

# St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church

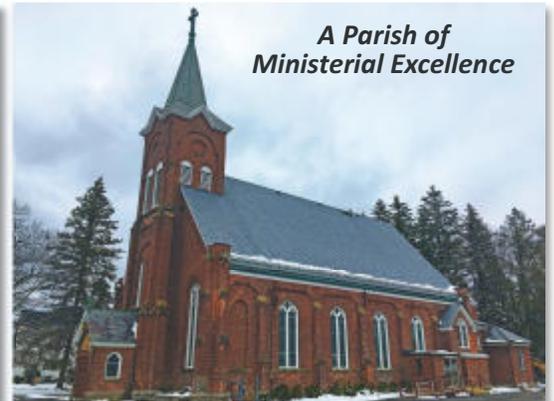
2021 SANDRIDGE ROAD • ALDEN, NEW YORK 14004



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Email: [st.johnsaldenparish@gmail.com](mailto:st.johnsaldenparish@gmail.com)

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



*A Parish of  
Ministerial Excellence*

**FEBRUARY 21, 2021 • FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT**

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**

## 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](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.

A graphic featuring a stylized portrait of Jesus Christ with a beard and long hair, looking directly at the viewer. The background is a vibrant, multi-colored sunburst or starburst pattern. The text "1st SUNDAY OF LENT" is prominently displayed in the lower half, with "1st" in a large, white, cursive font and "SUNDAY OF LENT" in a bold, yellow, sans-serif font. Below this, a quote in white text reads: "This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel." - Mk 1:15. At the bottom left, there is a small copyright notice: "Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD." and a small logo on the right.

LITURGICAL CORNER BY DEBORAH BROWN, PASTORAL ADMINISTRATOR

Today is the First Sunday of Lent. Our Lenten journey toward the greatest, holiest day of our entire liturgical year (Easter Sunday), has begun. The Gospel on Ash Wednesday (Matt 6:1-6, 16-18) reminds us that we should be focused on the three disciplines of Lent: **fasting, almsgiving (charity), and prayer**. And it reminds us, too that when we do these things, we should not “blow a trumpet before us” when we give alms or pray only when others are watching or put on a gloomy face when we are fasting. Lent is a time where we can take stock of our faith life and see an opportunity to get back on the right track! So, hopefully you have a robust, prayerful plan to utilize Lent as an opportunity for conversion and metanoia – turning our hearts back toward God.

The first reading (Genesis 9:8-15) is a renewal of the covenant that God has with his people. This time, it is with Noah after his 40 days on the Ark. Another word for covenant is testament and the Hebrew Covenant with God is the overarching and defining theme of the whole Bible. The Covenant with God progresses from Adam to Noah to Moses to David (the OLD Testament) and into the new Covenant inaugurated in Christ (the New Testament). This is called “Salvation History.” Jesus did not come to replace the Old Covenant but to fulfill it. The Catechism explains it this way: *The unity of the two Testaments proceeds from the unity of God's plan and his Revelation. The Old Testament prepares for the New and the New Testament fulfills the Old; the two shed light on each other; both are true Word of God.* (Catechism of the Catholic Church, paragraph 140).

The Gospel on the first Sunday in Lent in each cycle is Jesus in the desert. The theme is about going to the desert and driving all that is unnecessary out of our life so we can experience God. Mark's account (Mark 1:12-15) is the shortest, but the elements of 40 days and temptation by Satan are there. Matthew and Luke embellished on this story but the essence is here in the earliest account according to Mark. Interesting that we are STILL in the first Chapter of Mark. Mark highlights this as the prayerful point of Jesus beginning his public ministry. Matthew and Luke don't get to this until the 4th Chapter!

Jesus resists the three temptations of Satan in body, mind, and spirit. The Gospel ends with Jesus' call to action: “This is the time of fulfillment. The Kingdom of God is at hand. Repent and believe in the Gospel.” This is what was said when we received our ashes last Wednesday.. So, stop looking gloomy and broadcasting how dreadful your Lenten journey is. Buck up and offer it up to Jesus who suffered and died not for his own sins but for yours and mine. So let us use this opportunity to get back on the right path toward Jesus and our Eternal Salvation!

**THE MASS: AN OVERVIEW**  
**BY: DAN STACHELSKI**

During the next several weeks this section of the bulletin will explore the parts of the Mass and its elements. The Mass is a *mystery*. In the context of our faith, a mystery does not mean that we cannot understand something; it means that there are divine realities hidden within it. Throughout our lives -- through knowledge, experience, and prayer -- we will gain insight into these mysteries as we grow with our Lord.

In his book, *What Happens at Mass*, Jeremy Driscoll, OSB, says that the Mass “is the summit of Christian life. One does not begin at the summit; it is arrived at slowly and with effort.” As we look deeper at the Mass, we will begin to climb the summit to gain meaning.

In Christian tradition, liturgy means “the participation of the People of God in ‘the work of God’” (CCC, 1069). It is through the Mass that we encounter God and where Christ continues the work of redemption in, with, and through his Church.

**Reflection:** If you think about the liturgy of the Mass and ask yourself when it begins, what answer would you give? Fr. Alexander Shmemann suggests that the first liturgical act we do before attending Mass is to get out of bed and go. How is this preparation part of your experience of the Mass?



**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 21**  
The Sanctuary light is lit to the Glory of God & for

*Vincent Smith*



**READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY:** Genesis 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/Psalm 116:10, 15, 16-17, 18-19 [9]/Romans 8:31b-34/Mark 9:2-1

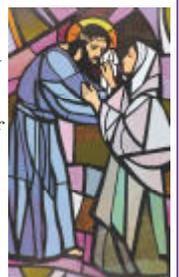
**A Word from Today's Scriptures**

*1st Sunday of Lent:* 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.”

Mark 1:14b-15

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

*Prayer starter: Here I am, Lord, I'm ready to journey with you toward Easter. I want to turn away from sin and trust in the good news of the gospel. Give me the strength to change my ways and to banish even thoughts of doing wrong*



## MINISTRY NEWS

- ◆ **THE WORSHIP COMMITTEE** hopes that everyone enjoyed their Advent Season "Little Blue Book." We now have a "Little Black Book" for the season of Lent and Easter located by the entrances. The book makes a wonderful companion for this time of year, with a daily informational reading to tie the season to the world we live in, and a daily reflection on the readings of the day. The books are now available and when you see them at the entrances, please take one home for you and your family to use. Keep it in the area where you eat breakfast, or at your bedside, and make it a habit to "spend some time with the Lord" by reading this helpful little book of meditations every day.
- ◆ **THERE IS STILL TIME TO JOIN IN FOR OUR PARISH WIDE** 33 day Consecration to St Joseph which began Monday, February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021 and runs through March 19<sup>th</sup>, 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 22<sup>nd</sup>; March 1<sup>st</sup>; March 8<sup>th</sup>, & March 15<sup>th</sup>**. The readings continue until the 19<sup>th</sup> 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 - [stjohnsalden.com](http://stjohnsalden.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@stjohnsalden.org](mailto:parishlife@stjohnsalden.org). if you would like to participate.
- ◆ **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 6<sup>th</sup> (five days after launch), it was still holding at number one. On January 28<sup>th</sup>, 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/>
- ◆ **WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY** We still have room for a few more participants. Come to the rectory on Tuesdays throughout Lent at 6:30 pm If you would like to join us.



## LENTEN NEWS

- ◆ **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 (contact [faith.formation@stjohnsalden.org](mailto:faith.formation@stjohnsalden.org) for details).

## PARISH NEWS

- ◆ 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](mailto:st.johnsaldenparish@gmail.com).
- ◆ **EASTER FLOWERS:** Easter Flowers for the Altar are a tradition at St. John's for remembering your deceased loved ones. If you would like to donate, please include \$10 and the name of your loved one (typed or printed) in an envelope, which may be dropped in the collection basket or delivered to the rectory by **Monday, March 22**. (For office recording purposes, please also include your name and, if known, your parish envelope number. The names will be listed in the Easter bulletin.)

## FUNDRAISING

**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 Erel to get us the final product. The businesses you can win a gift card are:

- \$15 - Buttercrumbs Bakery (February 28<sup>th</sup> 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!

**Please pray for all who are in need:** 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 Keglar, Ken Warren, Kathrin Boling, Mitchell, Chuck Jackson, Gail Hans, Marie Boller and All Special Intentions.

## FAITH FORMATION:

### Faith Formation dates

**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

Our virtual school tour is now posted on our school website at [www.stjohnsalden.com](http://www.stjohnsalden.com). I encourage everyone to come and "visit". Registration will open on February 12<sup>th</sup> and we will begin to accept new students in PreK 3 - 8<sup>th</sup> 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](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, February 20**

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

**Sunday, February 21 (1<sup>st</sup> 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

**Monday, February 22**

8:30 am Diana Schlicht - The Wirth Family

**Tuesday, February 23**

8:30 am Conrad Grzybek - His Children

**Wednesday, February 24**

8:30 am Irene Richter - The Steck Family

**Thursday, February 25**

8:30 am Arthur Nuwer - Estate

**Friday, February 26**

8:30 am Msgr. David Slubecky - Estate & Family

**Saturday, February 27**

4:00 pm Gretl Karlnoski - Sandra & Everett Boone

**Sunday, February 28 (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent)**

8:00 am Raymond J. Fix - Estate

9:30 am Elaine Trybuskiewicz - Larry Schalberg

11:00 am Charlene Geraci - The Moore Family



**FINANCE**

**WEEKEND OF 2/14/2021**

**SUNDAY COLLECTION**

Total.....Not Available

**WESHARE**

2/6-2/11.....Not Available

**FISCAL YEAR TO DATE**

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

.....\$193,674.71

**SNOW REMOVAL**

Total.....Not Available

**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

# Charles Meyer

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