

December 2020  
170th Anniversary



MAY 30, 2021  
THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

# 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

**Temporary Administrator:** Rev. Daniel J. Serbicki  
**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)

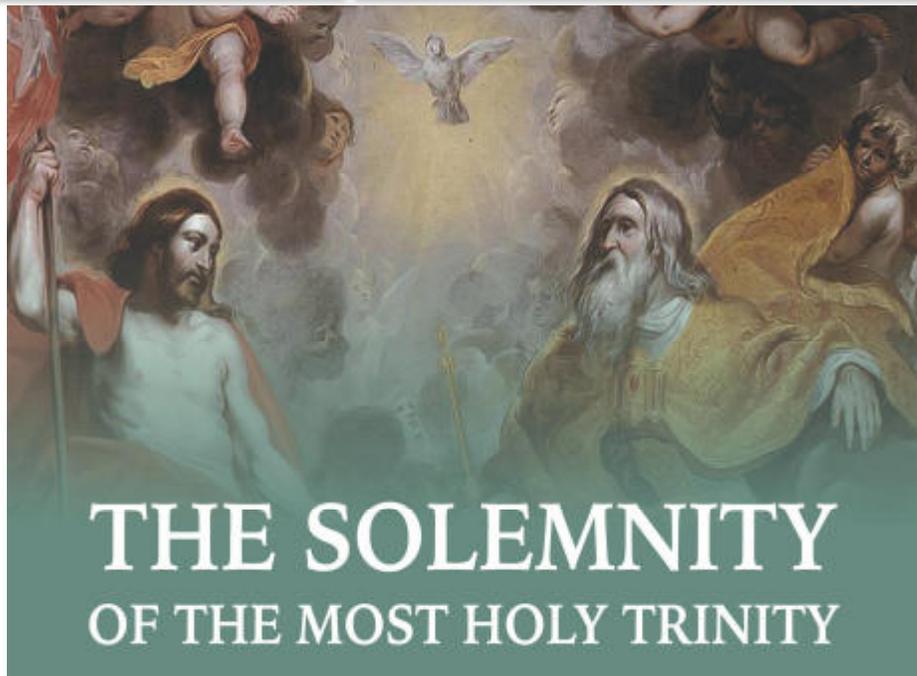
**Reconciliation:** Every Saturday at 3 pm

**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.



# THE SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY



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



LITURGICAL CORNER BY DEACON PETER DONNELLY

This weekend we celebrate the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity. In the seminary, we would cringe when asked to prepare a homily for this weekend because the inside joke was that it was impossible to preach on the Trinity without somehow straying dangerously close to one sort of heresy, or another. Why? We are corporal beings made of flesh and blood, so it is impossible for us to comprehend the universality of God, let alone the Trinitarian nature of the existence of and relationship between Father, Son and Spirit. Anything we could say would be horribly incomplete and, oftentimes, wrong. God and the Holy Trinity is simply beyond our understanding. And, yet, not only does God want us to understand God's nature, God wants us to participate in this divine love affair.

This is the challenge of this weekend's celebration. It's impossible to love someone who we don't know and understand. Each of the readings are an invitation to learn more about who God is, as well as the relationships into which we are invited.

In the first reading, Moses explains to his people how God has been part of their lives already. But it is important for the people to know that God wants to be known as more than simply the one who gives things – victory in battle, signs, messages as a disembodied voice, etc. God wants to 'take it to the next level,' so to speak. And today we hear Moses invoke the words of the covenant. God and the people are bound to one another in a relationship.

In the second reading, Saint Paul picks up on this theme in his letter to the Romans. As children of the covenant – children of God – we are owed something because we are heirs. What is it that we are owed? Glory. By following the path of the Son, Jesus, we are being led back to our home and into the perfection that God has always wanted for us. This is, perhaps, where the early Hebrews struggled. It seems like they thought that God wanted a people that simply obeyed. They only partially understood what was being asked of them. Paul helps us understand how much more God actually wants from us. God wants us each to obey, yes, but simply so that by learning to follow we can become more like God. This is our destiny – glorification and eternal participation in the love of the Trinity.

It's something to think about as we celebrate the Holy Trinity this weekend. Because in every way this isn't just a reflection on the nature of God, it is a reflection on our own nature and God's ultimate plan for each of us.

The Presentation of Gifts - By: Dan Stachelski, III

After the gifts of bread and wine have been brought forth, the altar is prepared. During this time, the priest comes to the altar, picks up the bread, and says a short prayer: "Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, for through your goodness we have received the bread we offer you: fruit of the earth and work of human hands, it will become for us the bread of life." And (if we are not singing and the prayer is audible) we respond "Blessed be God forever." A similar prayer is said over the wine: "Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, for through your goodness we have received the wine offered you: fruit of the vine and work of human hands, it will become our spiritual drink." This style of prayer is called a *Berakah* (Blessing) prayer. The Israelites used to thank God for everything in this manner. This type of prayer transforms every moment into a moment of gratefulness and thanksgiving.

Notice how last week's explanation of the Presentation of the Gifts ties into the Prayers of Presentation. It is through God's goodness, the work of human beings in the creation of God who prepared these simple elements of bread and wine. Thousands of people were involved in their making, but none of it would have been possible without God.

In this action, Christ himself begins his action of leading our prayer. We have placed the gifts in his hands, now he will offer them to God the Father. The transformation of these gifts is anticipated, and we begin to feel the pull of what is about to happen. "It will become for us the bread of life. It will become our spiritual drink."

**Reflection.** What significance do the prayers of presentation have? Why draw our attention to bread and wine before it becomes consecrated?

**A Word from Today's Scriptures**

*The Most Holy Trinity:* [Jesus said] "All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations; baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age."

Matthew. 28:18-20

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

*Prayer starter: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit as it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be world without end. Amen*

**FOR THE WEEK OF SUNDAY, MAY 30**

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

*Our Parishioners*



READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY: Ex 24:3-8/  
Ps 116:12-13, 15-16, 17-18 [13]/  
Heb 9:11-15/Mk 14:12-16, 22-2

**Join us for the Feast of  
Corpus Christi**

Next Weekend - June 5 & 6

Regular Mass Schedule

**Outdoor Eucharistic Procession after  
the 11 AM Mass**



*All first communicants are  
invited to attend the procession!*

The bread that I will give is my  
flesh for the life of the world.  
(John 6:51)

## 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
- ◆ **PATRIOTIC ROSARY:** Copies of the Patriotic Rosary are at the doors of the church. Please take one to pray for our nation. This Rosary dedicates one Hail Mary to each state and asks God's protection of/and guidance for our nation. Compliments of the Works of Mercy Ministry.
- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **BIBLE STUDY:** Would you be interested in a summer Bible Study? We had a great group studying Ephesians during lent this year. Those **participants want to study more so I'm trying to get an idea of what** might work best and what kind of space we might need. Would a daytime Bible study be more appealing to you than evenings? Please call Jenny at 937-6959 and let her know what you might be interested in.
- ◆ **NEWS FROM WORSHIP COMMITTEE: UPCOMING CELEBRATIONS!**
  - **Trinity Sunday (May 29-30):** Please take home a special holy card representing the Trinity to help you reflect on this mystery of our faith. We also will be closing our "Month of Mary" on this weekend.
  - **Confirmation (May 30):** 7 PM at St. John's. Please pray for our 23 confirmandi!
  - **Memorial Day, May 31:** Mass in the Grotto (cemetery), 10 AM, weather permitting—bring a lawn chair. If it is raining, Mass will be in the church.
  - **Corpus Christi (June 5-6):** Please plan to attend a Corpus Christi procession outside the church after the 11:00 Mass on Sunday, June 6.
  - **Father's Day (June 19 – 20):** We will crown St. Joseph during the 8 AM Mass. Blessing of fathers at all Masses; holy card for fathers available at all Masses.
  - **Vigil of the Feast Day of Saint John the Baptist (June 23):** Vespers at 7 PM.
  - **Saturday, June 26<sup>th</sup>:** Our first OUTDOOR MASS of the summer! Bring a picnic dinner for your family and we will all "tailgate" in the parking lot following Mass. There will also be a Ministry Fair in the parking lot (all church ministries invited to set up a table), and a family movie shown on the BIG SCREEN beginning at dusk (Rain Date will be July 3.) This event is an all-parish event under the guidance of the Parish Council. For information, contact Scott Dobe, Parish Council President, or Kathy Sutter, Worship Committee Chairperson.

## 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!
- ◆ **UPDATE AND THANK YOU FROM DEBBIE BROWN:** Health update: I had a cancerous kidney removed May 12. The other kidney is working well. I am healing and happy with these results. There is still a problem with the renal vein and so I am facing more surgery once I heal a bit more. So, even though I am not out of the woods yet, I believe I am in good hands at Roswell and I am on a path that will lead to full recovery. I want to thank everyone for the numerous cards, flowers, phone calls, text messages, food, and, most importantly prayers. I have really felt the power of your prayers so please keep them coming. I miss everyone very much and the thought of being with you again is highly motivating my recovery.



Congratulations to the 23 young people receiving the Holy Spirit in the Sacrament of Confirmation this weekend:

<b>Kayla Mary Becker</b>	<b>RayahnaTeresa Tryka</b>
<b>Cody Sebastian Captain</b>	<b>Kayla Elizabeth Weglarski</b>
<b>Emilia Mary Clausen-Dixit</b>	<b>Gregory Francis Wrest</b>
<b>Sarah Cecilia Chowaniec</b>	<b>Alexander Michael Wypij</b>
<b>Isabelle Catherine Czechowski</b>	<b>McKenna Mary Magdalene Zaleski</b>
<b>Dillon Sebastian Dake</b>	<b>Desiree Roch Zielinski</b>
<b>Nicolas Nicholas DePaolis</b>	<b>Dylan s Francis Zielinski</b>
<b>Mya Vincent Grant</b>	<b>Peyton Michael Zosh</b>
<b>Kaden Francis Kissell</b>	
<b>Megan Mary Menzies</b>	
<b>Alexandria Joan Refermat</b>	
<b>Emily Catherine Robertson</b>	
<b>Amanda Ava Shisler</b>	
<b>Jordan Veronica Strasser</b>	
<b>Matthew Sebastian Strasser</b>	



**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:**

This weekend wraps up the strangest faith formation year in my nearly 20 year career. Thanks so much to our families who have muddled through. There is a box in the rectory vestibule where books and registrations for next year can be dropped off.

I'm so excited about the future. There will be many things happening throughout the diocese in the next year. While I won't go into much detail as I know there is information planned to be in our bulletin very soon from the diocesan Director of Renewal, I hope that it will mean more parish collaborations for many things including faith formation. Keep watching the bulletin for updates.

**Faith Formation Office Summer Hours:**

I'll be in the office Monday - Wednesday 9:00- 2:00. Other times may be available by appointment

**FINANCE**

**WEEKEND OF 5/23/2021**

**SUNDAY COLLECTION**

Total.....\$6,981.00

**WESHARE**

5/15-4/21.....\$1,232.00

**FISCAL YEAR TO DATE**

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

.....\$331,424.62

**SCHOOL NEWS**

Dear St. John Parish,

In observance of Memorial Day the school will be closed on Friday, May 28th and Monday, May 31. This is a weekend that many families associate with cookouts, camping trips, and the start of Summer. I think that it is important to set aside some time to pray and honor the memory of those that have lost their lives serving and protecting our country. I have included the prayer that we use at school.

*Dear God,*

*Please help us to honor the memory of those that are not longer in our presence. We thank the brave men and women for their sacrifice, and seek solace in the knowledge that they are at peace with you. We ask you to bless their families and friends that have been left behind, and ask you to help them find comfort. In your name, Amen.*

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](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 29

4:00 pm 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

### Monday, May 31

8:30 am Sophie Wybs - Jim & Helen and Julia & Shane

### Tuesday, June 1

8:30 am Gretl Karlnoski - The Mahaney Family

### Wednesday, June 2

8:30 am Camille Krupka - Husband

### Thursday, June 3

8:30 am Gretl Karlnoski - Kathy & John ScinFlippes

### Friday, June 4

8:30 am Conrad Gryzbek - His Children

### Saturday, June 5

4:00pm Margaret Ryan - Walt & Mary Czechowski

### Sunday, June 6 (The Most Holy Body & Blood of Christ- Corpus Christi)

8:00 am Yvonne Canert - The Gabbey Family

9:30 am Sylvia Sabers - Przybsz Family

11:00 am All Souls



**SUNDAY OBLIGATION RESUMES NEXT WEEK:** On May 22, the bishops of Buffalo, Ogdensburg, Rochester, and Syracuse made a joint statement about the return to Sunday Obligation to attend Mass. The obligation to attend Sunday Mass now resumes, effective the weekend of June 5-6, 2021, the Solemnity of Corpus Christi, The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ in our diocese. Please visit our Facebook page or <https://buffalodiocese.org/coronavirus/> to view the statement in its entirety.

**MASS AND LITURGICAL GUIDELINES DURING COVID:** Please note the following COVID-related updates, effective as of last weekend:

**Seating.** 6 ft. social distancing between households is still in effect, but ropes will be removed from one side of the church. You can choose to sit in the roped section with pews open at 6-foot intervals, or in the unroped section where seating is dependent on individual choice and responsibility, based on comfort level.

**Masks.** Masks must be worn whenever entering, exiting, or moving within the church, including during the Communion procession. Masks may be removed when seated.

**Distribution of Holy Communion.** The Communion procession has been reinstated. Wearing a mask, come up the center aisle to receive then proceed down the side aisles to return to your seat. Please maintain 6 ft. social distancing with the people in front of you.

**Sign-in sheets** are discontinued.

All of our weekend Masses will continue to be live-streamed and available on our website ([www.stjohnalden.com](http://www.stjohnalden.com)) and Facebook page.

# Charles Meyer

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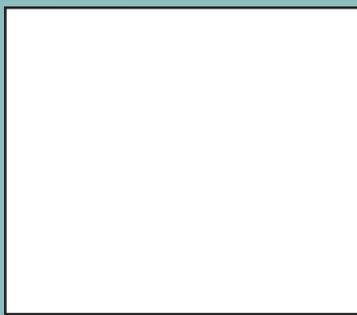
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