



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 24, 2021

THIRTIETH 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

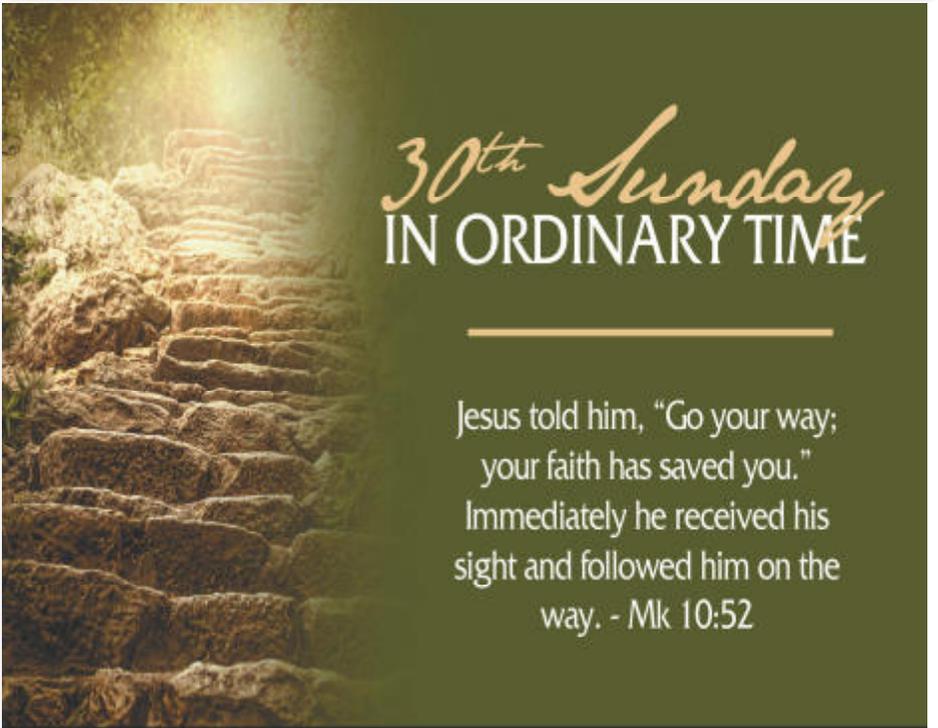
Saturday Mass - 4:00 pm
Sunday Masses - 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 am
Weekdays (Monday-Friday) - 8:30 am
Vigil Mass - As Announced in the bulletin
Holy Day - As Announced in the bulletin
Eucharistic Adoration: First Fridays (9 am - 7 pm)

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.



Jesus told him, "Go your way; your faith has saved you."
Immediately he received his sight and followed him on the way. - Mk 10:52

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



GOSPEL MEDIATION

When we see God with true sincerity of heart and God passes us along our way, it is only then that we will be able to cry out, "Jesus, son of David, have pity on me!" We have to truly want to be healed by, and in union with, God in order for us to reach out to him. If God is only an abstract idea, theory, or someone found in the pages of a book, there is no motivation for a relationship and no desire to seek him. God needs to be real in order for faith to be real. It's all about the journey.

St. Augustine reminds us that "to fall in love with God is the greatest romance; to seek Him the greatest adventure; to find Him the greatest human achievement." We strive after many things and mercy is not always one of them. We think that we can find fulfillment and healing in other things only to discover that we are still short and empty. From the moment human beings were created, God has been calling us and seeking us. He has been walking right beside the human story from the minute He first breathed life into the first human soul. Are we able to recognize God as He walks with us? At some point we have to realize that there is only one way to satisfy the deepest longings of the human heart and that is in relationship with our Creator. We are called to this. However, we make the huge error of thinking that what we are hearing is coming from somewhere else. We become confused. Every human being would certainly profit with wisdom if they realized Who calls them and to Whom they belong.

Then and only then will we realize that it is only our Divine Master who can give us true vision and heal us. Once we recognize and reach out for the merciful presence of our loving Maker, we will be able to see with our soul, understanding the true nature and depth of all things. God's mercy is always available. It doesn't matter how far we have strayed or how blind we become, God patiently waits to console us, guide us and heal us. All we need to do is desire Him. Once we reach out, we also realize that there is no greater love to be found than God's, no human adventure that comes even close to the thrill of a spiritual search, and no human achievement even remotely as satisfying as union with Him. This is where we belong. This is salvation.

©LPi

A Word from Today's Scriptures

Jesus stopped and said, "Call him." So they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take courage; get up, Jesus is calling you." He threw aside his cloak, sprang up, and came to Jesus.
Mark. 10:49-50

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

Prayer starter: Lord, let me be like the blind Bartimaeus, throw aside my cloak and follow you.

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.

A PRAYER FOR OUR COMMON HOME

God of all creation,
you have given us the responsibility of a steward,
one who cares for something.
Our stewardship is to care for our common home,
the earth.

We look to your goodness
shown to us by all the good gifts the earth bestows
upon us:

The rain to water the ground.
The crops that spring from the ground.
The animals that roam the fields.
The medicines that come from the plants.

We also look to you for the wisdom
to care for this creation of yours:
Give us wisdom to know how and when
this good earth needs our special attention.
Helps us not to be shortsighted
and assume that the earth can heal itself without our
help.

You created us from the earth
and we depend upon it for our health.
We ask all from you, and give all back to you.
This we do in Jesus' name who is our brother and
savior.
Amen.



READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY: Dt 6:2-6/Ps 18:2-3, 3-4, 47, 51 [2]/Heb 7:23-28/Mk 12:28b-34

MINISTRY NEWS

- ♦ **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 helping. The rain date for this cleanup will be Saturday, November 16th
- ♦ **Thanksgiving Food Drive:** On November 6th, we will begin collecting food for the Alden-Marilla Food Pantry and for our own Blessing Box. Please bring in nonperishable food items and paper products/toiletries on any of the following dates: Saturday/Sunday, November 6/7, November 13/14 and November 20/21. Please place your donations in the boxes which will be in the front entrance of the church. You may also bring items to the Thanksgiving Day Mass, at 10 am on Thursday, November 25th, where you can bring your items up to the altar during the offertory procession, or leave them in front of the altar before or after Mass. Thank you for your generosity!
- ♦ **Upcoming Special Mass Schedule:**
 - All Saints Day: 8:30 am; 7:00 pm (Non-Holy day of obligation this year)
 - All Souls Day: 8:30 am; 7:00 pm (Remembrance Mass)
 - Thanksgiving Day Mass: 10:00 am
- ♦ **Pro-Life Pretzel Project:** The Pro-Life Committee are creating their delicious chocolate and fall decorated pretzels with a life affirming message! They are a great Halloween treat and will be available at all the Masse the weekend of October 30 & 31. Pretzels are \$1.00 donation and proceeds go towards March for Life, and Youth and Prolife activities. Please feel free to call the Rectory to pre-order pretzels. Thank you!



FUNDRAISING NEWS

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.

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 6 Thursday, October 28, 2021

AM I SAVED ? What Jesus did for us through his life, death and resurrection was the greatest act of love in history. He saved us. He did this for each one of us. Personally. But some might feel unworthy of this gift of love. We may feel we have too much baggage. We may feel unlovable. But God didn't come to reveal himself to us on a pedestal, he came to enter into our messy human condition. To fix us from within. To transform us from the inside out. Some might be surprised by how generous the love of God really is. We don't deserve God's love, but that's the amazing reality of God's mercy. This relationship with God isn't all about our love for Him. It's about His love for us that changes our lives forever.

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

- ♦ **Donations are needed for WNYHeroes Fundraiser!** The mission of WNYHeroes is to help local veterans and their families by providing access to essential services, financial assistance and resources that support their lives and sustain their dignity. Some of the programs this fundraiser will help is: Adopt-a-Hero's Family, Operations Backpack, Little Heroes and more are part of WNY Heroes, Inc. Donations are needed for their upcoming fundraiser: gift cards, baskets, or any financial support, all greatly appreciated. Contact Josie Palmeri of Our Lady of Pompeii, a WNYHeroes volunteer to arrange for a pickup by October 29, 2021 or Call 716-681-0019.
- ♦ **Octoberfest – A Night of German Food, Beer & Music** – on Friday, October 29 at St. Leo the Great Parish Center, 885 Sweet Home Rd., Amherst. Dinner from 6-7:30 pm and music by The Auslanders from 6-9 pm. Dinner includes: schnitzel, bratwurst, German pancakes, salad and strudel. There will be beer, wine and "special" German beer. Tickets available at www.stleothegreatamherst.com or by calling the parish office at 716-835-8905.

Please pray for all who are in need: Ann G, Mackenzie Refemat, 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 Kegl, Ken Warren, Catherine Boling, Mitchell, Gail Hans, Marie Boller, Diane Zymowski, Sharon Pfeiffer, Dawn LaPage, Amy Bonamico, 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 Pellitteri, Dolores Kuciel, Bruce Hoffman, Joe Adams, Gretchen Smith, Sharon Kruzawski, Dan Labuzzetta, Darlene Dahl, Jen Monroe, Martin Wirth, Walter Gablaski, June Beyers, S.W. and All Special Intentions.

SCHOOL NEWS

Dear St. John Parish,

Halloween is a time to encourage imagination, and can be a lot of fun. We have made changes to the way we celebrate Halloween in the school, so that we can all continue to be safe and healthy. I think that it is important to keep a few safety tips in mind as you make plans for Halloween and I will share some that I have adapted from the National Safety Council.

General Safety Tips:

- All costumes, wigs and accessories should be fire-resistant
- If children are allowed out after dark, fasten reflective tape to their costumes and bags, or give them glow sticks
- When buying Halloween makeup, make sure it is nontoxic and always test it in a small area first
- Remove all makeup before children go to bed to prevent skin and eye irritation. A responsible adult should accompany young children on the neighborhood rounds
- If your older children are going alone, plan and review a route acceptable to you
- Agree on a specific time children should return home
- Teach your children never to enter a stranger's home or car
- Instruct children to travel only in familiar, well-lit areas and stick with their friends
- Tell your children not to eat any treats until they return home
- Children and adults are reminded to put electronic devices down, keep heads up and walk, don't run, across the street.

COVID related Safety Tips:

- Host outdoor activities rather than indoor activities as much as possible. If hosting an outdoor event is not possible, and you choose to host an indoor event, avoid crowded, poorly ventilated, or fully enclosed indoor spaces. (Increase ventilation by opening windows and doors to the extent that is safe and feasible based on the weather).
- Host activities with only people from your local area as much as possible.
- Limit numbers of attendees as much as possible. Provide updated information to your guests about any COVID-19 safety guidelines and steps in place to prevent the spread of the virus.
- Provide or encourage attendees to bring supplies to help you and others stay healthy. For example, extra masks (do not share or swap with others), hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol, and tissues.
- If you are planning in-person holiday gatherings with people outside of your household, consider asking all guests to strictly avoid contact with people outside of their households for 14 days before the gathering.

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.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, October 23

4:00 pm 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

Monday, October 25

8:30 am Henry O'Rear - The Volk Family

Tuesday, October 26

8:30 am Deborah Scoma-Jones - Dad & Mom

Wednesday, October 27

8:30 am All Souls

Thursday, October 28

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

Friday, October 29

8:30 am All Souls

Saturday, October 30

4:00pm Michael J. Hopcia - Pat & Ed Heslin

Sunday, October 31 (31st Sunday in Ordinary Time)

8:00 am Jennifer Groszkowski - Nick & Gretchen Smith

9:30 am Camille Krupka - Husband

11:00 am Gretl Karlnoski - Family

FOR THE WEEK OF SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24

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

Our Parishioners

FINANCE

WEEKEND OF 10/10/2021

SUNDAY COLLECTION

Total.....\$6,822.00

WEEKEND OF 10/17/2021

SUNDAY COLLECTION

Total.....\$6,986.00

FISCAL YEAR TO DATE

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

.....\$41,008.30

FUEL

Total.....\$1,945.00

HAITI & IDA RELIEF EFFORTS

Total.....\$427.00

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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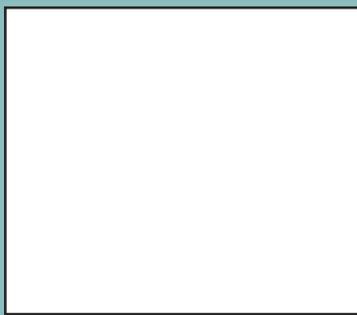


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