

St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church

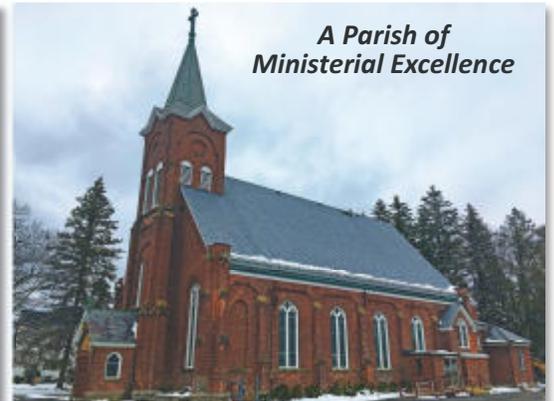
2021 SANDRIDGE ROAD • ALDEN, NEW YORK 14004



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

Email: st.johnsaldenparish@gmail.com

Website: www.StJohnAlden.com



*A Parish of
Ministerial Excellence*

FEBRUARY 14, 2021 • SIXTH 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

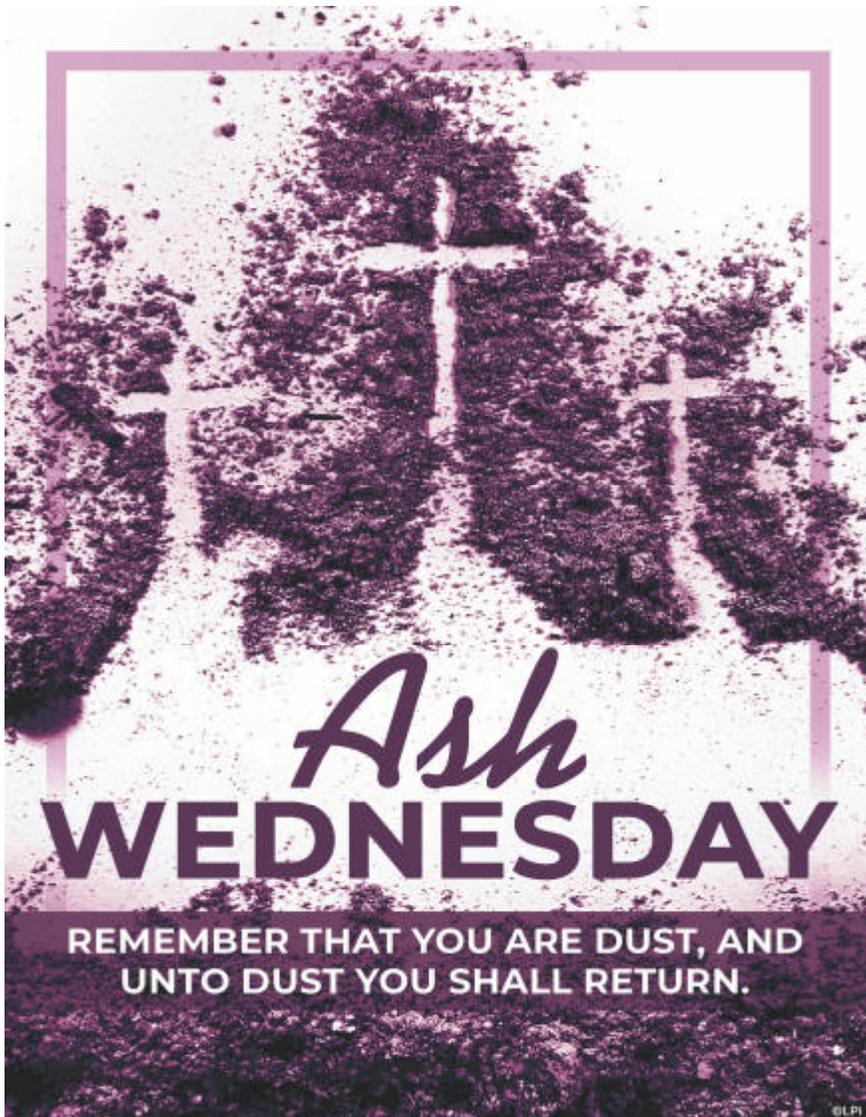
Marriage: Arrangements should be made at least 9 months ahead. A Marriage Preparation Program is required.

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.



ASK THE DEACON

As we approach the first anniversary of this COVID epidemic, we are finally seeing some relief from the astronomically high number of infections and deaths. Nonetheless, this epidemic is nowhere near over - in fact new, more concerning, strains of the virus continue to be discovered here in the United States - suggesting that caution in our in - person engagements is, unfortunately, still necessary for some time to come.

Vaccinations are becoming more widely available, which is another hopeful sign. However, these pose some ethical challenges for Catholics. Here is a summary of what our bishops have communicated about these COVID vaccines.

Is it true that there is a connection between some vaccines and abortion?

Yes. Some cell lines used in the development of efficacy testing were derived from the tissue of aborted babies. However, none of these tissues are present in the vaccine that we receive. The Church recognizes that using tissues from aborted babies is morally wrong and that Catholics are encouraged to seek alternative vaccines, if available. Unfortunately, there are no vaccines that meet this criteria. Nonetheless, the primary vaccines developed by Pfizer and Moderna that are being administered in the United States have only a very remote connection to the use of aborted tissue lines, which is a mitigating factor.

Is it morally acceptable to receive a COVID-19 vaccine that uses abortion-derived cell lines?

Yes, it is morally acceptable. The COVID virus can cause serious health risks and death. We are morally responsible for the care of our own bodies as well as those around us. While vaccination is not a moral obligation, it is certainly permissible and, oftentimes, encouraged as a part of the effort to pursue the common good, particularly for the weakest and most exposed in our communities.

This requires discernment on our part. Some may decide that any connection between vaccines and abortion is unacceptable. This is understandable. However, since part of the efficacy of vaccination depends on the vast majority of the population being inoculated, in refusing vaccination, a moral obligation remains to avoid any risk to the health of others. Those refusing vaccination must take steps to avoid becoming vehicles for transmission including, but not limited to, avoiding in - person contact with others and proper use of personal protective equipment (PPE) when contact is unavoidable.

What else can we do?

We can make our voices heard. We should continue to faithfully advocate for vaccines that are not morally compromised by petitioning our leaders and our healthcare providers.

FINANCE

WEEKEND OF 2/7/2021

SUNDAY COLLECTION

Total.....\$6,638.00

WESHARE

1/30-2/5.....\$1,564.00

FISCAL YEAR TO DATE

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

.....\$193,674.71

RELIGIOUS ASSISTANCE EASTERN EUROPE & POLAND

Total.....\$371.00

SECOND COLLECTION: Our next collection is for Black and Indian Missions on February 21st.

LENTEN NEWS

- ◆ **ASH WEDNESDAY:** 8:30 am Mass, 12:10 pm Prayer Service, 7:00 pm Mass - Due to COVID, the diocese has asked us to use the European custom of sprinkling the ashes on the crown of the head instead of the our traditional way of receiving ashes on the forehead. Please look under the COVID-19 Protocol for Ash Wednesday located on the half page for more details
- ◆ **LENTEN VESPERS & ADORATION** will be on the following Wednesdays at 7 pm: February 24, March 3, March 10, March 17 (special St. Patrick's Vespers, no adoration), March 24, and March 31. Please join us in the church for this special prayerful event.
- ◆ **STATIONS OF THE CROSS:** Every Friday leading up to Holy Week at 1 pm (starts Feb. 26) with the school and at 7 pm (starts Feb. 19) — all are welcome. (Please note: The evening Stations on March 19 will take place at 6:30 pm due to the event below.)
- ◆ There will be a special St. Joseph Vespers on Friday, March 19 at 7 pm for the Consecration to St. Joseph. (Stations are moved to 6:30 pm on this day.)
- ◆ **WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY** on Tuesdays at 6:30 pm (see page 3 for details).



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 14
The Sanctuary light is lit to the Glory of God & for

Our Parishioners

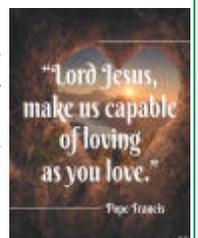


READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY: Genesis 9:8-15/Psalm 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [cf. 10]/1 Peter 3:18-22/Mark 1:12-1

A Word from Today's Scriptures

The Cleansing of the Leper: A leper came to Jesus and kneeling down begged him and said, "If you wish, you can make me clean." Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand, touched him, and said to him, "I do will it. Be made clean." Mark. 1:40-41 Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

Prayer starter: Holy Spirit, help me become aware of the areas in my life that need your healing touch. Release me from anything that doesn't reflect your will for me. Make me clean



MINISTRY NEWS

- ◆ **THERE IS STILL TIME TO JOIN IN FOR OUR PARISH WIDE** 33 day Consecration to St Joseph which begins Monday, February 15th, 2021 and runs through March 19th, 2021 - Our Consecration Day! As Patron of the Universal Church, of the Diocese of Buffalo and Protector of Families, it would be a great honor to give this time to this most powerful saint and protector of the Holy Family and ask his aid and guidance for our own families. **How?** Follow along with the daily readings as outlined in the book and say the daily prayers listed for 33 days in your own home. We will then meet, if you choose to join us, in Church at 7 PM on the following Mondays for discussion on **Monday, February 22nd; March 1st; March 8th, & March 15th**. The readings continue until the 19th and join us at 7 pm in Church for Solemn Vespers in honor of St. Joseph. **This Friday evening event will be LIVESTREAMED on our parish website - stjohnalden.com and Facebook.** An email is necessary for us to have so that we can send a link for a google meet for you to join in on the Monday in Church meetings, where you can either just choose to listen in and/or participate with comments and questions. Please email parishlife@stjohnalden.org. if you would like to participate.
- ◆ **ST. VALENTINE'S DAY** - St. John's Works of Mercy Ministry is preparing St. Valentine's Day packages to take to our parish and community shut-ins and those in need. Do you know someone whose day we could brighten? Please contact SWMM member Michelle at zaleski.jeffrey@gmail.com or you can text/call her at (716) 870-1035.
- ◆ **WORKS OF MERCY** has learned of two online Lenten enrichment programs we'd like to promote to the parish. They are: Catholic Answers' "Lenten Apologetics Reflections" - get a daily lesson delivered to your inbox when you sign up with this link - <https://www.catholic.com/Lenten-Series> Dynamic Catholic's annual "Best Lent Ever" is based on "I Heard God Laugh", the book we received as a Christmas gift. Sign up for a daily email with a short video with this link - <https://www.dynamiccatholic.com/lent/best-lent-ever.html>. Also, one of the most downloaded podcasts is "the Bible in a Year (with Fr. Mike Schmitz)". Within 48 hours of its launch, it was the #1 show on Apple Podcasts and, according to a news article from January 6th (five days after launch), it was still holding at number one. On January 28th, it was still in the top five, at #4. Produced by Ascension Press, it is based on Jeff Cavin's "The Great Adventure Bible Timeline" and is available on your favorite podcast app, or you can listen on Ascension Press' website. For more information, go to <https://media.ascensionpress.com/category/ascension-podcasts/bibleinayear/>
- ◆ **HOLY WATER BOTTLES** (4oz) and information sheets will be distributed to parish families at all Masses the first weekend of Lent, February 20th & 21st. While we cannot use Holy Water in the church, we can use it in our homes!
- ◆ **BIBLE STUDY:** Tuesday nights 6:30 - 7:30 pm. February 23rd - March 30th in the rectory dining room if you prefer in person and we will also include participants via Google Meets online. *Fearless and Free* is a six-lesson Bible study based on the book of Ephesians that is ideal for Lent. So many of us are wrestling through the reality that life isn't easy, even when we are doing the right thing. Suffering can slam into us from left field, leaving us reeling. This study provides a firm foundation to stand on no matter what life throws our way. With an emphasis on healing and wholeness, *Fearless and Free* is the most personal and transformative study that Walking with Purpose has offered so far. **This is what we'll discover through the pages of this study:** We need to WAKEN to the reality of who we are in Christ, and that we have an enemy who seeks to steal our true identity, we need to WRESTLE with the battle in our minds—bringing our thoughts in captivity to Christ, we need to be strengthened as WARRIORS so that we can move forward in life—not just surviving, but flourishing. Please sign up by Monday February 15th so we can order the materials to arrive before the study begins. The cost is \$20 for participants materials, payable the first night or when you pick up your book.
- ◆ **WE WELCOME** into our parish community Logan John Schnerle who received the Sacrament of Baptism on January 10, 2021. Congratulations to Logan and his parents William & Megan (Overhoff) Schnerle. God's blessings to all.

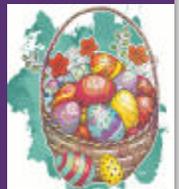
Please pray for all who are sick and for those who care for them: Ann G, Mackenzie Refermat, Theresa Kwiatkowski, Joe Hoiden, Nicholas Oddo, Tom Pasek, Susan Abramo, David Nowak, Dorothy Czechowski, Dawn Duncan, Kathy & Leonard Wagner, Nicole Lindner, Terry Moore, Marlene Smith, Jackie Budnik, TSI Group, 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, Marie Boller and All Special Intentions.

PARISH NEWS

- ◆ The office will be closed February 15th for Presidents Day.
- ◆ The Pastoral Council is looking to vote in three new members! The council is responsible for advising the Pastoral Administrator as well as providing support to our ministries. If you would like more involvement in our parish, please contact a council member or the rectory at 937-6959 or st.johnsaldenparish@gmail.com.

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 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. Orders due February 26th at the latest.



THE SCHOOL is selling a limited run of 100 calendars, for \$15 each! This will be a fundraiser to benefit our 8th Graders. Each month, in addition to having a beautiful and fun calendar, you'll also have a 1/100 chance of winning a \$15 gift card (and in 2 of these months, we even have a \$25 gift card offered up!) The artwork in the calendars was created by the middle school students and was a labor of love by our own Cheryle Etrell to get us the final product. The businesses you can win a gift card are:

\$15 - Buttercrumbs Bakery (February 28th and September)

\$15 - The Pink Cow Ice Cream (March)

\$15 - Alden Chamber Commerce (April and December)

TWO \$15 gift cards - Whistle Stop Inn (May)

Becker Rentals:

(June) (\$15 Alden Chamber of Commerce gift card courtesy of Becker Rentals)

\$15 - Wellness in the Village, LLC (July)

\$25 - Under One Roof (August)

\$15 - Marie's Family Diner (October)

\$15 - Lupine & Lead (November)

\$25 - Best Dressed Kids by Mary LLC (January 2022)

If you would like a calendar, please contact the rectory or the school!

FAITH FORMATION:

Hello Families,

A few emails went out last week. The First Eucharist retreat start time changed and some workshops for a family Holy Week activity were added. The dates and times are listed below.

Confirmation candidates - paperwork is now past due. If you didn't already turn it in, please drop it off to the rectory ASAP. I hope to have information about the retreat any day. Watch your email for those details.

Faith Formation dates

February 23 6:30 pm - Women's Bible study (rectory dining room)

February 27 10:45 am First Eucharist prep chapters 7 & 8 (cafeteria)- be sure to complete 5 & 6 at home

March 2 6:30 pm - Women's Bible study (rectory dining room)

March 6 - First Eucharist prep chapters 9 & 10(cafeteria)

March 7 Sunday confirmation class 11:00 am

March 8 Monday Confirmation class 7:00pm (cafeteria) and Grade 9 class (online) 7:00 pm

March 9 6:30 pm - Women's Bible study (rectory dining room)

March 13 9:00- 10:15 am First Reconciliation retreat

March 13 10:45- 12:00 pm First Eucharist retreat

March 16 6:30 pm - Women's Bible study (rectory dining room)

March 23 6:30 pm - Women's Bible study (rectory dining room)

March 27 1:00 pm First Reconciliation

March 28 Holy Week Family workshops 9:00 and 10:30 am - space is limited so please use this link to sign up <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/805094DA4AB2DA0FA7-families>

March 30 6:30 pm - Women's Bible study (rectory dining room).

SCHOOL NEWS

Dear St. John Parish,

Happy Valentine's Day! Although many people view this as a romantic holiday, I have always thought that it is a good opportunity to be reminded of our first love. The love that God has for us. When we accept that and put His love first in our lives, there is no end to the beautiful things that can happen in our life.

I often remind our students that Jesus said that the most important commandment was to Love your God above all else, and then Love your neighbor. I wish you the Love of God and the Love of your neighbors today, and all days.

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.

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, 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

Monday, February 15

8:30 am Our Parishioners

Tuesday, February `16

8:30 am All Souls

Wednesday, February 17

8:30 am Terry DiStephano - Larry

12:10 pm Prayer Service

7:00 pm Dombroski Family - The Gryzbek Family

Thursday, February 18

8:30 am Raymond J. Fix - Estate

Friday, February 19

8:30 am Gretl Karlnoski - Nick & Gretchen Smith & Son, Nick

Saturday, February 20

4:00 pm David Peebles - Larry Schalberg & Debbie Carder

Sunday, February 21 (1st Sunday in Lent)

8:00 am James & Josephine Klehn - Their Children Daniel, Laura & Sally & Family

9:30 am Marie Shalberg - Larry Shalberg

11:00 am Sylvia Sabers - Maria Nash

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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