

St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church

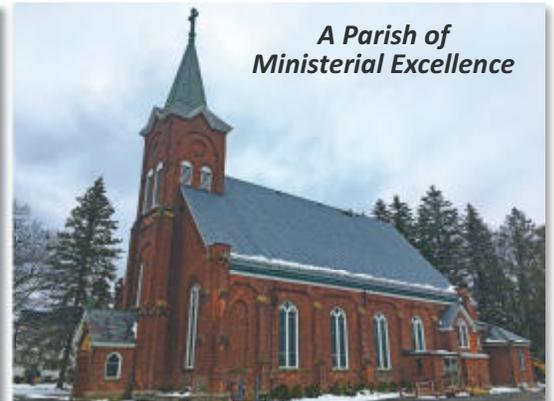
2021 SANDRIDGE ROAD • ALDEN, NEW YORK 14004



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

Email: st.johnsaldenparish@gmail.com

Website: www.StJohnAlden.com



*A Parish of
Ministerial Excellence*

MARCH 14, 2021 • FOURTH 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

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

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

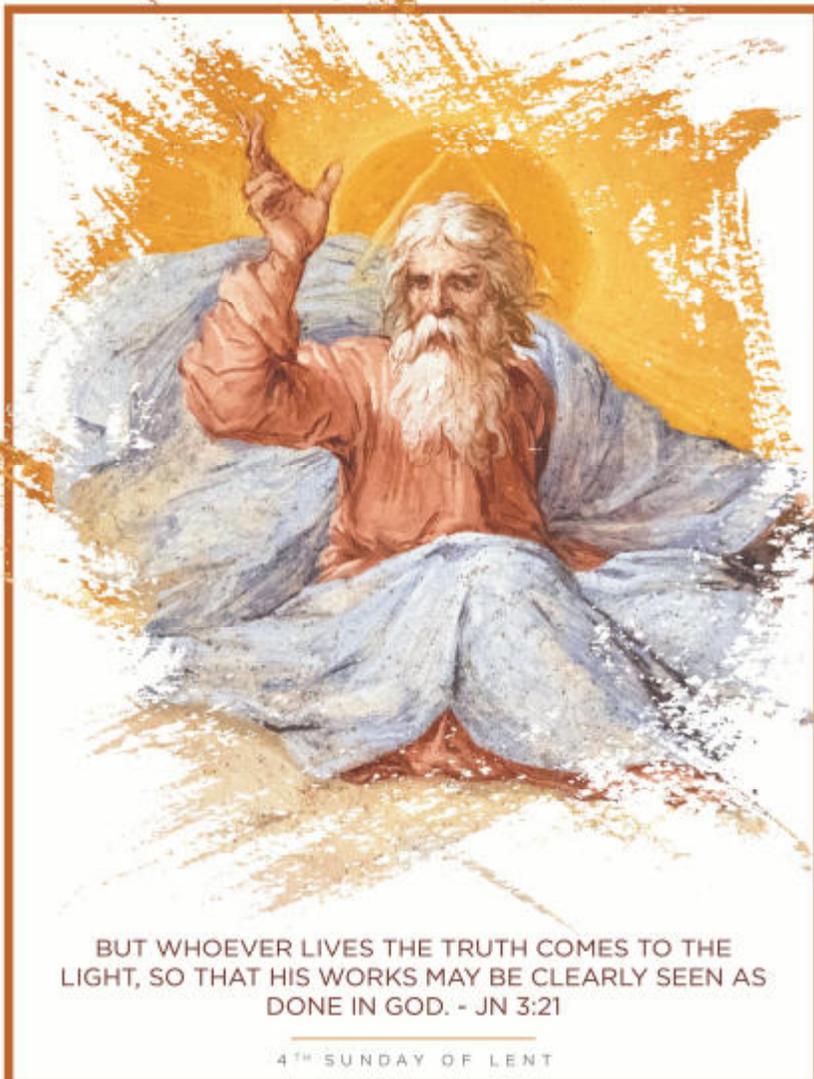
Marriage: Arrangements should be made at least 9 months ahead. A Marriage Preparation Program is required.

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.



BUT WHOEVER LIVES THE TRUTH COMES TO THE
LIGHT, SO THAT HIS WORKS MAY BE CLEARLY SEEN AS
DONE IN GOD. - JN 3:21

4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

EXCERPTS FROM THE LECTIONARY FOR MASS #2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. -LEP

LITURGICAL CORNER BY DEBORAH BROWN, PASTORAL ADMINISTRATOR

God is at work in all places at all times in all people. This is a basic tenet of belief in God. The arrogance of human beings is that we think we can control where and when and in whom God works, especially in our own lives. Of course we can't, but whenever we work in secret, whenever we judge, whenever we think we have the best plan, we are interrupting God's plan. That is not just arrogant, it is sinful. Our readings today are powerful reminders of the transcendence and power of God to work in unexpected and surprising ways. And they promote and encourage our being open to God's plan instead of our own.

The first reading (2 Chronicles 36:14-16,19-23) describes one of the most important events in the Old Testament: The freeing of the Babylonian captives by King Cyrus, the Persian King who took over Babylon. Cyrus, who was not a Jew, gave freedom to the Jews and thus was God's will accomplished through a non-believer. How happy they must have felt to get an opportunity to go home. A shining example of God working through the least expected person in surprising circumstances. The Psalm celebrates this moment in history for the Jews: "Let my tongue be silenced if I ever forget you!"

The second reading (Eph 2:4-10) is a powerful reminder of God's infinite mercy and love for us. "God... brought us to life with Christ..., raised us up with him, and seated us with him in the heavens with Christ Jesus..." We are living in Christ which takes us from sin to salvation (i.e., "raised to life"). We just need to be open to the work of Christ in our lives. This love and mercy is unsolicited and unconditional. We can do no less.

The Gospel today (John 3:14-21) is from John (not Mark) and it contains that verse which used to show up on signs at all sporting events: John 3:16. It says "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life." This is inspirational and important for sure, but I want to focus on the next line, verse 17: "For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him." So it is a given that Jesus' death was the means of the salvation of the world, we must believe this in order for it to come to fruition in our lives. Everyone who is wicked, hates the light. "But whoever lives the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God." Let the light of Christ and his truth shine in your life. Gossip, complaining, judging, hiding from God by not praying are not the way to salvation. Do not condemn, lift up; do not hate but show love and mercy to all people at all times in all places, just like God. Let Lent be the time to look deeply into the dark corners of our life and let the SON shine in.

THE PENITENTIAL ACT
BY: DAN STACHELSKI, III

During the penitential act, we acknowledge our sins to cleanse ourselves as we prepare to celebrate Mass. This is not the sacrament of penance, but it expresses our understanding that our Mass can only move forward with divine grace. Mass is a communal affair, a family affair -- we are many parts, we are all one body -- if one of us sins, it affects our whole community. The actions or inactions of one of us has a ripple effect throughout the community. We therefore need to cleanse our souls before we approach God in the Mass. "Just as the people of Israel needed to wash their garments before approaching the Lord at Sinai, so we need to cleanse our souls from sin before we approach God in the Mass." (Edward Sri, *A Biblical Walk Through the Mass*, p. 31)

There are four different forms that the Penitential Act may take, but each one achieves the same goal. As a community we confess to one another that we have done wrong and ask for God's grace. If the *Confiteor* is used, we are reminded that the angels and saints surround us, so we ask Mary, the angels, the saints, and our brothers and sisters to pray for us. This is a reminder that the Mass is not just about me and God. We all come together in the presence of God with the angels and saints and with one another to ask for mercy and salvation.

We acknowledge that we have sinned three times in the *Confiteor* "through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault." Which is then followed by a three-fold plea for God's mercy: Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy. This ancient invocation (the *Kyrie*) is a "chant by which the faithful acclaim the Lord and implore his mercy" (GIRM, 52). This is later paralleled with a three-fold affirmation of God's holiness as we sing "Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of hosts ..."

Reflection. (1) Has your understanding of sin changed by knowing that an individual's sin has a ripple effect on the community? (2) How can an individual sin affect or tarnish a whole community? (3) Why is cleansing important in the context of the Mass?

FOR THE WEEK OF SUNDAY, MARCH 14

The Sanctuary light is lit to the Glory of God & for
Laurence "Benjy" Graf

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

4th Sunday of Lent: For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life.

(John. 3:16)

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

Prayer starter: Thank you, my Father in heaven, for loving me so much that you sent your Son into the world to draw me to you. Thank you for giving me the gift of faith so that I may have eternal life

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY: Jer 31:31-34/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 14-15 [12a]/Heb 5:7-9/ Jn 12:20-33 or Ez 37:12-14/Rom 8:8-11/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 [7]/Jn 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45

Laetare Sunday

The Fourth Sunday of Lent is called **Laetare Sunday**, from the first words of the Introit at Mass, "Laetare Jerusalem" ('Rejoice, O Jerusalem').

Like Gaudete Sunday midway through Advent, Laetare reminds us of the event we look forward to at the end of the penitential season and the joy in anticipation of the Resurrection. The vestments for this day will be rose, as they are on Gaudete Sunday in Advent.

Catholic Fortress

MINISTRY NEWS

- ◆ **CEMETERY COMMITTEE:** Due to the disruptions of the past year, we are looking reorganize the Cemetery Committee. While we invite old members to return, we are also encouraging new members to join. If interested, please contact the rectory at 937-6959 and press 0 to speak to Stephanie or email st.johnsaldenparish@gmail.com. We will be looking at Tuesday, April 6th or Wednesday, April 7th to have our first meeting of the year in the evening.
- ◆ **ST. JOSEPH CONSECRATION** We are in the final week of the 33 day preparation for Consecration to St. Joseph. Please continue your readings and join us in Church on Friday, March 19th for a Celebration of St. Joseph. We will be running Stations of the Cross beginning at 6:30 pm followed with evening Vespers in honor of this great Saint and the Consecration. Thank you for being a part of this journey with us, we have grown in our knowledge and love for this humble defender and protector of Jesus & Mary; and pray you have as well. St. Joseph, Pray for 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 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.)
- ◆ **PARISH PENANCE SERVICE:** Monday, March 22nd at 6:30 pm in the church.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES: When you are troubled, we are hope. The opioid addiction crisis hasn't left one corner of Western New York untouched. To combat this serious problem that's plaguing our communities, Catholic Charities provides a Chemical Dependency Treatment Program. Our outpatient program is New York State OASAS-licensed and seeks to treat addiction with a combination of therapy and medicine. Your donation to the 2021 Appeal helps us continue to provide treatment for those who are most in need. To donate or to seek help, please call our Helpline at 716-218-1419 or visit ccwny.org/donation. Multiply God's goodness. For more information about the outpatient program, visit ccwny.org/addiction help. In the darkest days, we are HOPE for All Seasons.

PARISH NEWS

- ◆ **BAPTISM:** With Great Joy, we welcome into the St John's Church Family the following child Baptized Sunday, March 7, 2021: Jack Richard Darlak, son of Jason & Tabatha (Newton) Darlak.
- ◆ **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.)
- ◆ **JUST A REMINDER** to the Ministers of Holy Communion, the schedule for Holy Week is in the Priest's sacristy for your attention. For those who understandably haven't been serving, we miss you and look forward to your return!



LEGAL NOTICE

Beginning in 2015, The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Buffalo, N.Y., Inc. ("Foundation") began soliciting donations to its "Upon this Rock" ("UTR") capital and endowment campaign. The UTR campaign raised funds for many purposes, including soliciting funds for making essential upgrades to classroom facilities and technology of Christ the King Seminary ("CKS"), expanding CKS's role as a center of retreat and religious celebrations, and establishing an endowment fund for CKS. Unfortunately, in early 2020, CKS's Board of Trustees determined that CKS would close at the end of the 2020-2021 academic school year. CKS's closure will make it impossible for the Foundation to use the UTR funds raised for CKS for their original intended purposes. However, under New York law, when the original intended purposes for which funds are donated become impossible to achieve, those purposes can be modified in a manner consistent with original intent by the New York State courts. For Many years, CKS provided education and formation for ordained and lay ecclesial ministers in the Diocese of Buffalo and beyond. Accordingly, the Foundation has asked New York State Supreme Court for the County of Erie to approve modification of the purposes of the UTR funds raised for CKS so that those funds can be used to support the education and formation for ordained and lay ecclesial ministry in the Diocese of Buffalo, as determined in the discretion of the Foundation's Board.

If you have donated to the UTR and would like to be heard regarding this requested modification, you may send a letter to: The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Buffalo, N.Y., Inc., attention Executive Director, 795 Main Street, Buffalo, N.Y. 14293 or an email to donor.info@frcdb.org. Copies of letters or email received by the Foundation will be provided to the Court. You may also make a formal filing in the legal proceeding entitled Matter of the Modification of Endowment Funds of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Buffalo N.Y., Inc., Erie County Index No. 814747/2020. In order for your submission to be available for the Court's consideration, please be sure to send any letter or email, or make any filing, no later than Friday, April 9, 2021.

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 Kegljar, Ken Warren, Kathrin Boling, Mitchell, Chuck Jackson, Gail Hans, Marie Boller, Diane Zymowski, Sharon Pfeiffer, Steve Kotlowski, Sr. Ellen and All Special Intentions.

FAITH FORMATION:

An email went out asking which families would like the Holy Week project. If you would like to pick up this project for grades K-8 please call the office at 937-6959 or email Mrs. Golinski at faith.formation@stjohnsalden.org ASAP so I can purchase the materials we need. There is still room if you want to sign up to attend a workshop to complete this. The link can be found below in the calendar of dates.

Confirmation students who need to complete online assignments or who still owe paperwork were emailed last week. Please finish the online assignments and bring any paperwork to class March 8th.

Eucharist and Reconciliation folders must be completed and turned in at the March 13th retreat. Please be sure your name is on each leaflet.

Faith Formation Dates

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

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

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

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

March 27 1:00 First Reconciliation

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

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

April 12 7:00 Confirmation evening of reflection for candidates and sponsors (church)

April 25 11:00 Sunday Confirmation class 11:00 (cafeteria)

April 26 7:00 Monday Confirmation class 7:00 (cafeteria)

SCHOOL NEWS

Dear St. John Parish,

"You learn to speak by speaking, to study by studying, to run by running, to work by working, and just so, you learn to love by loving. All those who think to learn in any other way deceive themselves."

— St. Francis de Sales

Every Friday at 1pm we are holding a Station of the Cross reflection in the church. All are welcome to join us. If you are unable to attend in person, please visit our Facebook page and you can watch our recording of our first Station of the Cross service.

Since we are not able to have every class join us, we decided to set up our own Station of the Cross in the school gym. Each class was assigned a station and then asked to create a visual representation of that station. Classes are now able to visit the gym throughout the day and reflect on each station. We are so blessed to have such a creative and faith filled teaching staff that always finds a meaningful way to allow students to practice and learn our faith.

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. SAVE THE DATE: Our annual Krolick's Fish Fry will be on Friday, March 19th from 4:30 - 7:30pm.

Pre Sale orders will be accepted through the 15th.

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, March 13

4:00 pm Robert Pautler - Don Pautler

Sunday, March 14 (4th Sunday in Lent)

8:00 am Living & Deceased Members of the Holy Name Society

9:30 am Camille Krupka - Husband

11:00 am Charlene Geraci - Nick & Gretchen Smith

Monday, March 15

8:30 am Irene Richter - Steck Family

Tuesday, March 16

8:30 am Gretl Karlnoski - Ed & Eileen Wirth & Family

Wednesday, March 17

8:30 am Ruth Pfeiffer - Daughter, Sharon

Thursday, March 18

8:30 am Arthur Nuwer - Estate

Friday, March 19

8:30 am Diana Schlicht - Al & Maureen Weber

Saturday, March 20

4:00 pm Gretl Karlnoski - Jerry & Carol Sentz

Sunday, March 21 (5th Sunday in Lent)

8:00 am Ralph Dahl - Joe & Darlene Dahl

9:30 am Edward Frost - Dave & Joan Ciulla

11:00 am Genevieve J. Kaczmarek - Estate

FINANCE

WEEKEND OF 3/7/2021

SUNDAY COLLECTION

Total.....\$13,425.41

WESHARE

2/27-3/5.....\$2,039.00

FISCAL YEAR TO DATE

(9/1/2020-8/31/2021).....

.....\$233,685.11

MASS AND LITURGICAL GUIDELINES DURING COVID: 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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