

December 2020
170th Anniversary



MAY 9, 2021
SIXTH 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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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)

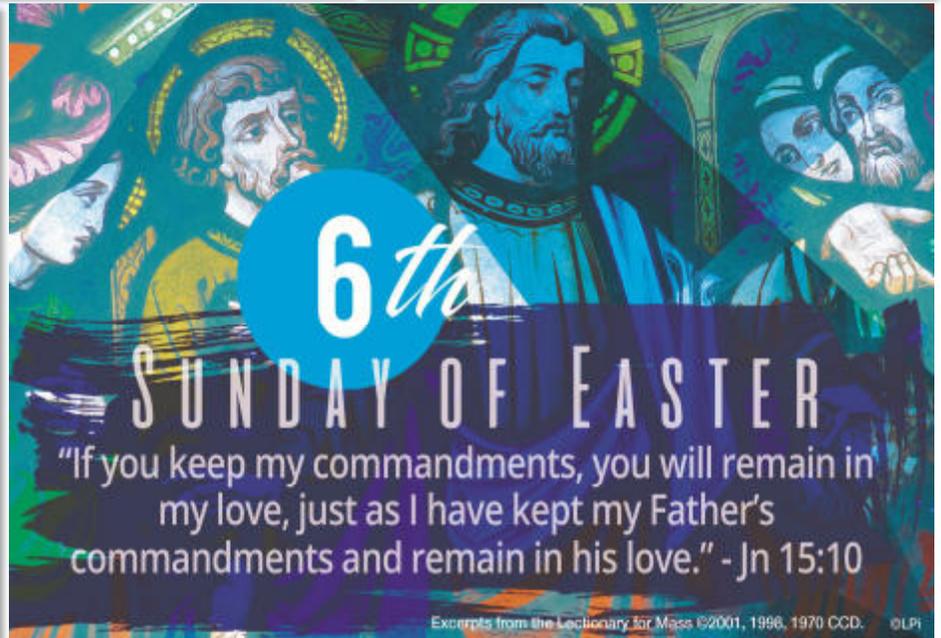
Reconciliation: Every Saturday at 3 pm

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, 1996, 1970 CCD. ©LPI



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



Our readings this week focus on the love of God and its availability to anyone and everyone. As we continue to celebrate Easter and see the glory of the Resurrection enlighten the world, we might be caught up in the success story and start thinking about how special we are. And once human beings begin to reflect on their specialness, as it were, there is a risk that they will start to feel privileged and exclusive. Our readings today remind us that that is not what Jesus envisioned for his followers.

As you know, the Acts of the Apostles deals with the early church as it is forming. It is inspiring to hear these stories of how active the Holy Spirit was in those early days and how alive the early Christian community was! It also makes us yearn for that kind of depth experience today. I think the story today in taken from the 10th chapter offers us an opportunity in 2021 to "act" like the disciples did in approximately the year 35 or so. The disciples began to realize that even though Jesus was a Jew and the word of God came first to the Jews, Jesus and the Word were not exclusive of those who were "circumcised" that is, those who were Jews. The Holy Spirit is inclusive, working to unite us together and bring those of different backgrounds and ethnicity into the light of the Gospel. How timely is this reading today? Pope Francis, early in his papacy said: "Who am I to judge?" Pope Francis is calling all of us to be more inclusive in spreading the Gospel. Every day the news on local, national and international fronts remind us how hard this is to do. Peter and Francis recognize that the barriers must be brought down so the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit may be truly open to all.

The second reading from the first letter of John exhorts us: "Beloved, love one another, because love is of God." Love in the ancient Mediterranean world in general and in Johannine literature in particular generally is based more on community values and insights than the one we are used to living in. In this ideal, remaining connected to the community had great value. It implied mutual obligations and it required people to stay attached to the group in spite of personal or political differences. The same love that God has for the community is the an example of how community members ought to love one another: "not that we have loved God, but that God has loved us" (4:10). God's very nature is made visible and real in this living in faithfulness within a community. And even though it may require the sacrifice of one's own needs for the greater good, this way of life ultimately leads to solidarity and communion. Jesus in today's Gospel (John 15:9-17) puts it this way: "It was not you who chose me but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit... This I command you, love one another."

A Word from Today's Scriptures

"It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you. This I command you: love one another." John. 15:16-17 Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

Prayer starter: Thank you, Lord Jesus, for having chosen me and loved me. Keep me faithful to your call. I want to lay down my life in your service

FOR THE WEEK OF SUNDAY, MAY 9

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



The Liturgy of the Eucharist: An Overview (Part I) **By: Dan Stachelski, III**

Swedish theologian, Yngve Brilioth, in his book *Eucharistic Faith and Practice* describes five themes that are expressed in the Liturgy of the Eucharist. He says that they are like five facets on a single diamond -- they are always present and one does not eclipse another.

1. Eucharistia (Thanksgiving) - Eucharistia is the Greek word for thanksgiving and it was a common term in the early Church for what the assembly did when it gathered. The Mass is the Church's sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to the Father for what Jesus accomplished in the paschal mystery. Early Christians did not gather on Thursday to commemorate the Last Supper, nor on Friday to remember the crucifixion; they gathered on Sunday to remember the Resurrection. Every Sunday is the Resurrection pouring into our lives. So special is this day that the Church Fathers called it the "eighth day." A day of new creation set apart to gather in the name of the Lord, in the Lord's house, at the Lord's table, for the Lord's supper to give thanks. When we celebrate liturgy, we are not only celebrating here on earth. We celebrate with the liturgy in heaven. Our thanksgiving here on earth mingles with the liturgy in heaven and there is one liturgy. Thanksgiving is not just a mood, it is an activity - we come to liturgy to actively "make thanksgiving", not to "feel thankful."

2. Koinonia (Fellowship) - Koinonia is a Greek word meaning "communion" and "participation." It means participation in communion. We live in *koinonia* with Christ and with one another. The purpose of Vatican II was to restore "full, conscious, and active participation." It did not try to make us busier, rather it deepened our participation in communion. Eucharistic fellowship is unique because it is holy. All of our divisions should be left at the door because there is only one reason for the fellowship we have here. The term "catholic" means that it is universal without boundaries. The eucharistic fellowship we experience here on earth is a foretaste of what is to come in heaven.

3. Memorial (Anamnesis) - This concept is based on a particular Hebrew understanding of "memory" and author Gregory Dix in *The Shape of the Liturgy* defines it as "re-presenting before God an event in the past, so that it becomes here and now." The Catechism makes this clear by stating that "the memorial is not merely the recollection of past events. [...] In the liturgy, they become present and real" (CCC, 1363). During each Eucharistic celebration, we remember the past to give us new life in the here and now.

Reflection. 1. How do we "make thanksgiving" in the Mass? 2. Does your view of liturgy change when you realize that you are celebrating it with the liturgy in heaven? 3. How does our remembrance of past events make them present and real today?

MINISTRY NEWS

- ◆ **MEMORIAL DAY MASS:** Soon we will be celebrating our Memorial Day Mass to honor the military men and women who served this great nation in the Armed Forces. At this Mass we will also remember the men and women who are currently serving. Their names appear on a list at the entrance of our church. To add the name of your loved one, simply call the rectory. We would be honored to include their name. Their names will be recited at the Memorial Day Mass. If someone is no longer serving, please let us know so we can update our list. Thank you. God Bless America.
- ◆ **CEMETERY CLEANUP:** Thank you to everyone who came out and helped clean our beautiful cemetery for the spring. With the teamwork that happened Saturday morning, so much was accomplished. Debris that littered the grounds was taken care of, flower beds have been weeded out, and the Easter flowers that have gone dormant for the year have been planted and will pop up next spring adding color to the grounds. Efforts will continue throughout the spring and summer to keep the grounds beautiful and we look forward to gathering everyone again for the fall cleanup. –The Cemetery Committee.
- ◆ **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.



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.
- ◆ **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 the bulletin (one sided flyers only), we will be able to save paper. Thank you!



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

*Brayden Brodziak
Jordan Erb
Drake Hoffman
Marissa Vink
Olivia Winling*



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.

May 1st 200 Club Dinner Winners			
Amount	Name	Ticket	Seller
\$500	Michael Bennett	96	Zaleski
\$500	Sandy Ashby	155	LaVarnway
\$250	Maury Fountain	95	LaVarnway
\$250	Linda Ludwig	145	Bowman
\$100	Grace Fuller	106	Fuller
\$100	Paul & Karen Casillo	84	Martin
\$100	Alvin & Peg Morningstar	89	M. Ley
\$50	Bob & Peg Westerling	133	M. Ley
\$50	Hannah McConnell	27	Fuller
\$50	Marie Bienick	194	Bowman
\$50	Mike Fontaine	173	LaVarnway

Please pray for all who are in need: Ann G, Mackenzie Refermat, 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 Hamm and All Special Intentions.

FAITH FORMATION:

Families of Faith

The children in Grades 1-8 should complete the Finding God books this week. If you are having any difficulties please contact the Faith Formation office.

Books will be turned in at the rectory in after all Masses May 17 and 18.

Emails go out Monday May 10th with registration information for next year. I highly encourage you to turn in your registration with your books. This will certainly help up better prepare for next year.

Confirmation rehearsal will be May 26 at 6:30.

SCHOOL NEWS

Dear St. John Parish,

Summer will be here before we know it and there are some great learning opportunities happening at the school this summer. We are thrilled to be able to offer a Summer Math Camp. The camp will run at the school from July 19th -22nd and July 26th - 29th from 9am to 12pm. The cost for this 8 day program is \$200.00 and it is a great way to help your child develop math thinking skills. To register for the camp, please contact the school office via phone or email to receive the sign up link. Spaces are limited and we are on a first come basis.

LE3 will host their daily summer camp beginning in July and running through August. You are able to sign up for as many, or as few days as you need. This is a perfect way to keep children busy in a fun and supportive environment. You can visit their website for more information. <https://www.le3-inc.org/preschool>

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. 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, May 8

4:00 pm 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

Monday, May 10

8:30 am All Souls

Tuesday, May 11

8:30 am Janice Zymowski - Richard Zymowski

Wednesday, May 12

8:30 am Arthur Nuwer - Estate

7:00 pm (Vigil) All Souls

Thursday, May 13

8:30 am Larry Kocher - Everett & Sandy Boone

Friday, May 14

8:30 am Alice Roll - Estate

Saturday, May 15

4:00pm Sylvia Sabers - Nick & Gretchen Smith

Sunday, May 16 (7th Sunday of Easter)

8:00 am Diana Schlicht - James & Sharon Kulach

9:30 am All Souls

11:00 am Msgr. David Slubecky - Family & Estate

FINANCE

WEEKEND OF 5/3/2021

SUNDAY COLLECTION

Total.....\$8,481.00

WESHARE

4/17-4/23.....\$2,027.00

FISCAL YEAR TO DATE

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

.....\$303,475.62

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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