



# 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](mailto:st.johnsaldenparish@gmail.com)

[www.facebook.com/StJohnsChurchAldenNY](https://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.

SEPTEMBER 19, 2021

TWENTY-FIFTH 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)

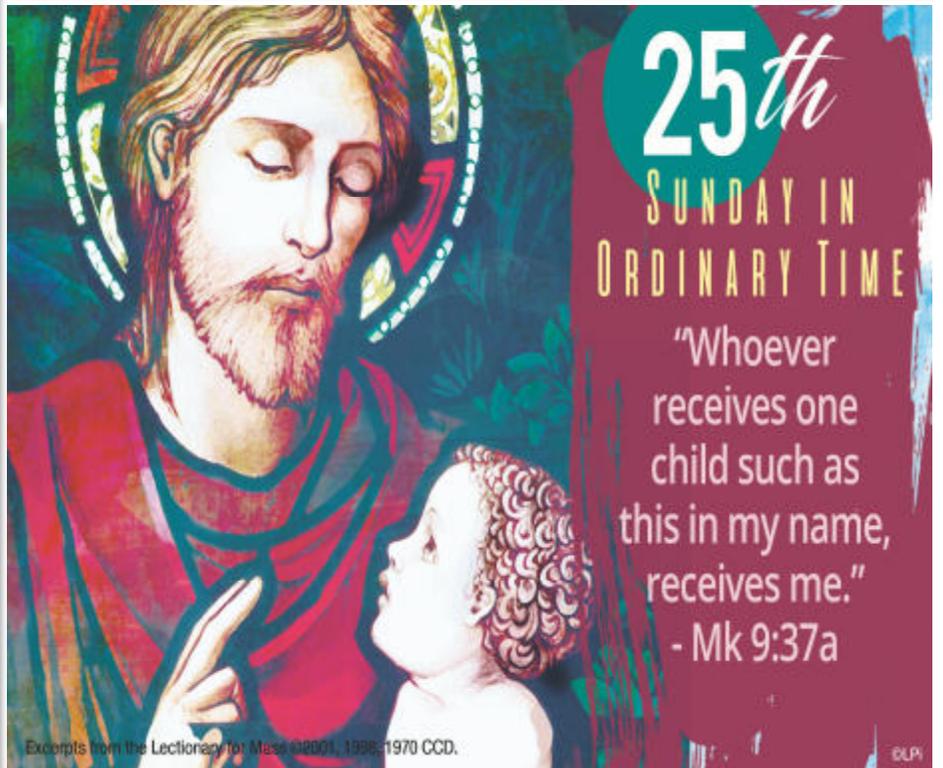
**Reconciliation:** Every Saturday at 3 pm

**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](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.



Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass (2002, 1988, 1970 CCD).



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**



### A Word From Father Dan

Something a little different this week. As you know, our area is slowly moving toward becoming a “family of families.” This family will likely include both St Max and St John’s. Since Deb’s medical leave and unfortunate passing, I have been covering for her at St John’s in a temporary capacity while the diocese and I worked things out. I am now ready to share that picture.

First, we are getting a second priest! His name is Rev Patryk Sobczyk, and he’s coming from St Gabe’s in Elma. He has been ordained just two years, meaning I’m no longer the baby priest here, for better or worse. Moreover, he taught for eight years and will be a great asset to our parishes.

Second, while continuing as pastor of St Max, I have been appointed pastor of St. John’s as well, starting September 25th. Patryk and I will take turns providing sacramental ministry at both sites. I thank Frs. Dick and Jim for their service here, and remain open to any support they can give! I hope you continue to feel welcome here, albeit under less pressure.

Third, this is a tough one for St Max. The diocese is requiring both priests to live together at the rectory in Alden. Thank you so, so much for those that worked hard to make it a comfortable home in the four years I spent there. I am just as much your pastor as well, no matter where I hang my toothbrush. Sue’s office hours are not changing, and I will still be available there by appointment. I’m still working out where and when pastoral office hours will be.

I consider a key part of my job now as being a bridge between the two parishes, helping them help each other. I encourage you to do the same, looking to learn from and help people with a similar mission or focus. That could mean opportunities for retreats, bible studies, works of mercy and so much more. If you are submitting material for one bulletin, consider advertising in both!

Please pray for your priests, our churches, and all of God’s people in Western NY. I plan to cover Masses at St John’s the weekend of the 25th to answer questions. Thank you everyone.

### Week 3: Season of Creation 2021

In today’s readings, we are given a sense of the destructive power of passions, divisions, jealousies, greed, and competition, both for people and, in this Season of Creation, for Earth itself and all Earth inhabitants. This destructive dynamic contrasts sharply with what the Letter of James calls “the Wisdom from above,” a wisdom that embraces the importance of turning our competitive energies to true service of the least among us and the creation of which we are a part.

So, as we begin today, let’s enter into the quiet of our spirits ... conscious of God’s gift of Earth, the nurturing home of such rich diversity of life, ... conscious of its destruction and suffering from overconsumption, exploitation, and the crisis of dangerously-rising temperatures globally ... yet home to millions of people rising up to restore, heal, and save our common home. (Source: [seasonofcreation.org](http://seasonofcreation.org), author James E. Hug, SJ)

### The Lamb of God (Agnus Dei)

By: Dan Stachelski III

While the priest performs the fraction rite (the Breaking of the Bread) and the commingling, the people sing or say: *Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God, grant us peace.* This invocation was introduced in the Roman liturgy by Pope Sergius I (687-701) to accompany the breaking of bread. In the 11th century, the final line was changed to “grant us peace” rather than “have mercy on us.”

The title of “Lamb of God” is found throughout the New Testament. It was a title used by St. John the Baptist (John 1:29, 36), and appears in the Book of Revelation (5:6, 7:14, 12, 13:8, 19:9). The usage of this title is based upon the Old Testament prophet Isaiah’s message (53:7): “Like a lamb that is led to slaughter ... so he did not open his mouth.” Paul also compares Christ to the Passover lamb (1 Cor 5:7).

When we sing the Lamb of God we address Jesus himself. He is our Passover Lamb who has been sacrificed, and whose blood has been poured out for the forgiveness of our sins and for those of the whole world and we ask for his mercy. Our song takes us right up to the throne of God as we join the hosts of angels who worship Jesus as the victorious Lamb in the heavenly liturgy as St. John described in the Book of Revelation. Revelation 5:11-13: “I looked again and heard the voices of many angels who surrounded the throne and the living creatures and the elders. They were countless in number, and they cried out in a loud voice: ‘Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches, wisdom and strength, honor and glory and blessing.’ Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, everything in the universe, cry out: ‘To the one who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor, glory and might, forever and ever.’”

**Reflection.** It is fitting that we sing heavenly praise to our Lord as his Body is broken (fraction rite) and reunited (commingled) with his Blood in the Mass. He is now presented on the altar as our exalted Passover Lamb, which we are about to receive in Holy Communion.

### A Word from Today’s Scriptures

Then Jesus sat down, called the Twelve, and said to them, “If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all.” Mark 9:35

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

*Prayer starter: Jesus, give me the heart of a servant. Help me to be ready at any time to be your hands and feet to those in need*

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY: Nm 11:25-29/Ps 19:8, 10, 12-13, 14 [9a]/Jas 5:1-6/Mk 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

## PARISH LIFE/EVANGELIZATION

**WHEN:** 7 Consecutive Thursday evenings beginning September 23-November 4, 2021

**WHAT:** A video series entitled **The Search**

**WHERE:** St. Johns' School 6:30-8PM

**WHY:** to help us enkindle wonder as we journey through life's enduring questions.

**\*\*\*\*WHO\*\*\*\*** for ALL high school, young adult and adult ages

Please email Deacon Marc & Delphine at [parishlife@stjohnsalden.org](mailto:parishlife@stjohnsalden.org) to register so that we have the appropriate space available.

**Sponsored by Parish Life/Evangelization**



## FUNDRAISING NEWS

- ♦ **The fundraising committee** has ordered the Fall Sweepstakes tickets for 2021. If you would like one mailed to you when they arrive, please contact the rectory with your name and address or send an email to [st.johnsaldenparish@gmail.com](mailto:st.johnsaldenparish@gmail.com). We will distribute them as soon as possible.
- ♦ **Candy Bar Sale:** St. John's School is doing their yearly sale of Gertrude Hawks candy bars. The cost is \$1.00/bar and the rectory will have a box available. Parishioners do have the option of buying chocolate by the box as well. If interested, please contact the rectory. Each box is \$50.00.
- ♦ **Cookbooks:** The 170th anniversary cookbooks are available for purchase! They were put together with love by a group of our parishioners and would be a great gift for the upcoming holiday season. The books are \$12.00 and are available at the rectory for purchase. Be sure to get yours before we sell out, these are the last run for a newer piece of St. John's history.



## MINISTRY NEWS

- ♦ **All Souls' Mass:** The Worship Committee is looking for people to help plan a bereavement Mass on November 2, 2021. If you would like to help, please contact the rectory.
- ♦ **Respect Life News:**
  - **Saturday, September 25 – Respect Life Coordinator's Commissioning Mass** 9:00 am St. Louis Church (Main & Edward Street, Buffalo) Pre-registration Required 847-2205
  - **Saturday, October 2 – Unified March** (9:00 am) St. Mark Church (401 Woodland Avenue, Buffalo) Celebrant: Fr. David Baker  
Following Mass: we will proceed to the clinic at 2500 Main Street where we will pray the Rosary together for a peaceful opportunity to pray for the unborn  
Sponsored by: The Knights of Columbus/Diocesan Office of Pastoral Ministries & Buffalo 40 Days for Life
  - **Sunday, October 3 – Respect Life Mass** – 10:30 am. St. Joseph Cathedral (50 Franklin Street, Buffalo) Celebrant: Bishop Mike Fisher

## AROUND THE DIOCESE

- ♦ **Caregivers needed. HART (Home Assistance Referral Team)** is a free referral service that provides quality care such as certified aides, light housekeeping, companionship, respite for family caregivers and light home maintenance to seniors throughout Niagara County and adjacent areas, allowing individuals to remain independent in their own home. We need your help! If you have the gift of caring, call us today at 716-754-8313 or visit [www.hartprogram.org/join-our-team](http://www.hartprogram.org/join-our-team) for more information or to fill out an application.
- ♦ **Widow and Widowers: the Companions Sharing the Journey** invite you to join our social group on Fridays at 6:30 pm at St. Bernadette Parish, Msgr. Carey Room of the Parish Ministry Center (enter door #1 in the back), 5930 S. Abbott Rd., Orchard Park. We gather for light refreshments, prayer, conversation and fun. Special events are scheduled. For additional information, call Mary at 716-667-7197.
- ♦ **Assumption Church Bingo** every Tuesday at 7:30 pm and Friday at 7:30 pm. Assumption is located at 435 Amherst St., Buffalo. Masks must be worn and no food can be brought in. Limited concessions are available for purchase. For more information, call 716-875-7626. All are welcome.



**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, Catherine & Maurice Boling, Mitchell, Gail Hans, Marie Boller, Diane Zymowski, Sharon Pfeiffer, Dawn LaPage, Amy Bonamici, Robert Kalczynski, 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 Labuzzetta and All Special Intentions.

### **FAITH FORMATION:**

Thank you all for your patience with us as we navigate this period of change that St. John's is going through. Monday, September 13th, was the start of the High School and Confirmation classes. If your child was unable to attend classes, please contact the rectory so that we may get you needed materials for their Faith Formation journey.

For families with students in grades 1-8, please contact the rectory if you wish to enroll your student or have not picked up books for your children. The lessons in the books started as of September 1st and should be done together as a family. We are expecting to have the first gathering meeting as scheduled for October 2nd and 3rd. Emails will be sent out as a reminder or if things should change and the gathering session is moved or cancelled.

Again, we would like to extend our gratitude to all our families for being so understanding as we work together with our volunteers such as Maria LaVarnway, Scott Dobe, Angela Roeser, and Carey Czarniecki. We cannot thank them and you enough for working with us as we strive to provide you with a faith-filled year!

### **SCHOOL NEWS**

Dear St. John the Baptist Parish,

I would like to extend a HUGE thank you to the amazing Works of Ministry Group for going above and beyond to make our students and teachers feel welcome this week. Once again members from this parish group greeted the students with smiles and candy bars with the message, "Welcome Back! You've Got this!" as they left the school on Friday.

In addition the entire front of the school was covered with lawn signs spelling out the message, "We believe in you.". We are so grateful for the tremendous amount of love and support that comes out of this parish.

Many Blessings,  
Mrs. Jonna Johnson, Principal

We are continuing to sell Gertrude Hawke Candy bars. We will have these bars available in the rectory and after Masses. You can also contact any school family, and I am sure that they will be happy to sell you a few. Thank you for supporting our first fundraiser of the year.

**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, September 18**

4:00 pm All Souls

**Sunday, September 19 (25th Sunday in Ordinary Time)**

8:00 am Camille Rybarczyk - Elaine & Todd Szymczak

9:30 am Michael J. Hopcia - Cousin, Sally & Tony

11:00 am All Souls

**Monday, September 20**

8:30 am Msgr David SLubecky - Family & Estate

**Tuesday, September 21**

8:30 am Patrick Comerford - His Wife

**Wednesday, September 22**

8:30 am Lyle Fix - His Wife & Family

**Thursday, September 23**

8:30 am Camille Rybarczyk - Dan & Monica Kubiak

**Friday, September 24**

8:30 am All Souls

**Saturday, September 25**

4:00pm Michael Metz - Mom, brothers, & sisters

**Sunday, September 26 (26th Sunday in Ordinary Time)**

8:00 am Erica Zinter - Nick & Gretchen Smith

9:30 am Ched Oliver - Grandpa & Grandma Kocher

11:00 am Anthony Marlino - Joseph A. Geraci

**FOR THE WEEK OF SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19**

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

*Michael Metz*



**FINANCE**

**WEEKEND OF 9/5/2021**

**SUNDAY COLLECTION**

Total.....\$9,544.00

**FISCAL YEAR TO DATE**

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

.....\$458,386.39

**WEEKEND OF 9/12/2021**

**SUNDAY COLLECTION**

Total.....\$5,790.00

**WESHARE**

8/28 - 9/4.....\$1,707.00

**FISCAL YEAR TO DATE**

(9/1/2021-8/31/2022).....

.....\$7,497.00

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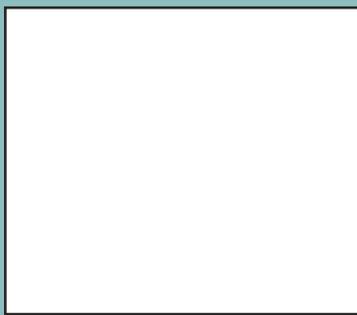
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