



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.

OCTOBER 17, 2021

TWENTY-NINETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

PARISH LIFE

Pastor:Rev. Daniel J. Serbicki
Parochial Vicar:Rev. Patryk G. Sobczyk
Permanent Deacon:Marc Leaderstorf
Permanent Deacon:Peter Donnelly
School Principal:Jonna Johnson
Business Manager:Kate Wypij
Director of Music & Liturgy:Dan Stachelski
Faith Formation Leader:.....Angela Behrend
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.



29th SUNDAY *in ordinary time*

"For the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many." - Mk 10:45

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

ELP



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

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



Mass Appeal: How the Liturgy Speaks to Our Five Senses

By: Dolores Smyth

My Catholic faith is a large part of who I am. However, I haven't always been so passionate about the Church's ancient way of worshipping. Although I've never strayed from my belief in salvation through Christ, my younger self did question whether the so-called "smells and bells" of Catholicism—all of those rituals like the burning of incense and the ringing of bells—heightedened or hindered my ability to experience God.

That creeping insecurity in my youth that there might be a "better" way to worship led me to embark on what I'd refer to years later as my "tour" of other Christian churches. The journey was enlightening. [...] After attending several non-Catholic Christian services, I realized that the Catholic Church's tradition of appealing to all of our senses during Mass immersed me in worship in ways those other churches did not. I returned to my home Church with a new appreciation for its use of "smells and bells" to praise God and communicate Jesus's actual presence in the Holy Eucharist and, therefore, his actual presence in the space in which the Mass is celebrated.

During Mass, my immersion in worship begins at the church door where I dip my fingers in holy water and make the sign of the cross. This quick but significant act both affirms my belief in the Holy Trinity and in Christ's sacrifice for me on the Cross. Immediately, the busyness of my daily schedule starts to fall away as I'm reminded of something greater than my to-do list. My thoughts and actions remain focused on God as I genuflect toward the Tabernacle housing the Blessed Sacrament, and take my seat in a pew.

The sacredness of my church's quiet space is further highlighted by the sight of churchgoers kneeling in front of the crucifix above the altar. That communal show of adoration inspires me to kneel as well, the gesture immediately flooding me with humility and introspection.

I also find connection in the sacred depictions that surround me at Mass — the stained glass and statues — representing the community of saints who followed Jesus or devoted their lives to upholding God's word. My link to God and his people is also deepened by the scent of incense burning, a physical reminder that our prayers, like the incense smoke, rise up to the Father.

This bond with my fellow parishioners only intensifies when we join together to sing hymns, listen to Holy Scripture, and recite the most unifying of prayers — the Our Father. This physical participation in worship continues as the congregation extends each other the sign of peace. Each of these signs and actions moves us forward as a community to the Mass's central act of worship, Holy Communion.

"This is my body, which will be given up for you," the priest says, drawing my sight to the stone altar. The sound of bells joyously alerts me to the presence of the living God in the consecrated host, now the sacred "bread of life" (John 6:48). As I taste the Eucharist, I'm revitalized by what the Church aptly describes as "a mysterious and real communion" between Jesus's body and our own. I feel united with my fellow parishioners, knowing that together we form the body of Christ. Mass ends with the instruction to, "Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by our lives." Even at dismissal, the Church reminds us that our physical actions—from what we do to what we choose to see—should be for the glory of God.

The Bible tells us that Jesus became a physical being so that he might connect with us in our physical reality. The Catholic Mass embraces that understanding of the sensory aspect of our humanity by appealing to each of our senses in a way that unites our physical consciousness with our spiritual beliefs. My visits to other Christian churches years ago sparked in me a fuller appreciation for just how much the Mass's sensory engagement strengthens my faith by drawing me into worship whole, directing my every ability to perceive heavenward—mind, body, and soul.

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY: Is 53:10-11/Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22 [22]/Heb 4:14-16/Mk 10:35-45 or 10:42-4

PARISH NEWS

- ◆ **We have Mass intentions and Sanctuary Light** availability in 2021. Both the Sanctuary Light and Mass Intentions can be for the living, for healing prayers, and for the deceased. If you would like to request either, please contact the rectory. We now have cards for healing intentions available to send to families as well as the Mass cards previously available.
- ◆ **Hymnals** have been removed from the pews to allow for cleaning between Masses, but they are available at the entrances of the church. Please pick one up as you enter the church and return it when you leave. You are also welcome to use your phone or tablet to follow along by using the worship aids that are available by scanning the QR code on the front of the bulletin or by visiting www.stjohnalden.com/worship-aids.



AN AMAZING NEW YEAR IS UPON US...

LET'S CELEBRATE TOGETHER!!

JOIN US FOR

ST. JOHN'S 12th ANNUAL WINE NIGHT

OCTOBER 23, 2021
2028 SANDRIDGE RD, ALDEN, NY 14004
DOORS OPEN AT 6:30PM, 7:00 START
ADMISSION - \$30/PERSON

ADMISSION PRICE INCLUDES:
A Variety of Wines, Beers, and Spirits with Foods to Pair
Live music - Dancing - 50/25/25s - Games - and More!

MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS NOW!!
Please email all reservation requests to misvornway@dsareps.com or call/text Maria at 716-510-3187 or Michelle at 716-870-0335

A Word from Today's Scriptures

Jesus said, "Rather, whoever wishes to be great among you will be your servant; whoever wishes to be first among you will be the slave of all. For the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Mk. 10:43b-44

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.
Prayer starter: Lord Jesus, I know that serving others is such a holy thing like you did when you washed the feet of your disciples. Please show me ways that I can serve.

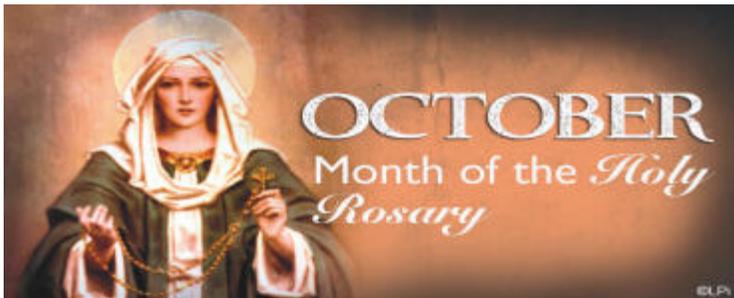
MINISTRY NEWS

- ♦ **Respect Life News:** 40 Days For Life 2021 runs from Wednesday, September 22 to Sunday, October 31. Help spread the word about this peaceful & prayerful gathering. St. John's has a time slot from 10-11:00am every Friday, but anyone is welcome to attend at any time. Carpooling is available for those attending the St. John's time slot. It is located at Woman's Services, 2500 Main St. Buffalo. Call Pam 785-7195 if you would like to attend and visit 40 Days For Life on Facebook for more information.
- ♦ **Save the Date:** Please come to an International Rosary led by Fr. Patryk on Monday, October 18th at St. John's church. It will be in six different languages and booklets will be provided. We will pray after the 8:30 morning Mass. There will be an exposition after the Mass and then the rosary for human life and private intentions. All parishioners and visitors are welcome.
- ♦ **Fall Cemetery Cleanup:** On November 6th, starting at 9:00 am, the Cemetery Committee invites everyone to help clean up our beautiful cemetery before winter. We need people with trailers or tractors as well as willing bodies to move leaves and other debris. This is a great opportunity for volunteer hours and we will happily sign off that students were there to help clean. If interested, please contact the rectory, we will have donuts, cider, and hot chocolate for those who come. The rain date for the cleanup will be Saturday, November 16th.



FUNDRAISING NEWS

- ♦ **Sweepstakes tickets are in!** The bi-annual cash-raffle sweepstakes are back for the fall. Tickets are a \$20.00 donation and you can win up to \$4,000.00. If you are interested in being a part of the drawing on October 23rd, tickets are available at either entry of the church, or at the rectory.
- ♦ **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.



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, David Borden, Gary Powers, Christine Mayer, Bill Chapman, Jim Nowinski, Ed Monoco, Joanne Mueller, Marcia Keglar, Ken Warren, Catherine Boling, Mitchell, Gail Hans, Marie Boller, Diane Zymowski, Sharon Pfeiffer, Dawn LaPage, Amy Bonamici, Robert Kalczynski, Fred & Helen Poltowicz, Sharon Fisher, Donna Hamm, Ron Soper, Madeleine Newman, Gilbert Fries, Michael McNally, Dolores Kuciel, Theodore Langner, Tom Czechowski, Michael Volk, Beverly & David Pellittieri, Dolores Kuciel, Bruce Hoffman, Joe Adams, Gretchen Smith, Sharon Kruzawski, Dan Labuzzetta, Darlene Dahl, Jen Monroe and All Special Intentions.

PARISH LIFE/EVANGELIZATION

THE SEARCH CONTINUES:

WHEN: Thursday evenings September 23-November 4, 2021

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

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

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

Episode 5 Thursday, October 21, 2021

WHO IS JESUS? The most beautiful part of this story is this - we can know God's love, personally - in the person of Jesus. But how did this seemingly insignificant carpenter born into poverty in a dusty corner of the Roman Empire become the most pivotal figure in all of history? Christianity isn't simply a philosophy for life - the center of Christianity is a person. We look at the life of Jesus and what he came to do. Ultimately, we need to decide if Jesus really was who he said he was. We can't sit on the fence. Because if Jesus really was who he said he was, we need to make him the Lord of our lives, and everything changes

There is plenty of space is available
it's not too late to join us.

Sponsored by Parishlife/Evangelization
email stjohnsalden@parishlife.org for more information
and/or questions

AROUND THE DIOCESE

- ♦ **Spaghetti Dinner** on Sunday, October 24 from 12-5 pm at Basilica of St. Mary of the Angels, 202 S. Union St., Olean. Attend Sunday Mass at 11 am and then enjoy an early dinner. Online orders recommended: <https://smaolean.org/spaghetti-dinner>; pick-up and delivery only. Dinner includes: spaghetti and mega meatballs, salad, roll & butter, and Basilica baked heart cookie. Theme basket raffle in the Centennial hall (Basilica cafeteria). Fundraiser supports the Oratory of the Sacred Heart in Portville.
- ♦ **Night of Prayer for the World.** Join us once a month on Tuesdays from 7-8 pm for a night of prayer for the world at Our Lady of Czestochowa, 64 Center Ave., North Tonawanda or by livestream. During this hour we will bring various needs before Our Lord. We will unite in adoration, petition, praise and thanksgiving. Scheduled dates are: October 19, November 16, December 21, January 18, February 15, March 15, April 5 and May 3.



FAITH FORMATION:

I would like to introduce myself, Angela Behrend, as the Director of Faith Formation. I look forward to bringing our families, parish, and school community together to learn about God, his son Jesus, and our rich Catholic faith. Our goal is to bring families into a deeper relationship with God that will grow to last a lifetime. The program consists of a workbook to do at home with your child as well as a monthly meeting with families. The monthly meetings will be structured to enrich faith at all age levels. If you have not yet registered your child this year, it is not too late! Please go to the parish website: stjohnalden.com, and fill out the registration form that can be found under the Faith Formation tab. If you have any direct questions, our would like to volunteer in our program, please send me an email at faith.formation@stjohnsalden.org.

SCHOOL NEWS

Dear St. John Parish,

On Friday, October 8th we had no school for students. Our staff attended a Diocesan wide Mass at the Basilica. Mass was led by The Most Reverend Bishop Mike and our keynote speaker was Dr. Timothy Uhl (Superintendent of Schools and Director of Education for Faith Formation). This wonderful event allowed all schools to come together and share in our common faith.

Following this event our teachers participated in the first module of a “ Spirituality for Teachers and Catechist.” This is a diocesan pilot program that our teachers will use for the rest of the school year to help develop and strengthen their faith, so that they can share this with their students.

Many Blessings,
Jonna M. Johnson, Principal

School News: Our Gertrude Hawke candy sale is well underway. You may purchase candy bars from any St. John the Baptist student or at the rectory.

Save the Date - Our annual Wine Night is back. It may look a little different but we are very excited for Saturday, October 23rd! Please see the school webpage for more information on purchasing tickets.

Office Hours: We will resume our normal office hours of Monday - Thursday, 8am to 3pm and Friday, 8am to 2pm. **Please note that we will not be admitting visitors** to the school during regular school hours. If you need assistance, please contact 716-937-9483.

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, October 16

4:00 pm Kenneth Reuter - The Fix Family

Sunday, October 17 (29th Sunday in Ordinary Time)

8:00 am Sr. Mary Theresa, PC - Nick & Gretchen Smith

9:30 am Michael J. Hopcia - Gabriel & Joan Ciulla

11:00 am Scotty Meidenbaur - Peter Satola

Monday, October 18

8:30 am Mildred & Jerome Miller - Nancy Wiesbeck

Tuesday, October 19

8:30 am Msgr. David Slubecky - Family & Estate

Wednesday, October 20

8:30 am Genevieve J. Kaczmarek - Estate

Thursday, October 21

8:30 am Walter & Loretta Diedrich - Estate

Friday, October 22

8:30 am All Souls

Saturday, October 23

4:00pm Lyle Fix - The Fix Family

Sunday, October 24 (30th Sunday in Ordinary Time)

8:00 am Our Parishioners

9:30 am Larry Kocher - Pat & Bill Current

11:00 am Carol Caci Monteforte - Joseph & Charleen Geraci

FOR THE WEEK OF SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17

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

Jackie Budnik

FINANCE

WEEKEND OF 10/10/2021

SUNDAY COLLECTION

Total.....Not Available

FISCAL YEAR TO DATE

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

.....\$27,200.30

Love your neighbor ...

**Please wear a mask when
entering and exiting the church, and
when receiving communion.**



**Masks may be relaxed
when seated.**

Effective Sep 22, 2021

Please visit www.buffalodiocese.org/coronavirus/
for the most recent diocesan guidelines.

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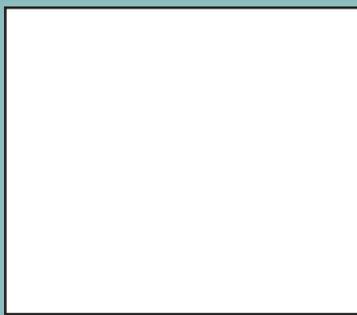
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