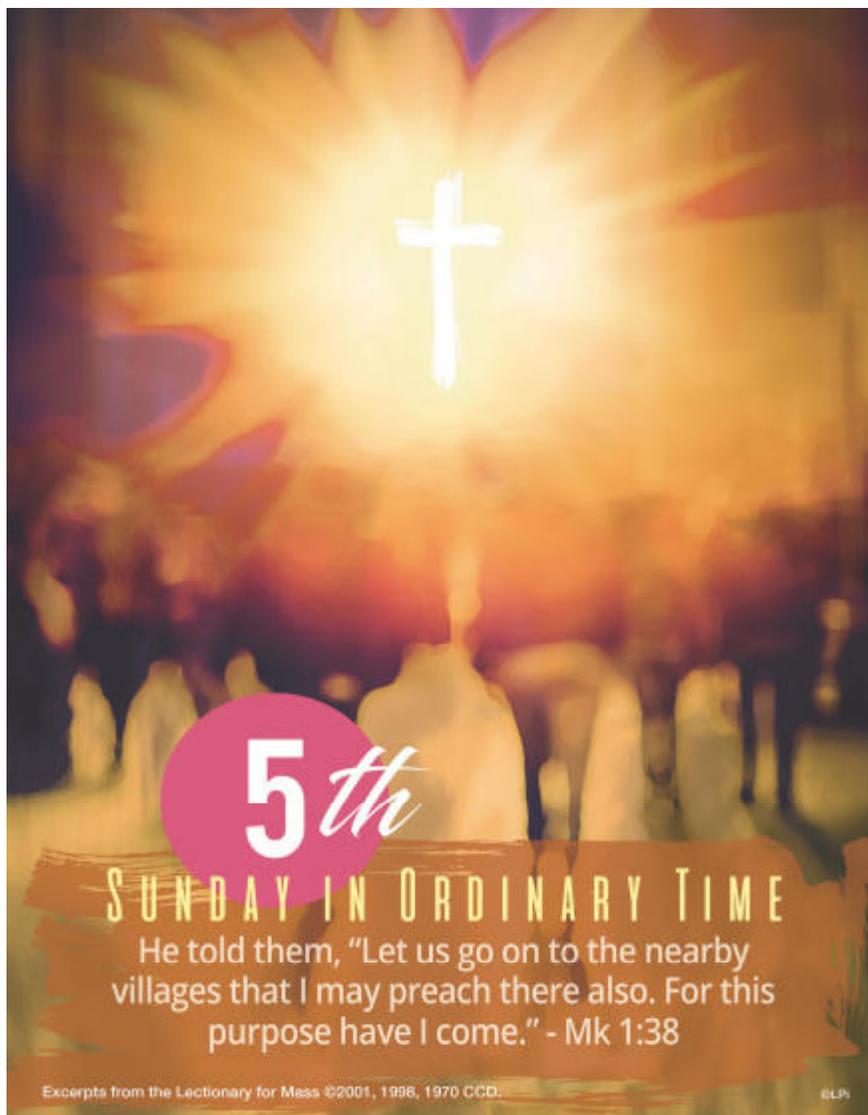
Marriage: Arrangements should be made at least 9 months ahead. A Marriage Preparation Program is required.

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.



5th

SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

He told them, "Let us go on to the nearby villages that I may preach there also. For this purpose have I come." - Mk 1:38

LITURGICAL CORNER BY DEBBIE BROWN, PASTORAL ADMINISTRATOR

Our Gospel this week is a summary of the healing ministry that Jesus undertakes as he begins his public ministry. Remember, we are still in the first Chapter of Mark's Gospel. Mark does not waste any time on details and subtleties. His Jesus is on a mission with great focus, urgency, and determination. Each of the Gospels has what scholars call a "portrait" of Jesus that they paint through their story choices, order of events and descriptions of what happens. Many people like Luke's Jesus, because he is fair and compassionate and loving. Mark's Jesus is a workaholic who is on a mission. That does not mean that there is error in the accounts; it means that each evangelist saw different points of emphasis. The church long ago agreed that these four were the best accounts and give us in their collective entirety, a clear idea of the complexity and enormity of Jesus and his mission.

Our first reading is from Job (Job 7;1-4,6-70. I like this description of the book of Job from Susan Birmingham in Breaking Open the Word: "...the story of Job is considered a parable. Jews believe it is a parable told by Moses to accentuate the suffering and redemptive destiny of the Jewish People. Job is a symbol of God's redemptive intervention in the lives of the Hebrew people. The Book of Job is also a parable that echoes the image of the Suffering Servant found in the book of Isaiah, the Servant who dies for the sake of the many. Jewish people believe the Servant of Isaiah is a metaphor for the People of Israel. Christians believe it is a foreshadowing of Jesus Christ who would come to suffer and die for the sins of the world." (© 2011).

The first reading is hard to hear because Job is miserable and seemingly bereft of hope. But if we recognize that Job's suffering ultimately leads him back to a relationship to God, it makes it a little easier to hear. The reason it is here is that it points to the Gospel where we see that Jesus is compassionate and the source of healing and hope. Last week Jesus took on demons, this week he heals Peter's mother-in-law and many others. Healing and hope were the hallmark of Jesus' earthly life.

I think a remarkable thing about Jesus comes from this simple statement of Mark in today's Gospel (Mark 1:29-39): "Rising before dawn, (Jesus) left and went to a deserted place, where he prayed." Jesus recognized the need for communion with God the Father. Even though he was true God and true man, he needed to pray. Jesus' miracles and accomplishments weren't magic or an end unto themselves. They were part of the overall message that God cares about everyone and understands their needs. I pray that we recognize our need for Jesus in our own hour of need. I also pray that we are never as desperate as Job. But whatever the case, Jesus will always be there for us.

FINANCE

WEEKEND OF 1/31/2021

SUNDAY COLLECTION

Total.....\$8,983.00

WESHARE

1/23-1/29.....\$1,534.00

FISCAL YEAR TO DATE

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

.....\$185,472.71

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES

Total.....\$456.75

SECOND COLLECTION: Our next collection is for Snow Removal on February 14th.

FUND FOR THE FAITH

When you are lonely, we are hope. What we do with the 24 hours in a day can effect countless hours and days ahead. Our volunteers at Catholic Charities know this to be true. Through our programs, volunteers have the opportunity to serve the community through our multiple food pantries, lend a friendly ear through Friendly Phones and the Telephone Assurance Program, and much more. Help continue to move hands and hearts through Catholic Charities and the Fund for the Faith by giving to Appeal 2021. Call our Helpline at 218-1419 if you need assistance or want to donate, or visit www.cwny.org/donation

PARISH NEWS: Your Pastoral Council and I are seeking volunteers to participate in the several committees we have to help our parish shine. I am hoping that during the Lenten and Easter season, many of you will consider finding ways to get involved in some aspect of St John's parish. We need many hands to make this parish stronger and be ready for that day when people will be coming back. The Pastoral Council seeks three members to fill vacancies. If you are interested in joining the Pastoral Council, please call the office or one of the current pastoral council members. You may also email st.johnsalden@gmail.com. There is a great need for the talent and time that each of you possess so please prayerfully consider this invitation to join Christ's mission here at St. John's Church.

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, FEBRUARY 7
The Sanctuary light is lit to the Glory of
God & for

Our Parishioners



READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY: Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46/Psalm 32:1-2, 5, 11 [7]/1 Corinthians 10:31—11:1/Mark 1:40-45

A Word from Today's Scriptures

Rising very early before dawn, he left and went off to a deserted place, where he prayed. Simon and those who were with him pursued him and on finding him said, "Everyone is looking for you." He told them, "Let us go on to the nearby villages that I may preach there also. For this purpose have I come." Mk 1:35-38 Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

Prayer starter: Lord Jesus, after an early-morning prayer vigil with your Father, you were ready to continue to keep his mission. I want to carve out time for prayer every day to be with you



PARISH NEWS

- ◆ The office will be closed February 15th for Presidents Day.
- ◆ As we are nearing our completion of the "Upon this Rock" capital campaign, we are pleased to announce our next parish improvement. Your continued generosity is being used to repair and improve our aging church. The week of February 8th, we will be fixing the floors in the entrance to our church and following up with new carpet throughout the church, altar and sacristies. We will be having to suspend the daily Mass for Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of that week to allow the entrances to be closed and repairs to be completed. This follows last years' partial pointing of the brickwork and we expect the installation to be completed by the end of the week.

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 he 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.
- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **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.

FUNDRAISING

EASTER CANDY SALE: The school is selling Gertrude Hawk Easter Candy. If you would like to order, there is a catalog at the rectory or please visit fundraising.gertrudehawkchocolates.com. Under Choose an organization, type: St. John the Baptist Alden, and then type in a family name for the school: Example: McCormick, Nuhn, Banach, Tracy, etc. and that will allow you to place your order online.



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, 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 Kegljar, Ken Warren, Kathrin Boling, Mitchell, Chuck Jackson, Gail Hans and All Special Intentions.

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](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:

On February 17th, we will begin the season of Lent. Too often I've felt like Ash Wednesday just snuck up on me and I have no real plan for my 40 days. We are called to make that time one of Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving. Fasting is laid out for us, as far as meatless Fridays and fasting on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Often we give up something or fast from something. Some people give up chocolate or sweets, some people give up their electronics or games for one day a week. Some give up the extra time during the week to attend morning Mass before work/school ,everyday or just once a week. Some work on giving up a bad habit with the Lord's help. Some give up time during the week to help a charity or to take care of a neighbor. What will you fast from as a sacrifice for Lent?

Almsgiving or giving financial support to someone in need is another aspect of what we are called to. This is one of the reasons the Catholic Charities drive comes up at this time of year. This wonderful organization helps so many families each year. Did you know they help with housing, counseling, employment skills and so much more? One thing I've found (idea from a friend) was to fast from my Tim Horton's habit for Lent and then give the money I usually spend on that to an organization to help others.

Prayer is something I try to strengthen during lent. Some years I find an online/mobile phone daily prayer program to lead me though such as www.sacredspace.ie. Another great resource is to get a copy of the Magnificat for Lent. This has all the daily readings to follow for those weeks. Or how about picking a book of the Gospels and reading a section and praying over it each day. there are many options. So with just about a week and half until the beginning of Lent, what are you planning?

Upcoming dates:

February 8 - Monday 7:00 Confirmation class - cafeteria

February 8 - Monday 9th grade - online class

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

SCHOOL NEWS

Dear St. John Parish,

The past week has been so much fun for our students and our staff. We had the opportunity to celebrate Catholic Education with a little prayer, a little service, and a little fun. Students had the chance to write their own original prayers, that we shared with the parish community. Each grade also participated in a vocation contest and I will share the winning entries with the parish in a few weeks. Our favorite service project was to make Valentine cards for senior citizens and for our local veterans. Our students know that a small act of kindness can make a big difference.

We also had some fun themed dress down days including a pajama day and career day. Some of our students chose to share their God given talents as part of our Virtual Variety Show, and I could not be more proud, or impressed by the wide range of student talents in our building.

Many Blessings,
Jonna M. Johnson, Principal

Our virtual school tour is now posted on our school website at www.stjohnsalden.com. I encourage everyone to come and "visit". Registration will open on February 12th and we will begin to accept new students in PreK 3 - 8th grade. Our H.S.A is once again selling Gertrude Hawk Easter Candy. If you are interested in ordering you may contact the school office or the rectory for more information.

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.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

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

Monday, February 8

8:30 am No Mass-Carpet Installation

Tuesday, February 9

8:30 am No Mass-Carpet Installation

Wednesday, February 10

8:30 am No Mass-Carpet Installation

Thursday, February 11

8:30 am Our Parishioners

Friday, February 12

8:30 am Diana Schlicht - The Wirth Family

Saturday, February 13

4:00 pm Bud & Helen Pierce - Mary Refremat

Sunday, February 14 (6th Sunday in Ordinary Time)

8:00 am Kermit & Mary Schlicht - Tom & Diana Schlicht

9:30 am Living & Deceased Members of the Holy Name Society

11:00 am Camille Krupka - Husband

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: **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) 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

Charles Meyer

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