

December 2020
170th Anniversary



MAY 16, 2021
SEVENTH 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
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

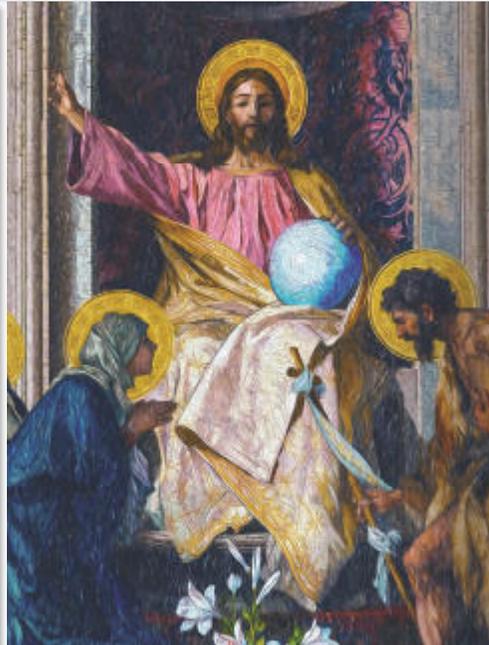
Saturday Mass - 4:00 pm
Sunday Masses - 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 am
Weekdays (Monday-Friday) - 8:30 am
Mass at 33% Capacity
Vigil Mass - As Announced in the bulletin
Holy Day - As Announced in the bulletin
Eucharistic Adoration: First Fridays (9 am - 7 pm)

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.



7TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

“I do not ask that you take them out of the world but that you keep them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world any more than I belong to the world. Consecrate them in the truth. Your word is truth.” - Jn 17:15-17

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



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 Seventh (and final) Sunday of the Easter season is upon us. Next up, Pentecost and then we return to Ordinary Time. How fast the liturgical cycle turns! It seems like it was just Easter and here we are 50 days later.

In the first reading (Acts 1:15-17,20a,20c-26) we are at the earliest point after the Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus. It is decided that the apostles must replace Judas so they can be twelve again. They determined that it needed to be someone who was with them “from the baptism by John until he was taken up from us.” They proposed two names and prayed: “You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show us which of these two you have chosen.” They cast lots and Matthias joined the eleven. I feel somewhat of an affinity to Matthias because, like him, the Bishop chose me to come to Alden 3 ½ years ago. Being an apostle was not a political appointment, it was about being a witness to Jesus and all he had taught them while he was in their midst. That too, was the role I was to fill here. I am not saint and have not done it all perfectly, but I have felt very close to Jesus and was privileged to be a servant leader to this community. It has been a wild ride for sure.

The Gospel is part of the long chapter 17 which is entirely a prayer by Jesus for his followers prior to his passion, death and resurrection. In our passage today (17:11b-19), Jesus speaks of unity and the care he showed for those that “you (God the Father) have given me.” Jesus continues: “I protected them in your name... and I guarded them, and none of them was lost.” Jesus says this was to fulfill the Scriptures. Jesus then prays for them not to be taken out of the world but “protect them from the evil one.” “Consecrate them in truth. Your word is truth.” And finally: “As you sent me into the world, so I sent them into the world.”

So, I guess I am united with Christ and this prayer as I find I am having to take a pause from my ministry here. I have cancer in my kidney that will be removed by the time you read this. The other kidney, however, may not be sufficient to sustain me so I would then have to go on dialysis. Ironically, I have a son who is a kidney transplant recipient so, I know the path I am headed on to some extent. I am consulting with the Diocese as to what the plan is in my absence, for the sake of the parish and school. No word as of this writing but I am sure the Bishop will let us know soon. I ask for your prayers as I will also be praying for you. I have come to greatly love this parish and community and you will always be a part of me. Continue to be the great parish and school I know you to be. Peace and blessings.

A Word from Today's Scriptures

The prayer of Jesus: Consecrate them in the truth. Your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, so I sent them into the world. And I consecrate myself for them, so that they also may be consecrated in truth. John 17:17-18

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

Prayer starter: Lord Jesus, just as you consecrated your disciples for their work in proclaiming your word to the world, your words apply to me too and all who follow you

FOR THE WEEK OF SUNDAY, MAY 16

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



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

Within the celebration of the Eucharist, there are five facets that are present. These are the remaining items from last week's article.

4. Thusia (Sacrifice) - Usually when we think of the word “sacrifice,” we think of something negative. We lose something or give up something; the sacrifice is of something, not necessarily to anyone - it can bring up feelings of loss, sadness, and misfortune. We tend to keep our sacrifices small, but do it anyway because we compare the value with the cost. Ancient Greeks and Romans did not see sacrifice in this way. They didn't see sacrifice as a loss, but rather as an act of thanksgiving. They gave thanks to the gods for blessings received - it was always a joyous occasion - the bigger the sacrifice, the larger the festivities!

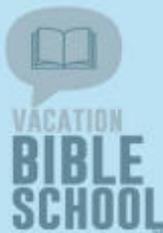
Christ's sacrifice was once-and-for-all and unrepeatable. The single sacrifice once offered in a bloody manner on the cross is offered daily in an unbloody manner on the altar. The sacrifice which Christ made on Calvary did something - it had effects which reconciled us with God the Father. The Church does not teach that Christ is offered over and over again in the Mass, rather His sacrifice is made real and present through the Mass.

5. Mysterion (Participation in the Mystery) - In baptism we are not only made Christ's (possessive), we are made Christs (plural). It has been repeated and summarized over the centuries as “God became man so that man might be made divine.” In the mystery of the Eucharist we are unified with Christ so that he lives in us, and we in him, and we become one mind, one heart, and one will. Then we are empowered to do his work. This idea is contained in the very word “liturgy.” When the ancient church tried to find a word to describe what they did on the “Eighth Day,” they decided to borrow a secular, political word from their culture. *Leitourgia* meant “a service performed by an individual for the state.” A *leitouros* (liturgist) is “one who performs a public duty; a public servant.” Liturgies were projects undertaken for the good of the community. The Catechism states that liturgy means “participation of the People of God in the ‘work of God’” (CCC, 1069). At baptism, you became a liturgist. You are doing the work of Christ. Jesus is our supreme liturgist and we are his apprentices.

Reflection. The Eucharist is thanksgiving, communion, memorial, sacrifice, and mystery - all of these happen simultaneously as five facets of a diamond. The Church always celebrates Christ's liturgy, not her own. It is Christ's work in us in order to bring the Father's Kingdom to completion. The agenda of liturgy is the creation of a new heaven and new earth. Liturgical theologian Dr. David Fagerberg says this best: “Like a needle pulling thread through fabric to stitch it up a rent cloth, the liturgist [all baptized people] moves in and out, between earth and heaven, time and eternity, the sacred and the secular, plunging into one and then the other and drawing them together by the thread of their life.”

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.
- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **HOLY NAME 50/50 RAFFLE:** The winner of the May drawing was Vinny Kissel with ticket #247 and a total winnings of \$68.00. Thank you to all who contribute!
- ◆ **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL:** We would like to hold Vacation bible school this summer August 2-6th. In order to do this we need a team of volunteers to help plan and facilitate this fun event. If you are interested in helping please contact the Faith Formation office at 937-6959.



PARISH NEWS

- ◆ **MEMORIAL DAY:** The Rectory Office will be closed and Mass will be at 10:00 am in the cemetery.
- ◆ **EARLY BULLETIN NOTICE:** Content for the June 6th bulletin is needed by Wednesday, May 26th by noon. Thank you!
- ◆ **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.



Chicken & Rib BBQ Drive Thru
May 22nd 2:00 pm—Sold Out
Fireman's Memorial Bandstand Park

Provided By: BW's Smokin Barrels Barbecue

Chicken Dinners: \$12.00

Rib Dinners: \$14.00

***Dinners come with: Potato Salad, Coleslaw, & Roll with butter.**



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. The drawing is May 22 at 6:00 pm in the Fireman's Park/Village Triangle.
- ◆ **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!

NICARAGUA MISSION

The Nicaragua Mission has reached out to St. John's for help collecting items for their churches. Items they are specifically requesting are:

- ◆ Crosses
- ◆ Statues
- ◆ Rosaries
- ◆ Medals
- ◆ Holy Pictures
- ◆ Mangers

If you have any of those items that you would like to donate, please drop items off to the rectory by June 1st. Thank you to all who can contribute.

THE WAY OF LIGHT

You've heard of Stations of the Cross, but have you heard about The Stations of the Resurrection? The Way of Light (Via Lucis) is one of the newest devotions of the Church. Started in 1988, the Way of Light, or Stations of the Resurrection is modeled after the Stations of the Cross and biblically follows 14 events from the Resurrection to the Day of Pentecost. It is through the Cross that one comes to the light. Join us on May 20 at 7 pm for this very special service of hope, life, and light.

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, Debbie Brown, Ron Soper and All Special Intentions.

FAITH FORMATION:

What a wonderful 3 weeks of 1st Eucharist celebrations! Congratulations to the 32 children who received Jesus for the first time!

Confirmation rehearsal is May 26 at 6:30pm in the church for candidates and sponsors. If a sponsor is unable to attend a parent should attend in their place.

It's time to think about next year! All Faith Formation families should have received an email this week about next year's programs. If you didn't receive this please contact the Faith Formation office.

Registration for new families who have children in Grades 1-10 is now open. Children need to have a full year of faith formation before they enter into sacramental preparation. The registration information can be found under the faith formation tab at www.stjohnalden.com

SCHOOL NEWS

Dear St. John Parish,

This weekend we saw the last of our 3rd graders to make their First Communion. We are grateful for the wonderful ways that Miss Nuwer and Mrs. Golinski helped to prepare our children to receive the beautiful gift of Christ.

This Thursday at the 8:30am Ascension Thursday mass, our First Communion students came to school dressed in their First Communion attire and led mass. The students then met with 8th grade and crowned the beautiful statue of Mary in the cemetery. It was amazing to have the students able to participate in this sacrament together.

Please help me in saying prayers for our First Communion students:

Owenn

Ava

Ellie

Zoey

Mason

Jordan

Gabriella

Bailey

Sohpia

Braden

Corona

Eriq



Many Blessings,
Jonna M. Johnson, Principal

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 15

4:00 pm 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

Monday, May 17

8:30 am Annette & Julius Rachel - Rachel Family

Tuesday, May 18

8:30 am Lino Cometto - Wife, Alvina

Wednesday, May 19

8:30 am Larry Kocher - Nick & Gretchen Smith

Thursday, May 20

8:30 am Marcy & Dick Trotz - Rachel Family

Friday, May 21

8:30 am Dolores & Karl Wiegand - Rachel Family

Saturday, May 22

4:00pm Betty Walter - Family

Sunday, May 23 (Pentecost)

8:00 am Gretl Karnoski - The Matthies Family

9:30 am Larry Kocher - Alden Home Bureau

11:00 am Annette & Julius Rachel - Rachel Family

FINANCE

WEEKEND OF 5/9/2021

SUNDAY COLLECTION

Total.....\$8,017.00

WESHARE

5/1-4/7.....\$1,647.00

FISCAL YEAR TO DATE

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

.....\$313,139.62

CHURCHES IN LATIN AMERICA & AFRICA

Total.....\$418.00

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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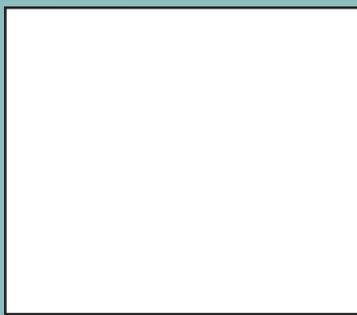
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