

December 2020
170th Anniversary



APRIL 11, 2021
SECOND SUNDAY IN EASTER

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)

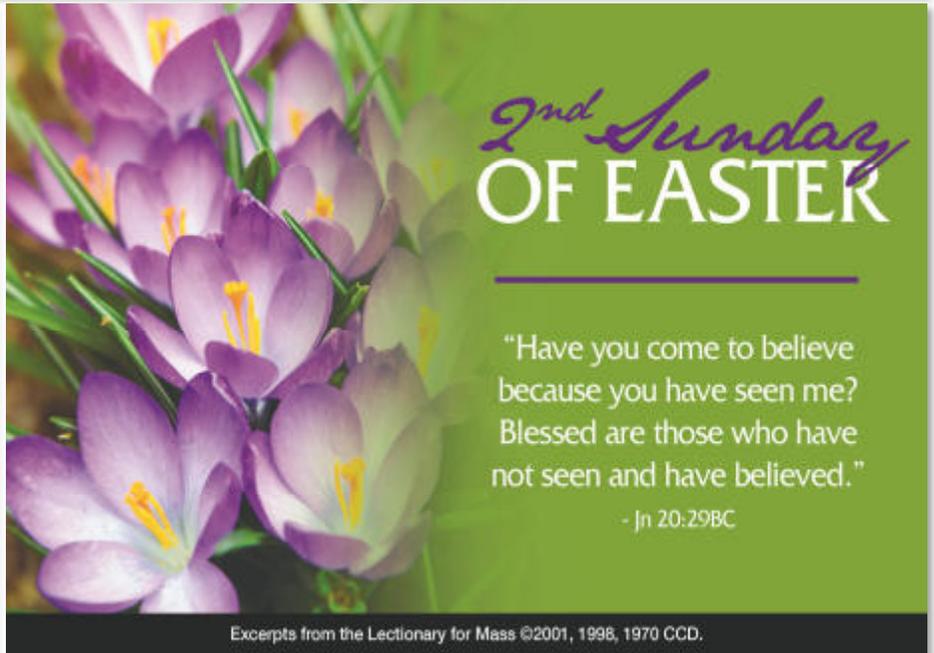
Reconciliation: Every Saturday at 3 pm

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

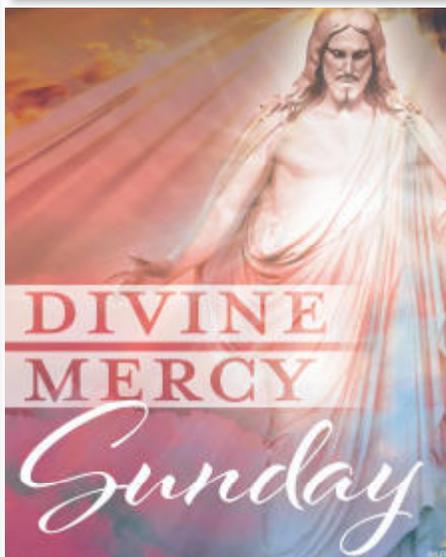
Marriage: Arrangements should be made at least 9 months ahead. A Marriage Preparation Program is required.

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.



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



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



Wow, what a Holy Week we had in this parish! I hope you had a wonderful Easter and that the work you did in Lent really helped your Easter celebration be joyful and meaningful. After 40 days of preparing for Easter, we now will spend 50 days celebrating it. Part of our celebration will include many first Communion at various masses throughout the Easter season. And at the end of those 50 days, is the celebration of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. The week after that is Trinity Sunday on which we will celebrate the confirmation of 24 of our young people. The week after that is the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi). Our parish and Liturgical calendar is packed with the glory of God and our celebration of Christ's victory over death.

In the Easter season, the first reading is not from the Old Testament but is from the Acts of the Apostles. This book of the Bible was written by St. Luke as a compendium to his Gospel to detail what happened AFTER the Resurrection. So each week as the Gospel reflects what happened between Resurrection and Pentecost and Christ's Ascension, we will be seeing the young Church grow exponentially with the accounts in Acts. This week's passage (Acts 4:32-35) acclaims: "The community of believers was of one heart and mind..." When I read this passage just now, it struck me that this phrase perfectly described Holy Week here at St. John's. Palm Sunday started the week powerfully with the best celebration I can remember being a part of. Perhaps the fact that we did not have an in person Holy Week last year and the difficult year we have put in helped us be in the right spirit to celebrate. But it was a great start! Then there was a Penance Service Monday, a beautiful vespers on Wednesday which set the stage for the Triduum. And how meaningful and faith-filled were those services. The decorating of the Church on Saturday morning was a marvel to see as the church was transformed by a labor of love into a beautiful place to adorn the Easter celebration. The basket blessing was wonderful and the Easter Egg hunt spectacular. The celebration of Easter was glorious. When I read this passage from Acts, I realized that it is what made the week so wonderful here – we were of "one mind and heart." I cannot even begin to express my gratitude and pride to have been a part of such a magnificent enterprise. Thank you to all who participated in any way.

The Resurrection of Jesus itself, that actual moment that God restored Christ to life, was not witnessed by any human being. For the early followers of Jesus, they experienced two things: the empty tomb and several post resurrection appearances. Thomas epitomizes the doubt and uncertainty and comes to the realization that Jesus is alive. His simple affirmation was: "My Lord and my God." I say the same after our beautiful celebration of the Paschal Mystery. Let us continue "to be of one mind and heart."

The Second Reading and Gospel Acclamation By: Dan Stachelski, III

Over the centuries and between the rites of different Churches, the number of readings in a liturgy has changed. The Revised Roman Lectionary now has three: an Old Testament reading, a second reading from Acts, one of the epistles, or the Book of Revelation, and a Gospel reading. They are organized in a three-year cycle. We are currently in cycle B.

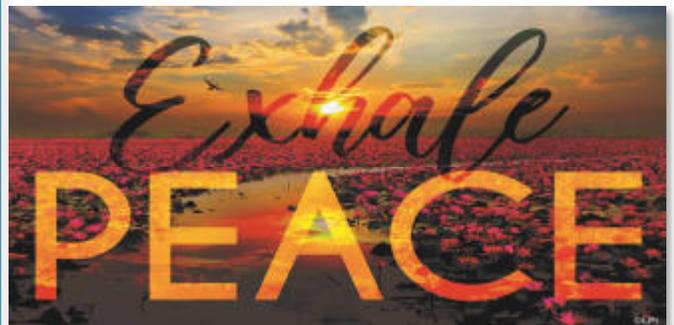
The Second Reading may be selected in coordination with the Gospel on a feast day, but is more frequently a reading in a sequence (*lectio continua*), beginning each day where the text ended on the previous Sunday. Although there is seldom a link between this reading and the others, it reflects on the mystery of Christ, his saving work, and the meaning it has for our lives. Most often, there is a practical application for our lives in this reading.

The Gospel Procession. Before we reach the climax of the Liturgy of the Word (the Gospel Reading), we stand in reverence and respect for the Lord Jesus who is about to speak to us in the Gospel and acclaim "Alleluia!", a Hebrew expression of joy meaning, "Praise Yahweh [Praise the Lord]!" During these shouts of joy there is a procession when the priest or deacon carries the Book of Gospels from the altar to the ambo (occasionally followed by incense and lighted candles). Finally, after another greeting dialogue (*The Lord be with you . . .*), we make a three-fold sign of the cross on our foreheads, lips, and over our hearts to consecrate our thoughts, words, and actions to the Lord by asking that his Word be on our minds, our lips, and in our hearts. All of this ceremony -- standing, acclamation, procession, incense, candles, and sign of the cross -- shouts out to us that we are about to approach a special sacred moment in the liturgy.

Reflection. (1) What practical application (actions) does today's Second Reading ask of us? (2) How does the Gospel acclamation/procession prepare us for hearing the Gospel? (3) Why is it an important moment in the Mass?

FOR THE WEEK OF SUNDAY, APRIL 11

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



READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY: Acts 3:13-15, 17-19/Psalm 4:2, 4, 7-8, 9 [7a]/1 John 2:1-5a/Luke 24:35-4

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

Sunday of Divine Mercy: Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe."

Thomas answered and said to him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed." John. 20:27-29 Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

Prayer starter: Lord Jesus, let me see you with the eyes of faith and know that you live. I am nothing without you. "My Lord and my God!"

Additional flowers that are decorating our altar and worship space this Easter Season were donated in loving memory of:

*George & Estelle Lavocat
Members of the Edmund Lesinski Family
Kaitlyn Rose Miller
Charles & Edith Monkelbaan
Viola Niewczyk
Elaine Schilling*



TODAY, APRIL 11, is Divine Mercy Sunday. Join us for the Rosary at 1:30 pm, followed by Adoration, prayers, meditations, and the Chaplet at 2:00 pm.

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 meeting Wednesday, April 14th at 6:30 pm in the cafeteria.
- ◆ **ALTAR SERVERS:** The diocese of Buffalo has updated the guidelines to allow for a limited number of altar servers to serve at Masses. This means that we will reinstate the Altar Server Ministry on a volunteer basis to those who have already received the training. If your child is interested in serving again, please fill out the permission slip in the priest's sacristy and sign up for a Mass on the sign-up sheet.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES: In the Christian faith, Jesus is the epitome of HOPE for All Seasons. His death and Resurrection showed us that after a definitive amount of time, ultimate good can be dispersed to all. Today, we rejoice in our Lord and Savior's glory! We also want to thank you for following the example of Appeal Patron St. Ignatius Loyola who called us to respond in faith, and to find God in all things. We thank you for being attuned to God's presence in everyday circumstances as he taught us, and responding in faith with a gift to the Appeal. With your help, we give HOPE for All Seasons.

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 Monaco, Rose Pych, Joanne Mueller, Marcia Kegl, Ken Warren, Kathrin Boling, Mitchell, Chuck Jackson, Gail Hans, Marie Boller, Diane Zymowski, Sharon Pfeiffer, Steve Kotowski, Sr. Ellen, Dawn LaPage, Amy Bonamici, Robert Kalczyński, Roger Morphew, Fred & Helen Polyowicz and All Special Intentions.

FUNDRAISING

- ◆ **The Spring Sweepstakes Tickets are here!** If you would like a ticket mailed to you, please contact the rectory at 716-937-6959. Tickets can also be found in the entry way of the rectory or at either entry of the church.
- ◆ **Cookbooks:** A new shipment of cookbooks has arrived! If interested, please contact the rectory at 716-937-6959 ext 0 and we will happily help!



PARISH NEWS

- ◆ **PARISH CALENDER 2021-2022:** Attention all ministries, the time has come to start planning meeting dates for the upcoming year. We are asking for dates, times, and locations so that we can best accommodate everyone and fix any discrepancies. Please send all information in by May 12th, 2021 via email st.johnsaldenparish@gmail.com or drop it off to Stephanie in the rectory.
- ◆ **THANK YOU:** To all those who helped make our church ready for the various events during this past Easter Season, we thank you for your time and effort. As always, we had a very good response from many volunteers who made this faith-filled endeavor happen with relative ease.-Carl Matthies & Gretchen Smith

Paschal Candle

The Paschal candle represents **Jesus Christ, the Light of the World.**

Made of **pure beeswax**, it represents the **sinless Christ** who incarnated in the womb of His Mother.

The priest inscribes in the candle a **Cross**, the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, **(1) Alpha** and **(2) Omega** 'the beginning and the end') and the current year.

Five grains of incense inserted into it in the form of a cross, recalling the **aromatic spices** used to anoint Our Lord's Body, and the **five wounds** in His hands, feet, and side.

Catholic Fortress

FAITH FORMATION:

Happy Easter! Yes, Easter is a season not just a day and is a great reason to celebrate the joy of the Risen Christ until Pentecost on May 23rd.

Here are some important dates for Faith Formation:

April 12 7:00 pm (church) **An evening of Reflection for Confirmation candidates and sponsors.**

April 21 6:00 pm (church) **First Eucharist rehearsal**

April 25 at 11:00 am (cafeteria) **Sunday Confirmation class**

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

Masses for First Eucharist are as follows: April 24 at 4:00 pm, April 25 at 11:00 am, May 1 at 4:00 pm, May 2 8:00 am, 9:30 am, 11:00 am and May 8 at 4:00 pm.

May 15 & 16 (rectory) **registration for next year and book drop off after all Masses**

May 26 at 6:30 pm (church) **Confirmation rehearsal**

May 30 at 3:00 pm and 7:00 pm (church) **Confirmation**

SCHOOL NEWS

Dear St. John Parish,

School resumes in full session tomorrow and we are excited to welcome back our students for the last part of the school year. It seems that as soon as we return from Easter break there is a whirlwind of activities and the end of the year is here before we know it. I encourage you to friend us on Facebook and check out the school website, so that you can see all of the great end of the year activities and celebrations that are happening at the school.

Many Blessings,
Jonna M. Johnson, Principal

Our annual Mother's Day Plant sale will run from April 7th until April 26th. Order forms can be found in this bulletin and in the rectory office. Plants will be available for pick up May 1st and 2nd. The school is also hosting a basket raffle May 1st and 2nd in the school gym!

We are still holding open registration for the 2021-2022 school year. We have a few classes that are full, but lots of openings in our 5th - 8th grade classes. Give the office a call to schedule a personal tour and find out how St. John the Baptist school can be the right fit for your child!

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, April 10

4:00 pm Patrick Comerford - His Wife

Sunday, Sunday, April 11 (2nd Sunday in Easter - Divine Mercy)

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

9:30 am Deacon Al Fox - Special Intentions of the Fox Family

11:00 am Charlene Geraci - Phil & JoAnn Geraci

Monday, April 12

8:30 am All Souls

Tuesday, April 13

8:30 am Gretl Karlnowski - Arnold & Catherine Soeder

Wednesday, April 14

8:30 am Leonard Zymowski - Wife & Daughter Diane

Thursday, April 15

8:30 am Robert Aguilar - John Kelher

Friday, April 16

8:30 am Our Parishioners

Saturday, April 17

4:00pm Deceased Members of the Satola Family - Mary Refermat

Sunday, April 18(3rd Sunday in Easter)

8:00 am Diana Schlicht - Pat & Ed Heslin

9:30 am Msgr. David Slubecky - Family & Estate

11:00 am Walter & Loretta Diedrich - Estate

FINANCE

WEEKEND OF 3/28/2021

SUNDAY COLLECTION

Total.....\$7,547.00

WESHARE

3/20-3/26.....\$1,262.00

HOLY LAND/GOOD FRIDAY

Total.....\$163 .00

WEEKEND OF 4/4/2021

SUNDAY COLLECTION

Total.....\$3,423.00

EASTER

Total.....\$7,111.00

FISCAL YEAR TO DATE

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

.....\$270,454.12

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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