

December 2020
170th Anniversary



**MARCH 21, 2021
FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT**

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

www.facebook.comStJohnsChurchAldenNY

<https://www.stjohnalden.com>

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.

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 ON OUR WEBSITE & FACEBOOK

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 in the bulletin

Holy Day - As Announced in the bulletin

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.



St. John the Baptist School:
2028 Sandridge Road • Alden,
New York 14004
School Phone: 716-937-9483 •
School Fax: 716-937-9794

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**



SPECIAL NOTICE: LENTEN VICARIATE PENANCE SERVICES

St. George Church, West Falls

Holy Saturday 10:00 - 11:00 AM

Queen of Martyrs Church, Cheektowaga

Monday, March 22, 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM & 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Church of the Annunciation, Elma

Monday, March 29, 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Wednesday, March 31, 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Bowmansville

Monday, March 22 at 6:00 PM

Church of the Annunciation, Elma

Monday, March 29, 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Wednesday, March 31, 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM



As we enter the last Sunday in Lent, we find a call to enter more deeply into the Paschal Mystery which will be commemorated with our Holy Week and Triduum liturgies. This means that every baptized person must strive ever more fervently toward conversion to Christ and commit more fully to enter into Christ's ongoing cycle of death and resurrection in our lives. Dying to our selfish ways and rising to the ways of Christ is an ongoing pattern which, though it is intensified in Lent, must always be a part of our lives. We must evermore be centered on the love, mercy and mission of Jesus Christ.

Create a clean heart in me, O God. (Psalm 51:12a). The whole Responsorial Psalm this week (51: 3-4,12-13,14-15) reminds us of what Lent is about: metanoia, that is, a change of heart. The Responsorial Psalm today is so rich in reconciliation imagery: mercy, compassion, wash, cleanse, renew. "Give me back the joy of your salvation, and a willing spirit sustain in me (v. 14)." What strikes me about this passage is how impossible metanoia is on our own. That is why we struggle with the disciplines of Lent by week 5. If we start to recognize that the endeavor to change our hearts is through the grace of God and not an act of our own will, then we can start to more perfectly achieve metanoia.

The Old Testament reading from Jeremiah (31:31-34) promises a time when God will make a new covenant with his people. We hear these words every time we go to Mass: "Take this, all of you, and drink from it, for this is the chalice of my Blood, the Blood of the new and eternal covenant, which will be poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in memory of me." These words are spoken during the consecration. Jesus inaugurates the New Covenant that was promised in the Old Testament!

The Gospel (John 12:20-33) is from John's account of what we call "The Agony in the Garden" – that time at the end of Jesus' earthly ministry when he was facing his own human death. This prayer did not reflect second thoughts or doubt but rather Jesus working his way through the human reality death. Jesus had a choice – he knew what his purpose was and, it seems, what was about to happen. But he gave himself up totally to the will of God. That act of sacrifice saved everyone: people then, people today, people until the end of time. A grain of wheat must die in order to produce much fruit, John tells us. The use of that comparison helps us understand the reality of Jesus' death and Resurrection. The once for all sacrifice on the cross of Christ did indeed produce much fruit. And this gives us every reason for a faith that can lead us to metanoia. Create in me a clean heart! *How do you struggle with what God is asking you to do right now? What will it take to achieve a metanoia?*

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)



READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY: Mk 11:1-10 or Jn 12:12-16/Is 50:4-7/Ps 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24 [2a]/Phil 2:6-11/Mk 14:1—15:47 or 15:1-39

A Word from Today's Scriptures

5th Sunday of Lent-The Coming of Jesus' Hour:

I am troubled now. Yet what should I say? "Father, save me from this hour? But it was for this purpose that I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name."

(John 12:27-28a)

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

Prayer starter: Thank you Lord Jesus, for remaining faithful to your Father and laying down your life so that I might live. Give me the will to lay down my own life in service of you and your kingdom.

The Liturgy of the Word: An Overview

By: Dan Stachelski, III

After we have prepared ourselves physically and spiritually in the Introductory Rites, we are now ready to hear God speak to us through the scriptures. It is problematic if we view the Liturgy of the Word as an "opening act" because Christ is always present in his Church, especially in her liturgical celebrations (*Sacrosanctum Concilium*, 7) and the liturgy of the Word is an integral part of liturgical celebrations (CCC, 1154). The church has often used the image of "two tables" to express the connection between the liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist. We are first nourished from the table of holy Scripture, and then are fed with the Body of Christ at the table of the Eucharist. It is through Scripture that we are led into a deeper communion with Jesus in the Eucharist.

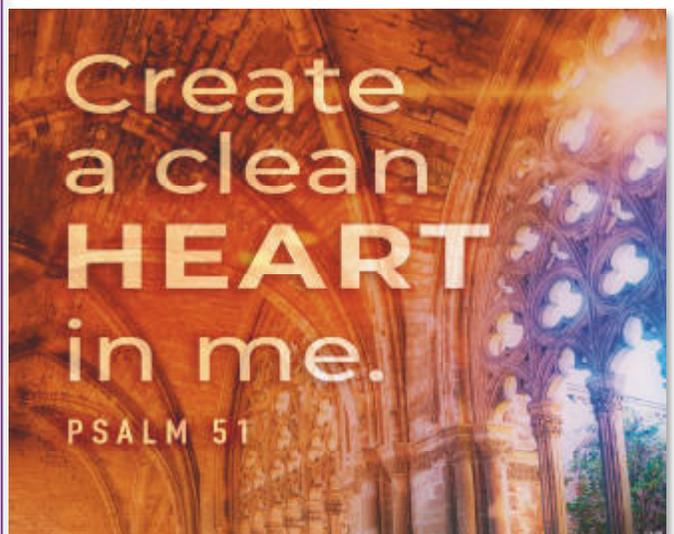
During the Liturgy of the Word, God speaks to us in the Old Testament, we respond in meditation to God in the Responsorial Psalm, we are given an application of the Word in our daily lives in the epistle (second) reading, we rise and sing to invite Christ to speak to us in the Gospel Acclamation, Christ speaks to us in the Gospel, and ordained priest or deacon explains the Word to us with authority in the Homily, we summarize the scriptures in the Creed, and then we bring to the Lord our prayers and supplications in the Prayer of the Faithful.

Readings from scripture are not simply words about the past; they are words addressed directly to us. Only we can discover how to use the Word in our daily lives. Liturgical theologian, Dr. David Fagerberg, suggests that "we should listen to [the Word] with all the eagerness with which a spouse would listen to a letter being read aloud from his/her beloved. For indeed, the Scripture is God's love letter to the human race."

Reflection. (1) Do any words, phrases, or ideas strike you in today's readings? (2) If so, this is an example of God speaking to you! What is He trying to tell you today?

FOR THE WEEK OF SUNDAY, MARCH 21

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



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 13th or Wednesday, April 14th to have our first meeting of the year in the evening. ***Note that the projected meeting dates have changed***

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 at 1 pm with the school and at 7 pm (Until March. 26th) — all are welcome.
- ◆ **PARISH PENANCE SERVICE:** Monday, March 22nd at 6:30 pm in the church.
- ◆ **HOLY WEEK:** There is no morning Mass on Holy Thursday or Good Friday. There will be no 4:00 pm Mass or confession on Holy Saturday.
- ◆ **HOLY SATURDAY:** Blessing of the Easter Baskets at 1:00 pm and the Easter Vigil is at 8:30 pm
- ◆ **EASTER SUNDAY:** Regular Mass Schedule

PARISH NEWS

- ◆ **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!
- ◆ **PASTORAL COUNCIL:** Please welcome our four newest officers: Brandon Adkins, Teresa Colasanti, Maria LaVarnway, & Heather Taylor.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES: When you are troubled, we are here. If you have a child ages 12 to 17 who is displaying chronic behaviors such as: noncompliance, verbal and/or physical aggression, school failure, curfew violations, running away, illegal substance abuse and/or criminal activity in two or more environments (home, school and/or community), consider Catholic Charities' Multisystemic Therapy Program in Erie, Niagara, Cattaraugus and Allegany counties. MST is an intensive, family-focused intervention provided in the natural environment of the youth. Interventions are research-based and the program offers 24/7 availability. For more information about MST, call 716-204-0555, ext. 330 or visit ccwny.org/mst.



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, Gary Powers, Christine Mayer, Susan Hoiden, Bill Chapman, Jim Nowinski, Ed Monoco, Rose Pych, Joanne Mueller, Marcia Kegl, Ken Warren, Kathrin Boling, Mitchell, Chuck Jackson, Gail Hans, Marie Boller, Diane Zymowski, Sharon Pfeiffer, Steve Kotlowski, Sr. Ellen, Dawn LaPage, Amy Bonamici, Robert Kalczynski, Nancy Osgood and All Special Intentions.

FAITH FORMATION:

Upcoming Faith Formation dates:

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

March 27 1:00 First Reconciliation - students should arrive by 12:50

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,

As we continue to provide opportunities for our students to live and grow in their faith during Lent, we were blessed to have Father Jim Walter lead two separate Penance Services for the school children. For many of our students this was the first time they have had the chance to participate in a Penance service prior receiving the sacrament of Reconciliation.

Many Blessings,
Jonna M. Johnson, Principal

Our virtual school tour is now posted on our school website at www.stjohnsalden.com. Registration is now open and we are accepting new students in PreK 3 - 8th grade.

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 20

4:00 pm Gretl Karlinski - 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

Monday, March 22

8:30 am Frances Kocher - Family

Tuesday, March 23

8:30 am All Souls

Wednesday, March 24

8:30 am Jiggs LeBlanc - Family

Thursday, March 25

8:30 am Lorry Zaganiaczyk - Dan & Monica Kubiak

Friday, March 26

8:30 am Jeanette Ferenc - Audrey & Ang Passariella

Saturday, March 27

4:00 pm Eugene Nebrich - Shelley Matteson & Stephen Nebrich

Sunday, March 28 (6th Sunday in Lent)

8:00 am Diana Schlicht - James & Sharon Kulach

9:30 am Richard Gabbey - From the Gabbey Family

11:00 am Our Parishioners

FINANCE

WEEKEND OF 3/14/2021

SUNDAY COLLECTION

Total.....\$7,596.00

WESHARE

3/6-3/12.....\$1,834.00

FISCAL YEAR TO DATE

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

.....\$243,115.11

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.



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