



# 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.

AUGUST 15, 2021

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



THE ASSUMPTION OF THE  
*Blessed Virgin Mary*

### PARISH LIFE

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

**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.



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**



### A Word From Father Dan

Today's feast of the Assumption invites us to reflect on the end of Mary's earthly life. The Assumption refers to her journey to heaven, although some of the details are still debated as they are not recorded in the Bible. Some say she died like any of us, but in particular like her son. Others think she did not die, but was instead directly taken up into heaven like Elijah or Enoch. Either way, her body is no longer with us. She is "raised" as Jesus is, and her body and soul are united in heaven.

Because of this, she points the way for us. We too place our hopes in Jesus, and try to love as he loved. We too have hope for life eternal in heaven in him. And this hope is based not just on hearsay, but the example of some who have gone long before us.

### Liturgical Corner By Deacon Peter Donnelly

Today's gospel is a reminder of Jesus' singular statement that the gospel message is our roadmap to salvation. While his passion, death and resurrection were the acts that made salvation possible, the gospel provides the context we need to understand it and bring it to life.

We are reminded that even the Blessed Mother, who we celebrate in a special way today, isn't the path itself, but a marker along the way that points us in the right direction and provides support for our journey. In many ways, this helps us understand how important her role is for our salvation. She understood her place perfectly. At Cana, she said, "Do as he tells you," and then repeated that message throughout the gospel in so many different ways. At every point, she directed attention back to her son.

At ordination, the bishop hands the Book of Gospels to the deacon and then says, "Receive the gospel of Christ, whose herald you have become. Believe what you read, teach what you believe, and practice what you teach." This is really what Jesus asks of us all, and today's gospel is a stark reminder of our mission as baptized members of the Body of Christ.

### A Word from Today's Scriptures

Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb."

*Luke. 1:39-42*

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

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY: Jos 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b/Ps 34:2-3, 16-17, 18-19, 20-21, 22-23 [9a]/Eph 5:21-32 or 5:2a, 25-32/Jn 6:60-

### The Doxology and the Great Amen

By: Dan Stachelski III

*"Through him, with him, and in him, O God almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, forever and ever."*

These familiar words, called the doxology, are proclaimed by the priest at the end of the eucharistic prayer. Our prayer has now come full circle. Lifting up the bread and wine -- which were first brought forth, then transformed into the Real Presence, and will shortly be consumed by the faithful -- they are presented to God the Father as the "perfect offering made to the glory of [His] name." In this moment, the Church is doing what Christ did and forever does. The Church offers his one body to the Father for the glory of His name and for the salvation of the world. This is perfect praise and this is our communion in the sacrifice of Christ.

The shape of the doxology is trinitarian - it is directed to the Father, through/with/in Christ and brought together by the Holy Spirit. This praise (doxology) is the perfect summary for what we have remembered (anamnesis) and what we have asked for (epiclesis). The Father has given His Son to the world. In His sacrifice on the cross the Son destroys in His own body the sins of us all. Now in that same body, risen from the dead, he brings us all as one body before his Father and says, "This is for your glory and honor!"

The Eucharistic Prayer has followed Christ through the memorial of his death and resurrection and we arrive with him in the presence of God the Father. To all that Christ has done, to all that is happening, we cry out with a resounding Amen. This is the biggest Amen of the Mass, which is why it is commonly called the "Great Amen." The word "amen" transliterates a Hebrew word that affirms the validity of what has been said. By saying this, we are saying that we believe. St. Augustine described this Amen as the people's signature under the prayer of the priest. Similarly, St. Jerome said that this Amen in the Mass "resounds in heaven, as a celestial thunderclap."

**Reflection.** Listen carefully to the entire Eucharistic Prayer this week. How does this prayer affirm the need to go to church? Why is the Church necessary?



## MINISTRY NEWS

- ♦ **HOLY NAME 50/50 DRAWING:** The winner of the St John Holy Name 50/50 raffle for August 2021 was Laura Timms with ticket # 73 and winning \$53. Total tickets sold were 106.
- ♦ **WINNERS FOR THE MAY & JUNE 200 CLUB DRAWING:**

Week	Winner	Ticket Number	Seller
May 2nd	Kathy Earsing	121	Fuller
May 9th	Ralph Witt	161	Ertel
May 16th	Peggy Reynolds	5	Fuller
May 23rd	Sandy Ashby	127	LaVarn-way
May 30th	Pat & Chris Heimerl	116	Zaleski
June 6th	Dennis Gilbert	167	M. Ley
June 13th	Al & Kris Turton	11	Turton
June 20th	Jonna Johnson	32	Bartram
June 27th	Wendy Filhorn	153	Conrad

## REASONS TO GO TO ADORATION CONTINUED—SUBMITTED BY DELPHINE LEADERSTORF

### 3 ADORATION REMOVES YOU FROM

**TEMPTATION:** As you spend time in adoration you begin to develop an awareness of your sins. Frequent Eucharistic adoration can help remove you from tempting situations - occasions of sin, because you come away from the world, even if for a brief time. There is always a choice between God and the world. Christ or the cell phone. In the times of greatest temptation seek our Lord! Like the Good Thief on the Cross, Jesus gives you the grace to avoid temptation & despair.

### 4 ADORATION HELPS YOU EXAMINE YOUR

**CONSCIENCE:** The longer you remain in the presence of God the more you will reflect on your failings—your sins. Remember being in the light of Christ will make your sins more recognizable.

### 5 ADORATION PROVIDES A REBOOT FOR YOUR SPIRITUAL LIFE:

Our lives are busy - busy lives lead to tiredness - tiredness causes us to give into temptation and sin. Sin is like a virus that corrodes our soul. Without proper defense, the virus (of sin) will attack us more and cripple us spiritually. Eucharistic adoration offers us a reboot of our spiritual lives. Praying in the light of Christ brings us countless graces that repairs our soul and wards off sin. Take time to rest with Jesus - ask for renewed strength and energy to reach the best spiritual reset— the Mass!



On July 4th, 2021, we welcomed **Cooper Wade Dreyer** - son of Dylan & Nicole (Goetz) Dreyer into the family of God by Baptism. Congratulations to all!

## PARISH NEWS

- ♦ **Help Needed:** We are in need of a volunteer to help coordinate altar server schedules. Please contact the church office if you are able to help with this important ministry.
- ♦ **New Envelopes:** Starting September 1st, we will be going through Our Sunday Visitor for our weekly envelopes. What this means for the parish is that we will have a more cost efficient company, who is very active with their customer service teams. The envelopes are of equal quality that we have and any changes such as address doesn't have to wait for the office to upload a new list. OSV is a promising company that we are looking forward to working with.
- ♦ **Faith Formation Update:** Our Faith Formation Program is still scheduled to begin in September. If families have any questions, please contact the rectory. We are also looking for a new Faith Formation Director. Please see the Faith Formation section for the job description and link to follow if interested.
- ♦ **National Fuel:** In the next couple of weeks or so, National Fuel will be replacing a line in front of the rectory and church. As we know more on how it will effect parking, we will post it on our website as well as in the bulletin and announcements.
- ♦ **Mission Appeal for Catholic Diocese of Butare located in Rwanda – Africa:** This year our parish has been privileged to participate in Missionary Cooperative Program to support the mission cause of the Diocese of Butare in Rwanda - Africa. The diocese continues with her mission of evangelization through Catholic Education. Our financial support will help them to add more classrooms, to buy computers, books and school supplies. The second collection for this purpose will be taken on the weekend of August 21-22. Fr. Andrew Muliika will come to speak at all Masses on that weekend. Thank you!

## AROUND THE DIOCESE

- ♦ **Scripture evening Wednesday, August 25 at St James school meeting room from 6:30 until 8:30 pm.** It is for those who attended the Lenten scripture study from Jesus to the cross. It will include a light supper and time for reflection. Each person is asked to share their favorite scripture passage or quote and what it means to them. It is important that you contact Sr. Ellen McCarthy at 698-2808 no later than August 20 if you plan to attend and there is no cost. Thank you!

**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 Kegl, Ken Warren, Catherine & Maurice Boling, Mitchell, Gail Hans, Marie Boller, Diane Zymowski, Sharon Pfeiffer, Sr. Ellen, Dawn LaPage, Amy Bonamici, Robert Kalczynski, Roger Morphew, Fred & Helen Polowicz, Sharon Fisher, Donna Hamm, Ron Soper, Madeleine Newman, Gilbert Fries, Michael McNally, Dolores Kuciel, Theodore Langner, Tom Czechowski, Michael Volk, Beverly & David Pellitteri and All Special Intentions.

### FAITH FORMATION:

#### Full time Faith Formation Director Wanted - Brief Job

##### Description:

The Faith Formation Director will lead a family based catechetical program following the Forming Disciples curriculum for children grades K-10 and their parents. This includes yearly safe environment lessons. They will also oversee the preparation for Sacraments of 1st Reconciliation, 1st Eucharist, Confirmation and RCIA for children. The Faith Formation department also works in conjunction with other parish ministries where collaboration is possible such as liturgies and outreach. They are also responsible for maintaining safe environment records and reports (Virtus). In this position, the director should be prepared to work with other parish catechetical leaders as the Diocesan Renewal moves forward with working in families of parishes. This could include travel between parishes.

##### Qualifications:

- MAPM or MAT or other Religious Studies degree, 2 years Faith Formation experience in family catechetical program setting.

##### Desired Skills:

- PDS Faith Formation, Microsoft Office, good grasp of available resources for Faith Formation, technology knowledge for presentations (projector/laptop/DVD) and streaming of program resources.

E.O.E

<https://www.buffalodiocese.org/blogjobs/9567/#:~:text=Brief%20Job%20Description,E.O.E>

### SCHOOL NEWS

Dear St. John's Parish,

You may have noticed that the sign in front of the school has changed to "We have done it before and we'll do it again. 5 days in Person". It is a statement of fact that although last year was challenging and full of uncertainties, we were able to do what few other schools could do. We were able to open on the first day of school and instruct students every day for the entire year.

There are still uncertainties, but the one thing we KNOW we can do is to teach children every day! We did this because we had the support of our teachers, our staff, our families and our parish. I am always here to answer any questions that parents may have about the best educational path for your child.

Many Blessings,  
Jonna M, Johnson, Principal

Our first day of school will be on Wednesday, September 8th! We are still accepting new students in some of our grades, but classes can fill up quickly. Please contact the school office at 716-937-9483 to schedule a tour!

**School Office Hours:** The school office is open Monday through Thursday from 9am until 2pm and we are closed on Friday. It is recommended that you call 716-937-9483 prior to arriving to ensure that someone will be there to assist you. We will resume normal school hours on Monday, August 30th.

**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, August 14**

4:00 pm Margaret Musciel - Family

**Sunday, August 15(20th Sunday in Ordinary Time)**

8:00 am Stephen Kotlowski - Nick & Gretchen Smith

9:30 am David Zimmerman - Gabriel & Joan Ciulla

11:00 am Timothy Ferron - Margaret Schwegmann

**Monday, August 16**

8:30 am Michael Hopcia - Congleton Family

**Tuesday, August 17**

8:30 am All Souls

**Wednesday, August 18**

8:30 am Vin Cornens - Michael & Margaret Tremblay

**Thursday, August 19**

8:30 am Irene Richter - Steck Family

**Friday, August 20**

8:30 am Deborah Horst - Kris Rodgers

**Saturday, August 21**

4:00pm Kenneth Reuter - Wife, Kathy

**Sunday, August 22(21st Sunday in Ordinary Time)**

8:00 am Debbie Brown - Nick & Gretchen Smith

9:30 am Marie Shalberg - Husband, Larry

11:00 am Larry Kocher - The Mahaney Family

**FOR THE WEEK OF SUNDAY, AUGUST 15**

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

*Our Parishioners*



**FINANCE**

**WEEKEND OF 8/1/2021**

**SUNDAY COLLECTION**

Total.....\$8,295.00

**WEEKEND OF 8/8/2021**

**SUNDAY COLLECTION**

Total.....\$6,670.00

**WESHARE**

7/17 - 8/16.....\$4,536.00

**FISCAL YEAR TO DATE**

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

.....\$435,077.14

**RETIRED DIOCESAN PRIESTS**

**MEDICAL BENEFITS FUND**

Total.....\$1,320.00

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www.stjohnalden.weshareonline.org

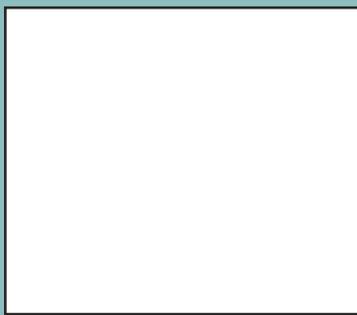


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