

December 2020
170th Anniversary



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.

JUNE 6, 2021

THE MOST HOLY BODY & BLOOD OF CHRIST

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)

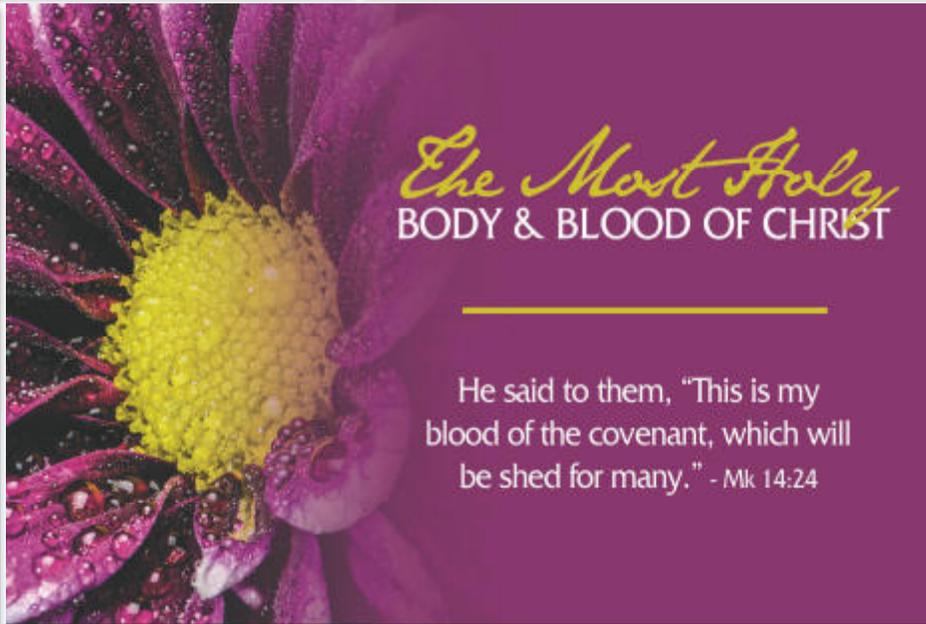
Reconciliation: Every Saturday at 3 pm

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

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 Most Holy BODY & BLOOD OF CHRIST

He said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed for many." - Mk 14:24

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



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

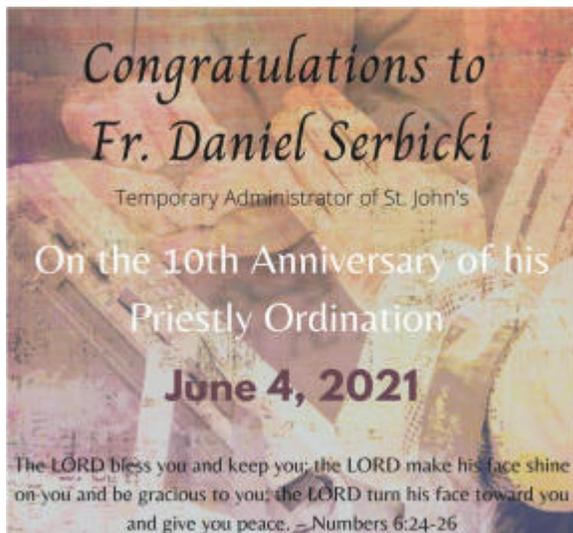
New Parishioners: Please contact the rectory to register.
Office Hours are Mon-Fri 9:00 am until 2:00 pm



This weekend we celebrate the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ. What does this mean? Fortunately, the readings help us work it out. As the early Hebrews wandered through the desert, it was a time where they thought hard about their relationship with God. At times they would offer sacrifices as a sign of their commitment to following God’s word, often as a way to reaffirm their commitment after doing something questionable. The first reading is an example of that – Moses sacrificed a bull and then sprinkled the blood on the altar as well as the people and a sign of the bond between them and God. The gospel takes it a step further, showing how Jesus celebrated the Passover meal with his disciples. But it was more than *just* a Passover meal. In it, he was making a new sacrifice with himself – God become man – as the offering. His blood becomes the seal on a new covenant with his people.

The second reading is the one that brings these two images together, reflecting that if a bull’s blood cleansed the people and sealed them to God, imagine the power behind Christ’s sacrifice of himself. This is what seals us to him as the mediator of the new covenant. Whereas in previous covenant stories, both God and the people each gave up something as a promise of fidelity. This new covenant though is something quite different. God gives up his own Son and guarantees our eternal inheritance. We are simply required to believe and tell the story. It seems like quite the lopsided deal in our favor.

Blood is life, so the symbolism behind this week’s feast is apparent. We celebrate the blood of our Savior because in taking human form, and in spilling his blood willingly for each of us, he created a path so that we could find our way back to God.



A Word from Today’s Scriptures

The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi): While they were eating, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, gave it to them, and said, “Take it; this is my body. Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, and they all drank from it. He said to them, “This is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed for many. Mark 14:22-24

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

Prayer starter: Lord Jesus, in the Eucharist you share your own body and blood with me. Thank you for your Holy Presence.

The “Little Mysteries” and Concluding Prayers

By: Dan Stachelski III

Three other moments that happen after the Prayers of Presentation are what theologian Jeremy Driscoll, OSB calls the “Little Mysteries.” Then follows the Concluding Prayers.

Water Mixed with Wine. The deacon or priest pours wine into the chalice and then a little bit of water. The following prayer is said as this action takes place: “By the mystery of this water and wine may we come to share in the divinity of Christ, who humbles himself to share in our humanity.” Wine is the more precious element in this action and it represents divinity. The water represents our humanity. St. Cyprian of Carthage spoke about this in the third century, saying that offering wine without water would be like offering Christ without his people.

Incense. If incense is used, the gifts are incensed marking them as holy. It is a foreshadowing of the immediate future when they are consecrated. The altar is then incensed - it is marked as the sacred place of the Paschal Sacrifice - then the presider as head of the body, then the assembly to show that we are what lies upon the altar. The whole church becomes a sweet offering rising up to God the Father.

Washing the Hands. The priest stands at the side of the altar and washes his hands while praying a verse from psalm 51: “Lord, wash away my iniquity; cleanse me from my sins.” The hands of the celebrant now serve a new purpose: they become the hands of Christ, who will transform these gifts and offer them to God the Father.

The Concluding Prayers are then said: “Pray that our sacrifice may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.” We rise and respond with a short prayer that refers to the priest’s hands: “May the Lord accept this sacrifice at your hands...” and then the Prayer over the Gifts is said. This final prayer changes according to the day/feast/season, but it always mentions something about the gifts we have brought forth and prays for their transformation and ours. The “Amen” to this prayer is a response to everything that has happened from the moment the gifts were brought up until now. We are now ready for the source and summit of this celebration - the biggest prayer of all!

Reflection. How do the “little mysteries” and concluding prayers prepare us for the transformation of bread and wine into the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Christ?

FOR THE WEEK OF SUNDAY, JUNE 6

The Sanctuary light is lit to the Glory of God & for *Laurence “Benjy” Graf*



READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY: Ez 17:22-24/Ps 92:2-3, 13-14, 15-16 [cf. 2a]/2 Cor 5:6-10/Mk 4:26-3

MINISTRY NEWS

- ◆ **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!**
 - **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 26th:** 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.

Outdoor Masses will continue through August 31 at every 4 PM Saturday and 9:30 AM Sunday Mass as weather permits.

*Marriage
& Banns*

June 12, 2021

Joshua Weisbeck & Kristen Tur

And

June 19, 2021

Taylor Bowling & Emily Cole

Greetings from Father Dan

Hello St John's! My name is Fr Dan Serbicki, and I have recently been invited to help here as a temporary administrator while Deb recovers. I will have been a priest for ten years this June 4th, and have spent the last four as pastor just next door in Corfu and East Pembroke.

Since I still have a Mass schedule over there, I won't be able to meet you in Eucharist but I do plan to be in the office here on Tuesdays going forward, so please stop in and say hi! Please continue to keep Deb in your prayers. Pray for unity and peace. For St John's (and St Max, if you would!) And keep praying for vocations! As Jesus said, the harvest is many and the laborers are few. Lastly, thank you for your patient support here all these years, especially in the midst of COVID!

Congratulations to all the Spring Sweepstakes Winners!

\$4000

Carol Kulik

\$1000

Paul Overbeck

\$500

Keith Funke
Rebecca Arft

\$250

Jared Ashby
Ken Lauer

\$100

Dan Kolankowski
Dan Fink
St. John's Holy Name
Nancy Weisbeck
JoAnn Martina

\$50

Rocky Kotas & Barb Gallina
Lisa Gomolski
Mary & Dennis Refermat
Richard Smith
Dave Geil
Ray Cooper
Kristina Anderson
Cindy Schlabach
Tom & Joann D'Avanzato
Leo Dahl (Joe)

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 Kalczyński, Roger Morphew, Fred & Helen Polyowicz, Sharon Fisher, Donna Hamm, Debbie Brown, Ron Soper and All Special Intentions.

FAITH FORMATION:

Textbook returns and Registrations for fall are now due. Registrations and letters with next fall's plan were emailed to all re-registering families for next year. If you didn't get that information or if you will be new to our program next fall please call our office at 937-6959.

Faith Formation Office Summer Hours:
I'll be in the office Monday - Wednesday 9:00- 2:00. Other times may be available by appointment.937-6959

FINANCE	
WEEKEND OF 5/30/2021	
SUNDAY COLLECTION	
Total.....	Not Available
WESHARE	
5/15-4/21.....	Not Available
FISCAL YEAR TO DATE	
(9/1/2020-8/31/2021).....	
.....	\$331,424.62



SCHOOL NEWS

Dear St. John Parish,

This week marks the beginning of exam week for our 3rd to 8th grade students. Our teachers and students have worked extremely hard this year. We are confident that our students will do well on these exams, and we appreciate your prayers for our students during this week.

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.

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, June 5

4:00 pm 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

Monday, June 7

8:30 am Sophie Wylas - Jim & Helen Giczkowski and Julia & Shane Huston

Tuesday, June 8

8:30 am Gretl Karlinski - The Mahaney Family

Wednesday, June 9

8:30 am Camille Krupka - Husband

Thursday, June 10

8:30 am Gretl Karlinski - Kathy & John ScinFlippo

Friday, June 11

8:30 am Conrad Gryzbek - His Children

Saturday, June 12

4:00pm Margaret Ryan - Walt & Mary Czechowski

Sunday, June 13 (11th Sunday in Ordinary Time)

8:00 am John & Carol Hoelscher - Jamie & Sharon

9:30 am Anna "Gretl" Karlinski

11:00 am Larry Kocher - Marilyn Camp



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) and Facebook page.

Charles Meyer

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