

December 2020
170th Anniversary



MAY 23, 2021
PENTECOST

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

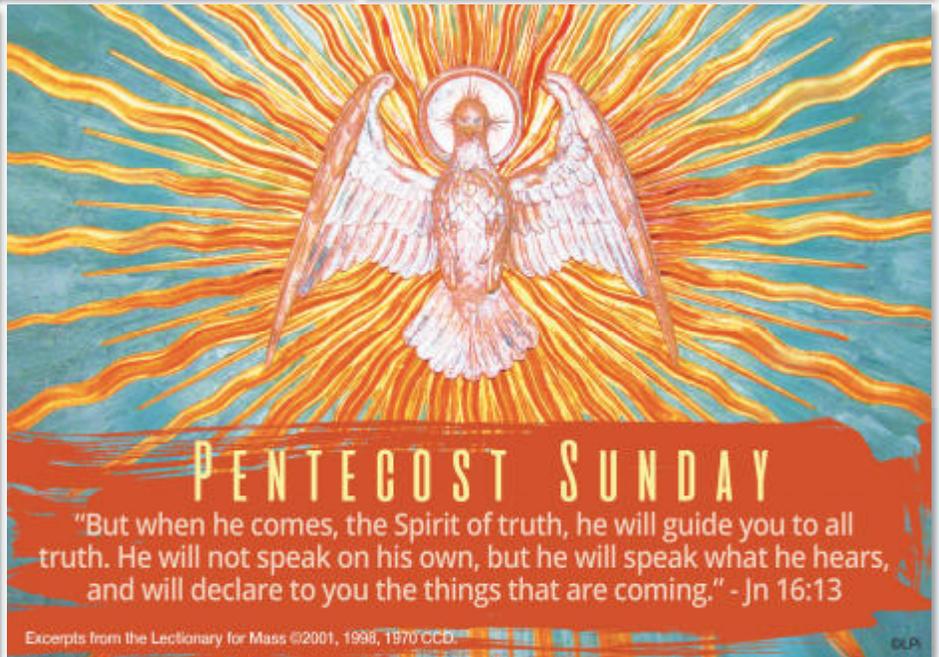
Saturday Mass - 4:00 pm
Sunday Masses - 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 am
Weekdays (Monday-Friday) - 8:30 am
Mass at 33% Capacity
Vigil Mass - As Announced in the bulletin
Holy Day - As Announced in the bulletin
Eucharistic Adoration: First Fridays (9 am - 7 pm)

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 OCD.



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



LITURGICAL CORNER BY DEACON MARC LEADERSTORF

This weekend we celebrate the great feast of Pentecost which occurs 50 days after Easter, and ten days after Jesus' Ascension into heaven. The name is derived from the Greek word "pentecoste," meaning 50th. In the Christian tradition, Pentecost is the celebration of the person of the Holy Spirit coming upon the Apostles, Mary, and the first followers of Jesus, who were gathered together in the Upper Room. A "strong, driving" wind filled the room where they were gathered, and tongues of fire came to rest on their heads, allowing them to speak in different languages so they could understand each other. The Holy Spirit changed the direction of their lives, their uncertainty and fear gave way to wisdom, courage, and fortitude.

St. Paul speaks of two words that seem contradictory - diversity and unity. He tells us that the Holy Spirit is the one who brings us together; this is the way the Church was born: we are all different, yet united by the same Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit also gave the apostles the other gifts and fruits necessary to fulfill the great commission - to go out and preach the Gospel to all nations. These gifts have been handed down through the centuries to every person according to their particular needs, abilities, and station in life. Every one of us has been commissioned to pass on those graces to others. From the beginnings of the Church, the Spirit has continued to work for unity, not divisiveness.

It was right after Pentecost that Peter, inspired by the Holy Spirit, preached his first homily to Jews and other non-believers, in which he opened the pages of the Old Testament, showing how the prophet Joel prophesied events and the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

He also told the people that the Jesus they crucified is the Lord and was raised from the dead. When they asked what they should do, Peter exhorted them to repent of their sins and to be baptized. According to the account in Acts, about 3,000 people were baptized following Peter's sermon. Pentecost is considered the birthday of the Church - Peter, the first Pope, preaches for the first time and converts thousands of new believers. The apostles and believers, for the first time, were united by a common language, and a common zeal and purpose to go and preach the Gospel. The Spirit comes to us, in our differences and difficulties, to tell us that we have one Lord --Jesus -- and one Father, as a result we are all brothers and sisters!

The Spirit is the fuel of the Church, the energy and life force of the Body of Christ. We can only get him by asking for him. For the past two thousand years, the Church has asked for this power. Jesus told us that the Father would never refuse someone who asked for the Holy Spirit. So ask! And ask again! Fr. Hesburgh of Notre Dame once commented that the one prayer that is always appropriate - whether one is successful or failing, whether one is confident or afraid, whether one is young or old - pray "Come, Holy Spirit!"

We ask boldly, as our Responsorial Psalm states: "Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth."

A Word from Today's Scriptures

Pentecost Sunday: When the time for Pentecost was fulfilled, they were all in one place together. And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were. Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. Acts 2: 1-4a. Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

Prayer starter: Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth. Psalm 104:30

The Presentation of Gifts - By: Dan Stachelski, III

To understand this part of the Mass, we need to step outside of the church building ...

Picture a loaf of bread. What ingredients are used to make it? What people are involved in making it? What people are involved in cultivating the single ingredients?

Take wheat for example: it is planted, cared for, harvested, milled into flour, then packaged, shipped, and sold before it is even used. After it is purchased it has to be made into dough and baked, packaged, shipped, and sold. Lots of people are involved. This is true for every single ingredient and from each humble ingredient, literally hundreds, if not thousands of people are responsible for its production. Do the same with the making of wine. Vines need to be planted, pruned, cared for, grapes are gathered, then the vintner's skills are needed to make the wine, which will mature over many years.

Now step back inside of the church ...

Every single one of the people involved in making the bread and wine are working in God's creation and this is what we bring to the altar in the presentation of gifts. When we present the simple bread and wine to the priest, we are bringing all of the people involved in making it before the Lord. This is precisely why the gifts are called "fruits of creation" - they are products of the cooperation between God and human beings. With this understanding, the presentation of gifts is a beautiful moment that captures the global relationship between the Church and the world - the Church brings to the hands of Christ the fruits of creation and the work of human hands. This action also highlights the relationship between the baptized and the ordained priesthood.

Another aspect of this part of the Mass is the collection of money. Money is our work and represents hours of our lives. We give this away and sacrifice it for the work of the Church. In the oldest description of the Mass from the second century, St. Justin speaks of the collection of money at some point in the liturgy. Since God lacks nothing and He does not need money. We however can grow in self-giving love and this is another way that we can unite ourselves with him. These offerings help us grow in sacrificial love.

Reflection. Trace the making of bread and wine back to its earthly roots. Who was involved in its production? How are these people represented in today's liturgy?

FOR THE WEEK OF SUNDAY, MAY 23

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

Our Parishioners

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY: Dt 4:32-34, 39-40/Ps 33:4-5, 6, 9, 18-19, 20, 22 [12b]/Rom 8:14-17/Mt 28:16-20

MINISTRY NEWS

- ◆ **MEMORIAL DAY MASS:** Our Annual Memorial Day Mass will take place on Monday, May 31st at 10 AM in the Cemetery. In case of inclement weather the Mass will be held in the Church. Please join us as we commemorate all men and women who have died while serving in the military for the United States of America. A list of all those presently serving in the military will also be recognized. Please call the rectory if you have anyone to add to this list. Bring your own chair, and a mask. Social distance as needed is recommended. We hope to see you there
- ◆ **RESPECT LIFE:** The 24 annual St. John's 200 Club Dinner on May 1 was a great success and wonderful evening for all who were able to attend!
-It was a special treat that Bishop Mike was able to join us as we honored some amazing pro-life people. Honorees were: Chery Calire- Buffalo Diocesan Pro-Life Director, Brandon Beal, an SJS student and winner of last years pro-life contest with his awesome Angel Ironworks and Prayer, that he was able to present to Dir. Calire for the St. Mother Teresa Home, Jonna Johnson- SJS Principal- demonstrating tremendous leadership throughout the pandemic, and Sr. Ellen McCarthy - a lifelong pro-life champion and member of St. John's parish family, with her many accomplishments while here and continues in her prayers for us all. The special awards were made by students from Alden HS, Bulldog Manufacturing! Well done and thank you!

-Congratulations to the 'big money' winners! All the 200 Club tickets are sold and the 'new year' weekly drawings begin this month.

-Please check out the many Respect Life websites online for continuing updates on prayer and action in our secular world. See: USCCB Respect Life, respectlife.org/visitation, for a Novena, Students for Life, 40 Days for Life, Priests for Life, and many more. We must be educated and remain vigilant in our pro-life prayers and actions. "He came that we might have life and have it abundantly." John 10:10

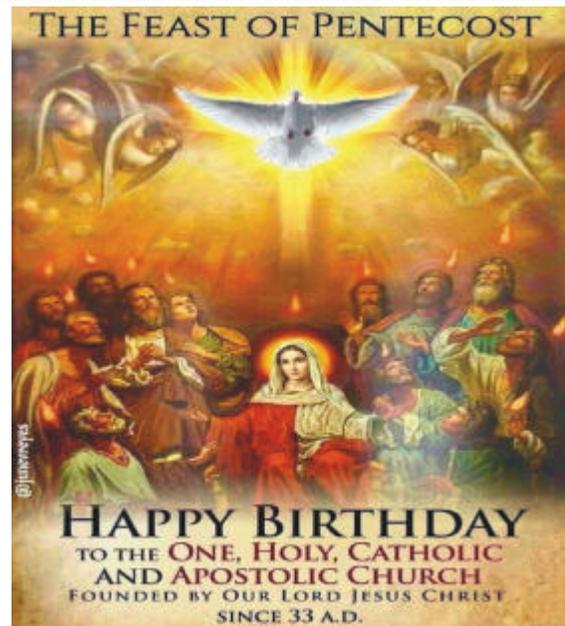
- ◆ **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL:** We would like to hold Vacation bible school this summer August 2-6th. In order to do this we need a team of volunteers to help plan and facilitate this fun event. If you are interested in helping please contact the Faith Formation office at 937-6959.
- ◆ **CEMETERY COMMITTEE:** A big thank you goes out to the Masci family for donating peonies to be planted in our cemetery. Members of the cemetery committee planted all the roots given this past weekend in an effort to continue to beautify the cemetery.
- ◆ **BUILDINGS & GROUNDS:** We are in need of individuals to join our Buildings and Grounds group. This is a perfect opportunity for any individuals that are handy with a paintbrush and tools. This group is a model of " St. Joseph the Worker." If you are interested in joining, please contact the rectory office for more details.



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.

PARISH NEWS

- ◆ **MEMORIAL DAY:** The Rectory Office will be closed. Please see Ministry News for Mass information.
- ◆ **EARLY BULLETIN NOTICE:** Content for the June 6th bulletin is needed by Wednesday, May 26th by noon. Thank you!
- ◆ **MRS. BROWN UPDATE:** As many of you are already aware, Debbie had to undergo surgery to remove her kidney due to a tumor. Fortunately, Debbie's surgery went well and her other kidney is functioning. She is back home and recovering , but this is just the first step in a long road to recovery. Debbie does extend her gratitude for all the prayers and well wishes. She said she can feel the love and hope everyone is sending. Many have called about where to send cards. If you would like to send a card, please drop them off to the rectory and the staff will forward them to Debbie. On the parish end of things, Office staff, the deacons, Dan - Our Music and Liturgy Director, Principal Johnson, and various volunteers have stepped up to insure that everything runs smoothly with parish operations and Masses. We humbly thank everyone for their support and well wishes and we will continue to update you on Debbie's progress.



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.

FAITH FORMATION:

Thank you to the families who dropped off textbooks and registrations last week. For those who still wish to drop them off and may happen to come after hours, there is a box in the vestibule of the rectory where you can leave them. For any student who didn't drop off books because they haven't completed the chapters please call Mrs. Golinski at 937-6959. There is a time limit where Loyola shuts down the online system for the summer and your progress will be lost so please let me know!!!

Confirmation rehearsal is Wednesday, May 26 at 6:30 pm in the church. The candidate and sponsor would attend. If your sponsor is unavailable be sure to bring a parent so they can let the sponsor know what details they need to know.

SCHOOL NEWS

Dear St. John Parish,

On Friday, our 8th Graders participated in our annual Hope Ribbon Mass. This is a very special school Mass, and we were honored to have Dr. Timothy Uhl, our new Superintendent of Catholic Education, join us as we pinned each 8th Grader with their ribbon.

The Hope Ribbon Mass symbolizes the hope we have in our 8th grade graduates as they make their final preparations to transition from our elementary school to their high schools. For many of our students this marks the first time they are transitioning to a new school since many of our students have been with us since Kindergarten. We are proud of them, and we are confident that they have learned, not only the academic skills needed for high school, but we know they are filled with the knowledge of faith in Jesus.

As Mrs. Paulter and I pin the ribbons on the sleeves of each student. We will send them forth into the world with the knowledge that they are beacons of the hope and light of our faith

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 22

4:00 pm Betty Walter - Family

Sunday, May 23 (Pentecost)

8:00 am Gretl Karloski - The Matthies Family

9:30 am Larry Kocher - Alden Home Bureau

11:00 am Annette & Julius Rachel - Rachel Family

Monday, May 24

8:30 am Julius & Annette Rachel - Rachel Family

Tuesday, May 25

8:30 am Annette & Julius Rachel - Rachel Family

Wednesday, May 26

8:30 am Julius & Annette Rachel - Rachel Family

Thursday, May 27

8:30 am Daniel Kwiatkowski - His Wife

Friday, May 28

8:30 am All Souls

Saturday, May 29

4:00pm Dorothy Pautler - Don Pautler

Sunday, May 30 (The Most Holy Trinity)

8:00 am Mary Eason - The Matthies Family

9:30 am Douglas Schlabach - Bernidet Modrzynski

11:00 am Daniel Kwiatkowski - The Family

FINANCE

WEEKEND OF 5/16/2021

SUNDAY COLLECTION

Total.....\$7,747.00

WESHARE

5/8-4/14.....\$2,325.00

FISCAL YEAR TO DATE

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

.....\$323,211.62

CEMETERY CARE

Total.....\$645.00

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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