

December 2020  
170th Anniversary



MAY 2, 2021  
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

# ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

2021 SANDRIDGE ROAD • ALDEN,  
NEW YORK 14004

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

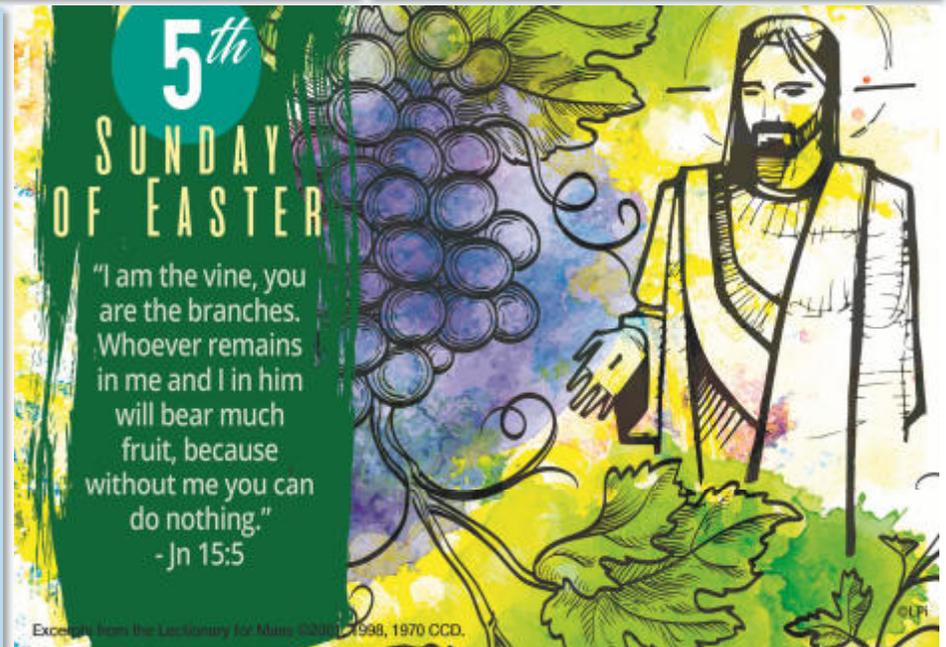
**Reconciliation:** Every Saturday at 3 pm

**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](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.



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](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



Last week we focused on the idea of a Shepherd and a flock to understand God's great love for us through his Son Jesus, the Good Shepherd. This week we go from pastures to vineyards. Today Jesus says: "I am the true vine and my father is the vine-grower." I find it a wonderfully rich simile as I am a gardener myself and so I understand the nuances so much better than I do a shepherd and sheep.

The first reading (Acts 9:26-31) affirms the success of the growing Christian mission on two levels: first regarding the conversion and acceptance of Paul as well as in the communities who were embracing Christianity. Paul had been, as you know, a persecutor of Christians. He was on his way to Damascus to do just that when he encountered the risen Lord. The Jews had a hard time accepting Paul's conversion because they had seen his animosity toward Christians. It is recorded earlier in the Acts of the Apostles that Paul held the cloaks of those who stoned St. Stephen, the first martyr. Along the way, however, Paul recognized that his call was to the gentiles (that is everyone who wasn't a Jew). He was enormously successful and every bit a major contributor to Christianity. The vast majority of the New Testament letters were written by him or by those who were with him and give us rich insight to how things were in the beginning.

The second reading is from the first letter of John (1 John 3:18-24). There are three letters from John which were related to his Gospel (the Gospel of John). These letters, like Paul's letters, helped the local growing churches to understand things better. Today we hear John say: "And his [Jesus] commandment is this: we should believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another just as he commanded us. Those who keep his commandments remain in him, and he in them, and the way we know that he remains in us is from the Spirit he gave us."

The word **remains** jumps out of this quote because that word appears in the Gospel (John 15:1-8) several times as well. Verse four says: "Remain in me, as I remain in you. Just as a branch cannot bear fruit on its own unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in me." If you take a branch of tomatoes or a vine with cucumbers away from the main plant, there is no chance of survival or of getting any more fruit than what is already there. The severed branches die because they no longer have life sustaining nutrition. This is such a powerful imagery. So how do we remain in Christ? We stay connected to the Eucharist primarily but also to the community of believers that is the plant. We have to live for and with each other in order to bear fruit and remain connected. What do you need to do to keep your connection to Christ and his church strong and nourishing?

### A Word from Today's Scriptures

[Jesus said] "Remain in me, as I remain in you. Just as a branch cannot bear fruit on its own unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit". John 15:4-5  
Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

*Prayer starter: Lord Jesus, you are the source of life and love. Help me remain connected to you. My heart's desire is to be fruitful for you*

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY: Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4 [cf. 2b]/1 Jn 4:7-10/Jn 15:9-17

### FOR THE WEEK OF SUNDAY, MAY 2

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

### ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER

To foster deep devotion to Saint Joseph among Catholics, and in response to the "May Day" celebration for workers sponsored by Communists, Pope Pius XII instituted the feast of Saint Joseph the Worker in 1955. Scripturally based, the Book of Genesis celebrates the dignity of human work with participation in the creative work of God (Gn 2:15), and to be protective in their labors. St. Joseph, the carpenter and foster father of Jesus, is but one example of the holiness of human labor. Jesus too, was a carpenter. He learned the trade from St. Joseph and spent His early adult years working side-by-side in His father's carpentry shop. In his encyclical *Laborem Exercens*, St. John Paul II stated: "the Church considers it her task always to call attention to the dignity and rights of those who work, to condemn situations in which that dignity and those rights are violated, and to help guide (social) changes so as to ensure authentic progress by man and society." Pope Pius XII emphasized this when he said, "The spirit flows to [humanity] from the heart of [Jesus, but] no worker was ever more completely and profoundly penetrated by it than the foster father of Jesus, who had lived with Him in closest intimacy and community of family life and work."

### The Gloria By: Dan Stachelski, III

Before we head into the Liturgy of the Eucharist, there is one more element from the Introductory Rites that needs to be addressed -- the *Gloria*. After we acknowledge our wrongdoings in the Penitential Act and Kyrie, we give praise, glory, and thanksgiving for God's grace in the Gloria.

The opening words from Luke 2:14: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of goodwill" was first sung by the angelic choir who greeted the newborn Jesus at his birth. In a very similar way, we welcome the trinity in our midst as we sing this on Sundays (outside of Advent and Lent), Feasts, and Solemnities.

The *Gloria* assembles all of our voices as one. It echoes Luke 2, John 1, Revelation 15, and Psalm 83. Interwoven in its text is the Old and New Testament, the prophet and the priest, the angel, the human being, the uncreated and the created. It is an ancient act of adoration with a very unique feature because it accumulates all of the titles of Jesus: Begotten Son, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, the Holy One, the Lord, the Most High. Just as the saying goes that a person's name is music to their ears, we have the opportunity to literally sing the names of Jesus who loves us beyond our comprehension.

In this song of praise, it becomes clear that the whole history of God's grace focuses on Christ. Hebrew form of prayer begins by worshipping God and then giving thanks; the *Gloria* follows this model and has a trinitarian outline. First we praise God the Father, then we praise His Son, and then the Holy Spirit.

Why do we give thanks and praise? *For Your great glory*. Where is this glory found? In the only Son of the Father, Jesus Christ, who is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, who has mercy on us, who is seated at the right hand of the Father, who is holy, the only Lord, the most high Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in the glory of God the Father.

**Reflection.** Meditate upon the words and phrases in the *Gloria*.

## MINISTRY NEWS

- ◆ **ATTENTION EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION:** Just a reminder, when you are serving, please sit in the general congregation rather than in the front of the Sacred Heart altar. Thank you.
- ◆ **ALTAR SERVERS:** The diocese of Buffalo has updated their guidelines to allow for a limited number of altar servers to serve at Masses. This means that the Altar Server Ministry has been restarted on a volunteer basis to those who have already received the training. If your child was on the roster as an altar server, you should have received an email last week on how to sign up for Masses. If you have not, please contact the rectory. If you are an altar server and see that your help may be needed at a Mass, please see the deacon or priest. Your help is greatly appreciated.
- ◆ **LECTORS NEEDED:** Would you like to proclaim the word of the Lord to members of the parish? If so please contact Judy Bowman at 523-9287 or call the rectory. Training will be provided.
- ◆ **FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION:** Friday, May 7th, beginning after the 8:30 AM Mass and closing with Benediction at 7 PM. A sign up for times to Adore, Worship and Love Jesus in an intimate way to help you in your needs is available in the side entrance. He is Waiting For You! Submitted by Delphine

## 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 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021 via email [st.johnsaldenparish@gmail.com](mailto:st.johnsaldenparish@gmail.com) or drop it off to Stephanie in the rectory.
- ◆ **MASS INTENTIONS AND SANCTUARY LIGHT:** We still have availability in the 2021 Mass Intention book for whoever may want prayers for a friend or loved one. The 2022 Mass Intention book is now available as well.
- ◆ **BULLETIN INSERTS:** Just a reminder that bulletin inserts are due on the Friday prior to bulletin publication. If we can include it on bulletin (one sided flyers only), we will to save paper. Thank you!

## THE FUTURE OF CAMP TURNER:

For nearly a century Camp Turner, nestled in Allegany State Park, has been an invaluable resource for youth in our diocese: summer camp experience for boys and girls, overnight lodging for confirmation retreats and parish catechetical teams, to name but a few. Unfortunately, due to the significant financial challenges of the diocese, Camp Turner's future was in jeopardy. However, following Father Baker's example of service to the youth, OLV Charities will serve as the new sponsoring organization, providing stability. But Camp Turner still needs your help to secure a strong future! We invite you to partner with Friends of Camp Turner to give youth, especially those unable to afford camp, the experience of God's creation and gracious love through this treasure. Please send any donations to **Camp Turner Fund c/o OLV Charities, 780 Ridge Road Lackawanna, NY 14218.** Thank you to all who will contribute.

**Please pray for all who are in need:** Ann G, Mackenzie Refemat, Theresa

Kwiatkowski, Joe & Susan 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, Bill Chapman, Jim Nowinski, Ed Monoco, Joanne Mueller, Marcia Keglar, Ken Warren, Kathrin Boling, Mitchell, Gail Hans, Marie Boller, Diane Zymowski, Sharon Pfeiffer, Steve Kotlowski, Sr. Ellen, Dawn LaPage, Amy Bonamici, Robert Kalczynski, Roger Morphew, Fred & Helen Polyowicz, Sharon Fisher, Donna

## 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!
- ◆ **St. John's is hosting a Theme Basket Raffle** on Friday April 30th from 3-7 pm, Saturday May 1st from 1-5 pm and Sunday May 2nd from 11-3 pm. We have over 100 baskets to browse, a large item raffle, and a 50/50/25 raffle. Due to COVID restrictions, the number of people allowed in at a time is limited, so please call or text Michelle at (716) 870-1035 for Basket Raffle shopping reservations. Thank you to all who have contributed to the raffle!



**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE CHILDREN  
MAKING THEIR FIRST EUCHARIST THIS WEEKEND:**

5/1 - 4:00 <i>Gabriella Gross Cora Herrmann Thomas Malecki Landyn Przykuta Ava Przykuta</i>	5/2 - 9:30 <i>Bailey Bea Lydia Lipiarz Mason Stone Caroline Marchewka Cooper Urso</i>
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5/2 - 8:00 <i>Denayah Duermyer Corona Fodero Zoey Johnson Kathryn McCarthy</i>	5/2 - 11:00 <i>Addison Lambert Mason Mays Sophia Mazzariello Olivia Puccio Ava Schmit</i>
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## FAITH FORMATION:

Happy Easter! ( yep, still Easter 😊 )

We are wrapping up the end of the year with lots of sacramental celebrations! We had first communions last weekend, this weekend and next weekend and Confirmation is coming up at the end of the month.

**Families of Faith** should have completed their book chapters online. If you aren't sure if you've finished, you can go to [assessments.findinggod.com/StudentUser](https://assessments.findinggod.com/StudentUser) to look at your account.

### Registration for 2021-2022

Information about all of next year's programs will be emailed soon. Watch your email.

Finding God books and registrations will be collected the weekend of May 15 and 16 after all Masses in the rectory.

### Confirmation

Rehearsal with reconciliation will be at 6:30 May 26 in the church for candidates and sponsors (if your sponsor isn't available please have a parent come stand in their place so they can be told what they need to know.)

**Confirmation is May 30**

## SCHOOL NEWS

Dear St. John Parish,

Every May our school begins a focus on Mary and the rosary. This year I have enlisted the help of an 8th Grader and together we came up with a plan to create a large rosary in the gym. Each student will color in a circle to represent a bead in the rosary. We will put the beads in groups of 10 and hang them on the walls in the gym. Classes will be able to walk around the gym and say a full rosary!

On Friday, May 7th each class will visit the statue of Mary on the side of the church. Mary will receive her crown and a flower from each child. The classes will say a decade of Hail Mary's before participating in First Friday Adoration.

Many Blessings,  
Jonna M. Johnson, Principal

Thank you to everyone who helped to make our Baskets and Blooms event a success. We appreciate your continued support of the school and our children! 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](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, May 1**

4:00 pm Special Intentions - Mary Refermat

**Sunday, May 2( 5th Sunday of Easter )**

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

9:30 am All Souls

11:00 am Our Parishioners

**Monday, May 3**

8:30 am Msgr. Chester Frysiak - Family & Friends

**Tuesday, May 4**

8:30 am Raymond & Loretta Roll, Jr. - Estate

**Wednesday, May 5**

8:30 am Glenn Kocher - Family

**Thursday, May 6**

8:30 am Raymond & Theresa Roll, Sr. - Estate

**Friday, May 7**

8:30 am Edward & Agnes Burzynski - Family

**Saturday, May 8**

4:00pm Living & Deceased Members of the Refermat Family

**Sunday, May 9( 6th Sunday of Easter )**

8:00 am Camille Krupka - Husband

9:30 am David Jones - Gabriel & Joan Ciulla

11:00 am Gretl Karnoski - Family

**FINANCE**

**WEEKEND OF 4/25/2021**

**SUNDAY COLLECTION**

Total.....\$4,999.00

**WESHARE**

4/17-4/23.....\$1,487.00

**FISCAL YEAR TO DATE**

(9/1/2020-8/31/2021).....  
.....\$292,967.62

**CATHOLIC HOME MISSIONS**

**APPEAL**

Total.....\$512.00

**MASS AND LITURGICAL GUIDELINES DURING COVID:** 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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