



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.

JANUARY 9, 2022

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

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

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

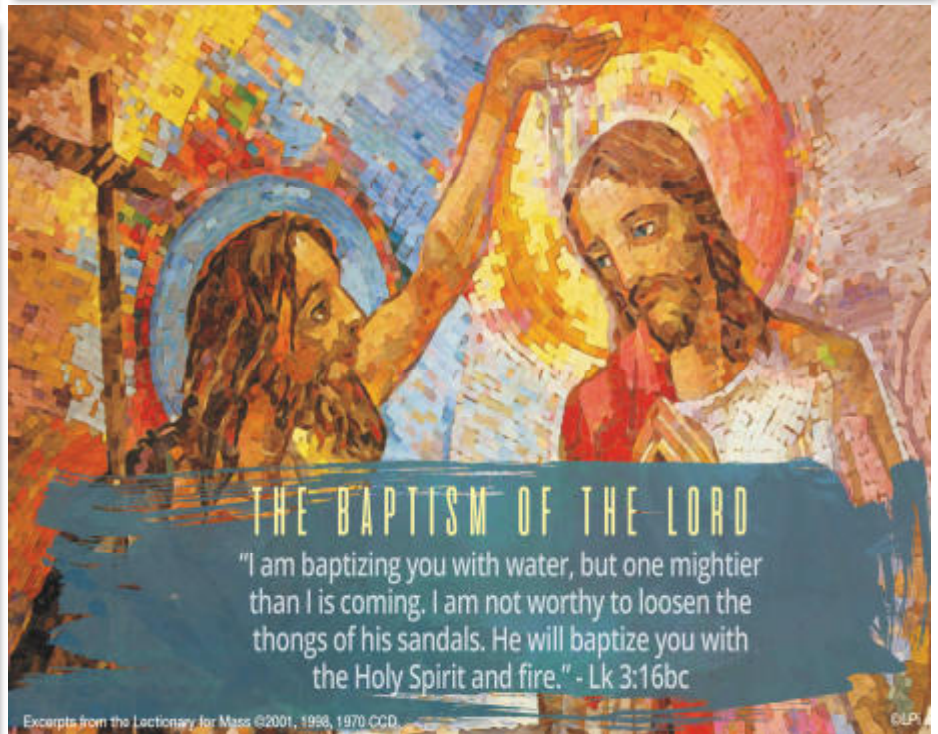
Reconciliation: Every Saturday at 3:00 pm

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



THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

“We are called to live our baptism every day, as new creatures, clothed in Christ.”

— Pope Francis

What reference point do you use when making decisions? Many times, impulse takes control and decisions are made based solely on emotion and desire. We all know that these types of decisions can often get us into trouble. When a person has a confident sense of who they are and a real understanding of what is important and of value, the likelihood of kneejerk impulsive choices diminishes. Baptism gives us what we need to make well informed and purposeful decisions. By this simple gesture, God claims us as His own and provides us with the identity and purpose we need to properly live life.

It is tremendously reassuring, when we truly embrace this revelation and realize that we no longer have to wonder about the purpose of our lives or struggle to find our way. The answer of who we are in God has been given to us. We no longer have to fumble around, trip over ourselves or walk aimlessly about. Issues surrounding the sacredness of life, the meaning of death, the protection of those most vulnerable, care for the weak and the poor, offering hospitality to those in search of a home, the purpose and proper place of work, how to create a just social order, caring for creation, and understanding our roles as heralds and stewards are just a few of the wonderful gifts baptism brings. When we make decisions based on things such as these core Gospel truths we really act as Christ himself, revealing to others the new creations that we are. This is how we live our baptism.

It is difficult to walk against the tide. Yet, that is precisely what baptism calls us to do. Although we are sinners, in need of mercy and far from perfection we are called to order our life and make decisions based upon the wisdom and guidance of Almighty God. He alone is the one who can claim us as His sons and daughters. Standing up for our principles will not make us popular. But who ever said Christianity is a popularity contest? Baptism calls us to stand up for that which goes against the grain of secularism. Standing in line with other sinners, we have our anchor to steady us in the tempests of life and God is very pleased. Forge ahead. There is nothing to fear.

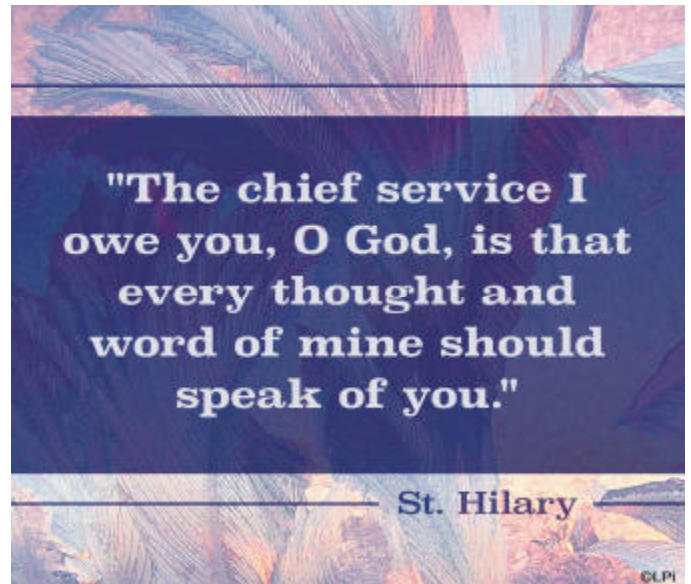
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READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY: **Is 62:1-5/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 7-8, 9-10 [3]/1 Cor 12:4-11/Jn 2:1-1**



RECTORY NEWS

- ◆ **Bulletin Deadlines:** The regular bulletin deadlines are reinstated. All articles and inserts for the bulletin are due Friday at 4:00 pm, 1 week prior to publication. Flyers do need approval from Fr. Dan to be printed/published. Please note that the bulletin is a primary source of information along side our social media and website. Please keep this in mind while planning events or activities for the parish.
- ◆ **Weekend Masses & The Bulletin:** If you notice that bulletins are missing, please let an usher know or the priest so that the situation can be fixed immediately.
- ◆ **Martin Luther King Jr Day:** The rectory office will be closed in observance of Martin Luther King Jr Day.



ST. HILARY OF POITIERS, BISHOP AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH | JANUARY 13

Born a pagan, St. Hilary (c. 315 – c. 367) studied philosophy and the meaning of life, eventually making his way through the bible. He became a convert and was appointed bishop of Poitiers in 353. Sometimes referred to as the Hammer of the Arians, St. Hilary defended the Nicene Creed against a popular heresy, Arianism. He was exiled to Phrygia for opposing Roman emperor Constantius II, who preferred the heresy which denies Christ's divinity. From Phrygia St. Hilary fought with his pen, zealously writing against the heresy.

Eventually he was allowed to return to Poitiers, but did so by a circuitous route, preaching against Arianism all the way. St. Hilary was likely the first writer of hymns in the West, his writings on the Trinity, Psalms and Gospel of Matthew survive today. St. Hilary was created Doctor of the Church, a title given to those who provided important contributions to theology and doctrine, in 1851 by Pope Pius IX.

MINISTRY NEWS

- ◆ **THE ST. JOHN'S WORKS OF MERCY MINISTRY** would like to offer assistance to families and individuals in need. Their work is supported by private donations of time, talent and treasure. If you know of someone who needs assistance, or you would like to support the Ministry, please call the rectory at 716-937-6959; or email: worksofmercy@stjohnsalden.org
- ◆ **HOLY NAME SOCIETY:** The next meeting of the HNS will be January 16th after the 8:00 am Mass. Membership is open to men of the parish and you are welcome to attend the meeting in the cafeteria should you want to join.
- ◆ **TAKE DOWN CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS:** Request for volunteers to help take down and store our in-church Christmas decorations. Date and time set for Monday, Jan. 10 at 10 AM. Please contact Carl M. at 937-7433 if you have questions. Thank you

PARISH LIFE/EVANGELIZATION

Due to family needs out of town, we will not have a viewing of The Chosen Thursday, January 13th. We will gather for episodes 2 & 3 of season 1 on Thursday, January 20th @ 6:30 pm in the Church. Please social distance and bring your masks. Thank you

Here is our NEW schedule:

NO MEETING ON JANUARY 13TH

JANUARY 20, 2022 EPISODE 2 & 3: Shabbat AND Jesus Loves the Little Children

JANUARY 27, 2022 EPISODE 4: The Rock on Which it is Built

NO MEETING ON FEBRUARY 3RD

FEBRUARY 10, 2022 EPISODE 5

FEBRUARY 17, 2022 EPISODE 6

FEBRUARY 24, 2022 EPISODE 7 & EPISODE 8

If you have any questions, or would like to take part in the viewing, please email parishlife@stjohnsalden.org.



PARISH NEWS

- ◆ **We have Mass intentions and Sanctuary Light** availability in 2022. 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 at 716-937-6959 ex 0 for assistance.
- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **Prayer List:** We will be going through the prayer list and removing people. If you or a loved one are still in need of some extra prayers, please contact the rectory by February 7, 2022 to keep the name on this list. Thank you!

Pro-Life

AROUND THE DIOCESE

YOUTH RALLY, MARCH & MASS FOR LIFE

WHEN: Saturday, January 22, 2022

WHERE: St. Gregory the Great Parish 200 St. Gregory Court, Williamsville, NY 14221 3:30 – 4:15 pm Youth Rally in Ministry Center

4:15 – 5:15 pm: March for Life & Rosary on Maple Avenue

5:30 pm: Mass in Church with Bishop Fisher
Celebrating Reception to follow in the Ministry Center

All are welcome to attend. We ask for parental oversight to help with safety. Face coverings will be required. Please dress appropriately as we will be marching outside regardless of the weather. Groups are encouraged to make appropriate signs for the event.

Please pray for all who are in need: Ann G, Mackenzie Refemat, Theresa Kwiatkowski, Joe & Susan Hoiden, Nicholas Oddo, Tom Pasek, David Nowak, Dorothy Czechowski, Dawn Duncan, Leonard Wagner, Nicole Lindner, Terry Moore, Marlene Smith, Jackie Budnik, Marian Butler, James Creighton, David Borden, Gary Powers, Christine Mayer, Bill Chapman, Jim Nowinski, Ed Monoco, Joanne Mueller, Marcia Kegljar, Ken Warren, Catherine Boling, Mitchell, Gail Hans, Marie Boller, Diane Zymowski, Sharon Pfeiffer, Amy Bonamici, Robert Kalczynski, Fred & Helen Poltowicz, Sharon Fisher, Donna Hamm, Ron Soper, Gilbert Fries, Michael McNally, 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, Walter Gablaski, June Beyers, Shirley Wheeler, Nicole M. Fudoli, Eileen & Martin Wirth, Fr. Roy Herberger, Dave Smith, Fr. Gabriel Scarfia, Christine Hausrath, Jeanie Graf, Jerry Starzynski, Missy Colosanti, Ron Johnson and All Special Intentions.

FAITH FORMATION:

This weekend is our Families of Faith weekend! For our January session, children in grades K-2 are learning about the sacrament of Baptism. They will be role playing a baptism after learning about this special Sacrament of Initiation.

Our children in grades 3-8 will be learning/revisiting the Seven Sacraments. After their lesson, they will be competing in a game of Jeopardy!

The Youth Night Euchre Tournament was a great success. It was a fun night of cards, pizza, snacks, and friends both old and new.

**Wishing all of our parish families a very blessed
New Year!**

Love your neighbor ...

**Effective Immediately:
Please wear a mask at all times while
inside the church.**



Effective November 23, 2021

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

SCHOOL NEWS

Dear St. John Parish,

On Monday, January 3rd, we welcomed our students and staff back after Christmas break. As most people do when the New Year arrives, our students have spent some time reflecting on who they want to be in the new year and what they are going to do to put Jesus first in their lives. To help students with this task the school will help to facilitate confession times for our students in 3rd to 8th grade, participate in school wide reflections related to the Holy Spirit, and engage in prayerful activities. We appreciate your continued support and prayers for our students this year!

Many Blessings,
Jonna M. Johnson, Principal

Open Enrollment for the 2022-2023 school year will begin in February. Please check our school website and Facebook page for updated information.

Office Hours: Normal office hours are 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, January 8

4:00 pm Robert Fix - Wife & Children

Sunday, January 9 (The Baptism of the Lord)

8:00 am Living & Deceased Members of the Holy Name Society

9:30 am Viola Przyblski - Mary Kay Schaub & Family

11:00 am Loraine Munn - The Schwegert & Taylor Families

Monday, January 10

8:30 am Sylvia Sabers - St. John's W.O.M. Ministry

Tuesday, January 11

8:30 am Kathy Wagner - Ann Hamilton

Wednesday, January 12

8:30 am All Souls

Thursday, January 13

8:30 am All Souls

Friday, January 14

8:30am Marie Lynch - Son, George

Saturday, January 15

4:00 pm Diana Schlicht - St. John's W.O.M. Ministry

Sunday, January 16(2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time)

8:00 am Dave Fox - Daughter, Kimberly

9:30 am Kathy Wagner - Shirly Kocher

11:00 am Gerry Caci - Joe & Charleen Geraci

FOR THE WEEK OF SUNDAY, JANUARY 9

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



FINANCE

WEEKEND OF 12/26/2021

SUNDAY COLLECTION

Total.....\$8,827.00

WEEKEND OF 1/2/2022

SUNDAY COLLECTION

Total.....\$7,060.00

WESHARE

12/4-12/31.....\$6,181.00

FISCAL YEAR TO DATE

(9/1/2021-8/31/2022).....
.....\$139,468.41

CHRISTMAS

Total.....\$9,731.00

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

Total.....\$675.00

*Tax letters will be automatically sent in the mail for all those who donated \$1,000 or more this past year. If you would like a letter and it doesn't get sent out automatically, please contact the rectory. Thank you all so much for contributing!

Charles Meyer

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