



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.com/StJohnsChurchAldenNY

<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 29, 2021

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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)

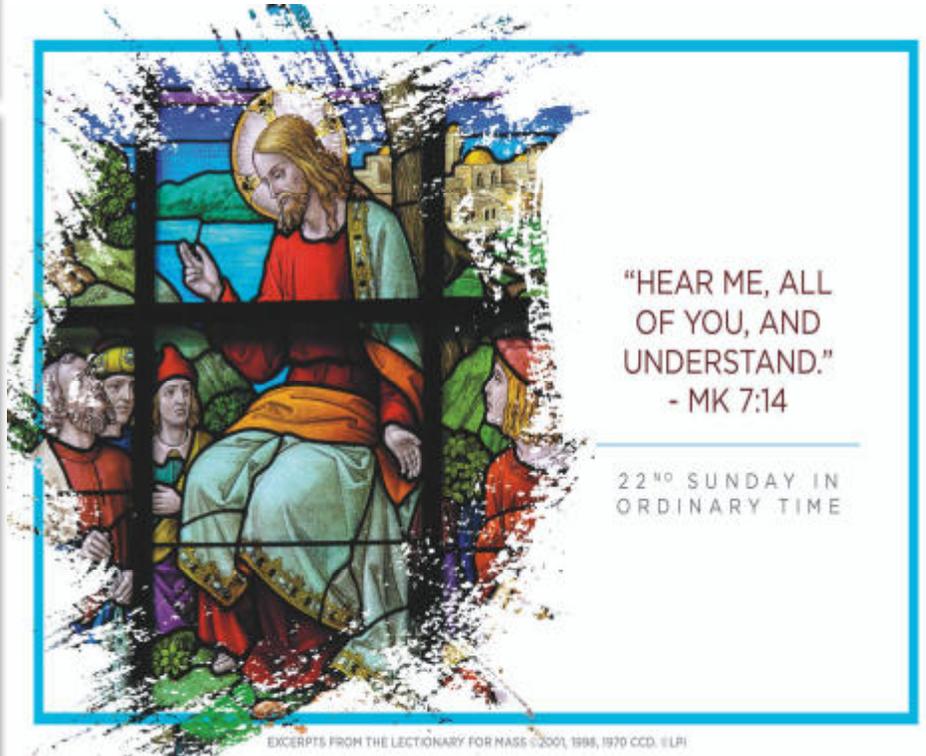
Reconciliation: Every Saturday at 3 pm

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

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

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

You may have heard that one of the popular vaccines, Pfizer, now has full FDA approval. This happens to be the vaccine that I myself received, and indeed many other Catholics (over 200 million doses have been given to Americans alone, saving an enormous number of lives). I thought I would take some time to talk about vaccines with you as far as the church is concerned, and if you have questions about how they may relate to you more uniquely, I'd be happy to do that.

First, our Pope has encouraged us to receive the vaccine.

"Thanks to God's grace and to the work of many, we now have vaccines to protect us from Covid-19," he said in the video released on Wednesday. Pope Francis went on to say that getting a Covid jab that is "authorized by the respective authorities," is an "act of love." <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2021-08/pope-francis-appeal-covid-19-vaccines-act-of-love.html>

I think this is the best way to approach the vaccines: it's not always about "my" health, but the health of people I love.

Our first reading is from Deuteronomy, where Moses lays out God's rules. Why? That they may *live*. God's ways open Heaven to us eventually, but we are meant to flourish in love here as well. Our life is not limited to spiritual life. Consider Leviticus 13 for example, which gives detailed instructions on the treatment of mildew in clothing. Not exciting writing, right? But it was a practical thing people could do to stay healthy.

Leviticus 13 also requires things that we have come to take for granted in the last year: if you have an infectious disease, you must "cover the lower part of your face" and you must live outside the camp for as long as you are infected. In those days, without modern medicine, you can imagine what that separation was like. You might never see family again. Yet God required it.

In the New Testament Jesus heals some people miraculously, yet he does not release them from the law: they must still go and show themselves to the priests. As we pray for a miracle, we too must follow the rules.

I've heard some refuse to take the vaccine because their body is a temple, out of fear it will defile them somehow. Our gospel clearly shows we have nothing to fear there "Nothing that enters one from outside can defile that person."

People worry too about a connection to abortion. Even in the worst case, both the Pope and the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops have ruled that "it is morally acceptable to receive COVID-19 vaccines that have used cell lines from aborted fetuses in their research and production process." Fortunately, the mRNA vaccines have *not* used such cells in production.

Research, though? Perhaps. Lines such as HEK 293 came from a donation in 1973, possibly an abortion, possibly a miscarriage. We don't know, but even in the worst case, we can't bring that child back. We can, however, save other people now.

To follow Jesus means "both/and" rather than "either/or." We worry about the body as well as the soul. We worry about earthly life as well as heavenly life. We build hospitals and research medicines even as we pray for miracles. We use reason and faith. I ask that you prayerfully consider the possibility that God is once again working miracles right in front of us, in the hard labor of gifted people and the material world that he has made.

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY: Is 35:4-7a/Ps 146:7, 8-9, 9-10 [1b]/Jas 2:1-5/Mk 7:31-3

The Sign of Peace

By: Dan Stachelski III

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus instructed that we must reconcile with one another before worship (Mt. 5:23). It was also an ancient Christian custom to "greet one another with a holy kiss" (Rom 16:16, 1 Cor 16:20, 2 Cor 13:12). As early as 155 AD, St. Justin Martyr wrote about the exchange of the kiss during Mass and Tertullian (another early Christian writer) in about 200 AD wrote about the Kiss of Peace as a "seal on prayer." Over the course of time, the Kiss of Peace changed according to local custom, such as shaking hands, bowing one's head, or some other sign. Its placement in the Mass also changed. In Eastern liturgies, it occurs after the Liturgy of the Word and the intercessions. The same was true with western liturgies until Pope Gregory the Great (c. 540-604) moved it to its present place.

The Sign of Peace contains three parts:

1. **Prayer for Peace.** The priest invites us to pray: "Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles, I leave you peace, my peace I give you .." The Hebrew word "peace" that was used here by Christ was "shalom," which means more than the absence of war and conflict. It includes the peace of personal well-being, health of body and soul, and requires harmony between the individual, God, and among others. This prayer is addressed to Christ himself and concludes: "Look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church, and grant us the peace and unity of your kingdom."
2. **The priest's wish for peace for the congregation.** The priest then extends his hands and wishes the congregation the peace of the Lord, and we reply with "And with your spirit." (Remember, the "spirit" refers to the spirit that the priest received at his ordination.) This serves as a type of collective embrace upon the community.
3. **The sign of peace.** The wish for peace may be followed by a visible sign of peace. The priest or deacon may invite the congregation to offer one another a sign of peace. This exchange varies according to culture, customs, community, and the diocese.

No matter what gesture is used as a sign of peace, there is a connection between this and the Our Father. The Sign of Peace is an outward expression of the Lord's Prayer -- the prayer that expresses unity of all of God's children. The very first word of the prayer is "our," which in itself is collective, not individualistic. We turn to one another and offer a sign of peace and reconciliation, because we have just prayed: "as we forgive those who trespass against us."

We share this peace and reconciliation with our family of faith, as we symbolically anticipate the very profound and real unity that will come when we receive holy communion.

Reflection. The Sign of Peace is an opportunity to act upon the words that were prayed in the Lord's Prayer. Why do you think that Pope Gregory the Great decided that this "act" is more fitting in the Communion Rite?

MINISTRY NEWS

- ◆ **Respect Life News - Save the Date:** We are thrilled to announce that on September 30th Father Frank Pavone, National Director for Priests for Life, will return to the Buffalo area as the keynote speaker at Summit Life Outreach Center's Annual Banquet. We would like to reserve a table. Tickets are \$50 per person. Financial assistance available. More information to follow. Any questions, please call 937- 9577.
- ◆ **St. John's Works of Mercy Ministry Upcoming Events:**
 1. We will be sponsoring a family movie night on Friday September 3, on the lawn next to the church. The Movie will start at 8:15 pm. Any youth interested in joining the youth group should come to a short meeting at 7 pm prior to the movie. Concessions will be provided at there will be pizza during a short intermission. If you plan on attending, please text Mark Kryczak at 716- 946-0404 with how many people will be attending. The movie that will be shown is a faith-based movie "I Can Only Image". We hope to see you all there!
 2. Come join us for a patriotic/prayer rally on Sept 11 in remembrance of the events that occurred 20 years ago. After the 4 pm Mass, we will have a social between the rectory and the church from 5-6 pm in which hotdogs, chips, and apple pie will be served for dinner. The hour-long rally will start promptly at 6 following the social. Feel free to bring lawn chairs, flags, and anything else that you would like to help celebrate our great country! If you plan on attending, please contact the rectory with how many people will be attending this event.
- ◆ **Legion of Mary:** The Legion of Mary is celebrating their 100th anniversary all over the world. In honor of the anniversary, St. John's will be having a Mass on September 5th at 11:00 am and will also be celebrating the Blessed Mother's Birthday. We would like our Auxiliary members and parishioners to join us. We have been at St. John's for 38 years and was started by our Spiritual Director, Father Joseph Hassler. Mary continues to bless our Legion with loving care and parish ministries we perform. After Mass, we will be saying the Rosary and Legion of Mary Prayers. Please feel free to join us.

A Word from Today's Scriptures

The Tradition of the Elders: Well did Isaiah prophesy... This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; In vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines human precepts.
Mk 7:6b-7

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

Prayer starter: Lord Jesus, do not let me strive to appear holy, let me be holy. Purify my heart; purify my actions

PARISH NEWS

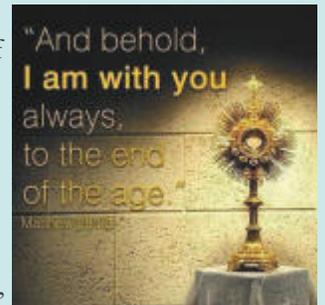
- ◆ **Faith Formation Update:** Our Faith Formation Program is still scheduled to begin in September. If families have any questions, please contact the rectory. We are also looking for a new Faith Formation Director. Please see the Faith Formation section for the job description and link to follow if interested.
- ◆ **National Fuel:** After Labor Day, National Fuel plans to begin work repairing the main line which runs in front of the church and rectory. They are hoping to be able to complete their work by digging underground and not having to dig up the asphalt. Should their work interfere with Mass or the rectory, we will notify parishioners via the bulletin, announcements and on our website and Facebook.
- ◆ **Labor Day:** The rectory will be closed in observance of Labor day. May everyone have a safe and enjoyable weekend.
- ◆ **Early Bulletin Notice:** The week of the 29th is an early bulletin week due to Labor day. Please submit all content by August 30 for the September 5th bulletin and September 1 for the September 12th bulletin.

FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION By Delphine Leaderstorf Friday, September 3rd: 9:00 am - 7:00 pm

FAQ: So what or how do I adore and revenge Jesus in Adoration? First - have no fear!!! Trust, surrender, believe, receive all that Jesus has in store for you. Before entering a pew, kneel down on **both** knees and make the sign of the cross. Then move into your pew and begin to pray, to talk to Jesus about your joys, sorrow, concerns and worries. That's all it takes and then listen so you can hear what is being said for you!!!

If you anyone has any questions about Adoration, please send them by email to parishlife@stjohnsalden.org and we will anonymously answer them in the bulletin so all may have the opportunity to learn more.

We are in need of Adorers throughout the day. Two Adorers for each hour is the ideal, so that if someone is sick or has an emergency, Our Lord is not alone. Someone **always** needs to be present during Adoration. Pick an hour that works best for you. If you can't commit to an entire hour - call some friends and split the time intervals (15 minutes, 30 minutes) as long as the entire hour is covered-sign up is at the side entrance. The Lord will greatly bless you for spending time with Him.



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 Kalczyński, Roger Morphew, Fred & Helen Polyowicz, Sharon Fisher, Donna Hamm, Ron Soper, Madeleine Newman, Gilbert Fries, Michael McNally, Dolores Kuciel, Theodore Langner, Tom Czechowski, Michael Volk, Beverly & David Pellitteri, Dolores Kuciel, Bruce Hoffman, Joe Adams, Gretchen Smith, Sharon Kruzawski, Dan Labuzetta and All Special Intentions.

FAITH FORMATION:

The Faith Formation office is still looking for volunteers. If interested, please contact the rectory.

There is still time to register your children for classes. If interested, please contact the rectory or go to stjohnsalden.com for the registration form.

Reminder to families who still have their books from last year, please don't forget to turn them in.

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

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

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, August 28

4:00 pm Lee Houck - His Family

Sunday, August 29 (22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time)

8:00 am Deacon Richard & Mary Mahaney - The Mahaney Family

9:30 am Gretl Karlnoski - Family

11:00 am Joseph Malay - Family

Monday, August 30

8:30 am Maureen Schiuler - Michael Pucci Family

Tuesday, August 31

8:30 am Michael Hopcia - The Mahaney Family

Wednesday, September 1

8:30 am All Souls

Thursday, September 2

8:30 am Genevieve J. Kaczmarek - Estate

Friday, September 3

8:30 am All Souls

Saturday, September 4

4:00pm Ken Reuter - Nick & Gretchen Smith

Sunday, September 5 (23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time)

8:00 am Betty & Bruce Janowski - Jamie & Sharon Hoelscher

9:30 am Michael Hopcia - Hurley Family

11:00 am In Honor of the Legion of Mary's 100th Anniversary and the Birthday of the Blessed Mother on September 8th

FOR THE WEEK OF SUNDAY, AUGUST 29

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

*Franny Holtz for her
100th Birthday*



FINANCE

WEEKEND OF 8/22/2021

SUNDAY COLLECTION

Total.....\$6,123.35

WESHARE

8/14 - 8/20.....\$1,567.00

FISCAL YEAR TO DATE

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

.....\$451,003.49

UPON THIS ROCK: As of July 2021, \$4,351.40 was deposited into the St. John's Capital Campaign account. Thank you all who continue to fulfill their pledge.

Charles Meyer

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