

December 2020
170th Anniversary



APRIL 11, 2021
THIRD 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.



3rd SUNDAY OF EASTER



Worship Aid

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



The Holy Week and Easter readings both at Liturgy as well as in the Office of Hours are striking in the way the Old Testament points to the New Testament events in so many ways, big and small. As we read the Old Testament, we are often aware that what we are reading was fulfilled in Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. And also, as Jesus quotes scripture, he is quoting the Old Testament which means he viewed it as the word of God that he had come to fulfill. Jesus did not cancel the Old Testament, he fulfilled it. Here are two paragraphs from the Catholic Catechism of the Catholic Church that explain this concept.

The Church, as early as apostolic times, (Cf. 1 Cor 10:6,11; Heb 10:1; 1 Pet 3:21) and then constantly in her Tradition, has illuminated the unity of the divine plan in the two Testaments through typology, which discerns in God's works of the Old Covenant prefigurations of what he accomplished in the fullness of time in the person of his incarnate Son. (Paragraph 128). Christians therefore read the Old Testament in the light of Christ crucified and risen. Such typological reading discloses the inexhaustible content of the Old Testament; but it must not make us forget that the Old Testament retains its own intrinsic value as Revelation reaffirmed by our Lord himself. (Cf. Mk 12:29-31). Besides, the New Testament has to be read in the light of the Old. Early Christian catechesis made constant use of the Old Testament. (Cf. 1 Cor 5:6-8; 10:1-11). As an old saying put it, the New Testament lies hidden in the Old and the Old Testament is unveiled in the New. (Cf. St. Augustine...)

This means that the bottom line is a focus on the Bible as a whole is vital. The Gospels, for us Christians, are the most important part of the whole Bible because they focus on the life of Christ. But our understanding of the Gospels is enhanced when we understand how all the books of the Bible work together to present the important information God wants us to have. Jenny Golinski and I are planning a Bible study soon to present the basic information about the Bible.

The Gospel today (Luke 24:35-28) occurs late on the first day of the week after Jesus' tomb is discovered empty. Everyone is comparing their experience of the empty tomb and encounters with the risen Lord when Jesus shows up in their midst. As with the two disciples on the road to Emmaus (the story of which is in the passages just prior to today's reading), Jesus "opened their minds to understand the Scriptures." "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the law of Moses and in the prophets and psalms must be fulfilled." The coming of Christ was not unexpected and was all that God promised it would be. That is what the disciples came to know then and their word gives us assurance today. Jesus is Risen. Our sins are forgiven. Alleluia.

The Gospel and The Homily

By: **Dan Stachelski, III**

The gospel reading is the climax of the Liturgy of the Word and serves as the linchpin. Since Scripture is inspired by God, the gospels consist of God's own words about Christ's life. The Church teaches that "when sacred scriptures are read in the Church, God himself speaks to his people, and Christ, present in his own word, proclaims the Gospel" (*General Instruction of the Roman Missal [GIRM], #29*). The proclamation of the Gospel makes Jesus's life present to us in a profound way. We are not simply listening to stories and memories about Jesus in the past. We are not hearing about what Jesus did a long time ago or listening to news reports about Jesus or famous religious figures from the first century. We are actually encountering Christ through his Word. Christ speaks to each of us personally through the divinely inspired words in the Gospel.

From the earliest days of Christian liturgy, the Word of God was never just read on its own. It was accompanied by a homily which provided an explanation of the scripture that was just proclaimed and drew out an application for people's lives. The homily is a ministry of the ordained and can only be given by an ordained priest or deacon because they have been given the Spirit of Christ at their ordination and are expected to speak with authority on the scriptures. (Remember the meaning of : "*And with your spirit ...*"?) Laypersons do not have this authority at Mass. As Catholics, we believe in Apostolic Succession and can show that there is a lineage of succession from the original 12 apostles to all current ordained bishops, priests, and deacons.

This is not to say that laypersons cannot speak about the scriptures - we definitely can, but just not in the form of a homily at Mass. Since the Mass is the source and summit of Catholic life, this speaking on the scriptures is reserved to those ordained that have received the training required to speak with authority. The homily "is necessary for the nurturing of the Christian Life" (GIRM, # 65), it is a requirement for all Sundays and holy days, may not be substituted by anything else, and may not be omitted without a serious reason.

Reflection. (1) Knowing that scripture readings are personal encounters with God and with Jesus, we can learn to listen to them speak to us. For instance, when Jesus surprises his disciples in today's gospel reading, we can hear Jesus speak directly to us: "Peace be with you." What is the Word saying to you today? (2) Have you ever witnessed a memorable homily in your past? Was it a positive or negative experience?

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

The Appearance on the Road to Emmaus: Then the two recounted what had taken place on the way and how he was made known to them in the breaking of bread. Luke 24:35 .”
 John. 20:27-29 Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.
Prayer starter: Lord Jesus, just as you revealed your presence to these two disciples in Emmaus, so you reveal yourself to me whenever Eucharist is celebrated.

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY: Acts 4:8-12/Psalm 118:1, 8-9, 21-23, 26, 28, 29 [22]/1 John 3:1-2/John 10:11-18

FOR THE WEEK OF SUNDAY, APRIL 18

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

MINISTRY NEWS

- ◆ **EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION:** If you are an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, and haven't been on the Minister's schedule and wish to return please call Pat Heslin. And for anyone thinking of becoming an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion we are in the process of planning a new training class. There will be more information to follow when the time and date are in place.
- ◆ **HOLY NAME 50/50 RAFFLE:** The winner of the March drawing was Mary Refermat with ticket #118 and a total winnings of \$82.00. The winner of the April Drawing was Joe Gallina with ticket #56 and a total winnings of \$73.00. Thank you to all who contribute!

Week	Winner	Ticket	Seller
January 3rd	Jim & Renee Turton	118	Turton
January 10th	Mike Fontaine	173	LaVarn-way
January 17th	Mark Golding	178	Conrad
January 24th	Jean LeBlanc	29	Fuller
January 31st	Sue & Irene Szymanski	88	Turton

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.
- ◆ **HOLY WEEK:** We wanted to take a moment to thank all of you who stepped up over the course of the past few weeks to help make Holy Week truly special. **Thank you to:** Fr. James Walter, Fr. Richard DiGiulio, Deacon Peter Donnelly, Deacon Marc & Del Leaderstorf, Daniel Stachelski, Tracy Martin, Kathy & Chuck Sutter, Carl Matthies, Gretchen & Nick Smith, Pat Heslin, Dorothy Schmitt, Rose Mary Hopcia, Helen Schmitt, Debbie Pirog, Bridget Pavelczak, Phyliss Wojanowski, Kathy Duncan, Tom Ess, Marie Schmitt Sehr, Larry Kocher, & Mary Refermat, Pam Turton, Margaret Tremblay, Theresa & Missy Colisanti, & Judy Bowman, for all of your help. A special thanks goes out to all of those involved in our ministries: Worship Committee, Music Ministry, Ushers, Lectors, Altar Servers, Lay Ministers, Works of Mercy, we could not have done Holy Week without you. -Debbie & Staff.

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, Roger Morpew, Fred & Helen Polyowicz, Sharon Fisher 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!
- ◆ Some of what has been raised so far:
 - Babcia's Nov 14th:** \$985.00
 - Cookbooks:** \$1,670.38
 - Anniversary Ornaments:** \$570.00
 - Bake Sale Nov 14th:** \$389.00



Thank you to all who have contributed from our parish and our community!

- ◆ **St. John's is hosting a Theme Basket Raffle** on Saturday and Sunday, May 1st and 2nd! We are currently looking for themed baskets or gift certificates valued at \$25 or more. We will gladly be accepting monetary donations, or items to go into a basket if you'd like to contribute but want our team to assemble a basket for you. If you can, please consider helping with this huge endeavor! Our goal is 150 baskets in addition to our large ticket item raffles! Please contact Jeffrey Zaleski via Facebook messenger or text/call Michelle at (716)870-1035 with questions, or to arrange pick up / delivery.

FAITH FORMATION:

Happy Easter!

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,

On March 27th our Catholic Second Graders participated in their First Reconciliation. I want to thank Mrs. Sierra Gray and Mrs. Jenny Golinski for preparing our students. It was wonderful to see how confident the children were as they went for their very first confession. Traditionally this is a sacrament that students are nervous to participate in and we sometimes see a few tears. I think that the combined efforts of the Faith Formation Department and the school, along with a great new sacramental preparatory series, made a tremendous difference

Congratulations to Dominica, Victoria, Landon, Frances, Rudolph and Brooklyn!

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 17

4:00 pm 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

Monday, April 19

8:30 am Irene Richter - Richter Family

Tuesday, April 20

8:30 am Gordon & Eileen Weisbeck - Nancy Weisbeck

Wednesday, April 21

8:30 am Diana Schlicht - Michael & Margaret Tremblay

Thursday, April 22

8:30 am Jane Morrissey - Frank & Judy Downhower

Friday, April 23

8:30 am John Hotchkin - Nancy Weisbeck

Saturday, April 24

4:00pm Helen & Bud Pierce - Daughter, Mary

Sunday, April 25(4th Sunday in Easter)

8:00 am Bernard & Rise Bondanza - Tom & Diana Schlicht

9:30 am Our Parishioners

11:00 am Gretl Karlnowski - Family

FINANCE

WEEKEND OF 4/11/2021

SUNDAY COLLECTION

Total.....\$5,806.00

WESHARE

4/3-4/9.....\$1,412.00

FISCAL YEAR TO DATE

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

.....\$277,672.12



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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