



January 3, 2021 | The Epiphany of the Lord

Queen of the Apostles

Rev. Phillip J. Sladicka, Pastor
Deacon James A. Rose

Parish Office

715 Hawthorne Street
Avoca, PA 18641
Hours: Mon CLOSED
Tues-Fri 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
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Website

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Avoca, PA

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Seekandfind.com

Director of Faith Formation

Deborah Yuschovitz
570-457-1284

Anointing of the Sick

If anyone is seriously ill, been admitted to the hospital, or wants a 1st Friday visit please call the Parish Office.

Baptism

Sunday after 10:30AM Mass.

Call the parish office to make arrangements.

Marriage

Please call the Parish Office six months, before setting your wedding date, to make an appt. with the Pastor. Pre-Cana program is required.

Rite of Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturdays: 3:15 - 3:45 PM

Anytime upon request

Celebration of the Eucharist

Saturday - 4:00 PM

Sunday - 8:00 - 10:00 AM

Daily

Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri.: 8 AM

Wednesday: 7:00 PM*

*Followed by the Miraculous Medal Novena

First Friday

8:00 AM & 7:00 PM

Christian Initiation of Adults

Parish Office

570-457-3412

Committee Contacts

Parish Hall Manager

Paul Franceschelli - 570-430-9015

Social Concerns/Respect Life Ministry

Ann Jake - 570-457-3521

Women's Guild

Jeanette Gronski - 570-457-7804

New Members are always Welcome!



THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. - Mt 2:10-11

MISSION STATEMENT

To Make Disciples of Jesus Christ

&

To Grow As Disciples of Jesus Christ

715 HAWTHORNE STREET, AVOCA, PA 18641

From the Pastor's Desk



Dear Parish Family,

Happy Little Christmas. Today is Epiphany Sunday and epiphany means a showing or manifestation. Today Epiphany is referring to God's revelation to the Gentiles who come to find Jesus. In Matthew's gospel the story of the magi comes to a mixed community of Jews and Gentiles. Jesus came as a savior for all people, and continues to draw all people to search for and find God. In the gospel this drawing is done through the star and the scriptures. And, today's good news for us is captured in the words of the second reading from Ephesians: God's will is that all people, Gentiles as well as Jews, be "coheirs, members of the same body, and copartners in the promise of Christ Jesus." As our own country becomes more diverse with all the promise and challenge this implies, our faith calls us to recognize God as the father of all who come here. God has entrusted all of creation into our hands to be cherished and tended for the good of all. God continues to draw all people to dwell in God's holy city, as Isaiah prophesied. May all be filled with the light of Christ.

Today we have printed a home blessing into the bulletin for your convenience. Epiphany was once a day for welcoming new members into our faith. It was a time for winter Baptisms and so there has remained a tradition of blessing water and homes recalling the Sacrament of Baptism. The chalk used to mark the doors with C+M+B reminds us of the three kings, Casper, Melchior and Balthazar. And the chalk reminds us of the dust of the earth from which we were made. The blessing is a personal affirmation calling God's presence into the homes of the faithful. I can remember going on home blessings as an Altar Server in the 1960's. I traveled with our Pastor from home to home in our little parish. We brought calendars and a small gift from the parish. Parish members had their homes ready with lit candles and a crucifix. Each day we were invited to a meal at mid-day and believe it or not some people still had coal stoves and they threw incense on the hot plates on the stove to fill the home with the sweet smell of incense as we carried out the blessing. They are wonderful and rich memories.

Thank you for all your beautiful cards, gifts, baked goods and food for the Christmas Season. Our parish is an awesome and loving parish. A thank you also to the sacristans, cantors and those who lectured during this time of pandemic. Thank you to those who decorated our Church so beautifully.

Thank you for all you are and all you do. Happy Little Christmas. God bless you and see you in Church,
Fr. Phil



Liturgy of the Word



Liturgy of the Word: Every Epiphany we hear the endless extent of God's goodness. Isaiah tells of the light shining forth from Jerusalem attracting peoples from near and far, from land and sea. The psalmist sings of eternal justice and peace leading all nations to adore the Lord. Paul teaches the Ephesians that they, and all Gentiles, are members of the same body of Christ. Matthew writes of the magi from afar being drawn to the newborn king by the light from above. Let us look for that revelatory light that draws us more fully to the Lord.



Attention Eucharistic Adorers: Due to recent cancellations and lack of enough back up adorers, we regret that we will need to suspend Tuesday Eucharistic Holy Hour for the time being. Although the Eucharist will not be exposed on the altar on Tuesday from 8:30 am - 8:00 PM the church will still be open on this day for individual private adoration.



Eucharistic Adoration will be held from 7:00 - 8:00 PM. Also a Praise & Worship Service will be held the First Sunday of each month from 4:00 -5:30 pm. This includes Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction. The Across the Waters Group will perform for the Sunday Service.

Reflections

Chastisement vs. Punishment

Question:

What is the difference between a chastisement and a punishment?

Answer:

The distinction between chastisement and punishment is, in many ways, a subtle one, but which is still relevant in our Catholic tradition.

First, chastisement is a concept that is grounded in Sacred Scripture. Here, we see chastisement as a response by God to people's actions that is intended to teach a lesson. As St. John Paul II observed, "chastisement appears to be ... a kind of divine pedagogy, in which the last word is reserved to mercy: He scourges and then shows mercy, casts down to the depths of the nether world, and he brings up from the great abyss" (Tobit 13:2). The idea here is that in order to capture our attention or to highlight how we have not lived out our covenant-relationship with God as we should, there are times when God uses events in life to draw us back to the quality of relationship or faith that we should have.

The concept of punishment, however, has a different sense. The Catechism of the Church observes that punishment is the consequence of a damaging action that "has the primary aim of redressing the disorder" and to protect the community and the common good from further damage or harm (see no. 2266). Although we always hope that someone who is being punished for a crime or some other harmful action will learn from their actions, punishment isn't necessarily intended to teach a lesson in the same way that a chastisement is.

Ultimately, how we make the distinction between chastisement and punishment is a matter of discernment. As with almost everything in life, our experiences can be an opportunity for grace — or for something less — depending on how open we are to recognizing the movement of God's Spirit within them.

Parish News



This Sunday, January 3, from 4:00-5:30 PM, Queen of the Apostles Parish will have our monthly evening of **Praise and Worship with Michelle Lauren Siracuse** and her worship group **Across the Waters** in our Church.

Everyone is welcome to attend this inspirational service which will add to your spiritual prayer life of the New Year.

Prayer:

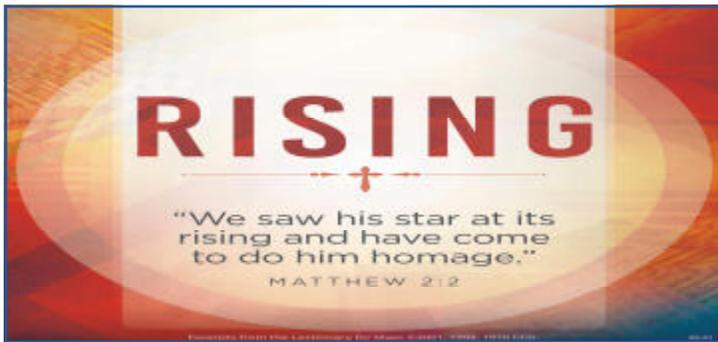
With chalk, especially blessed for the occasion, the priest writes the following legend at the top of the door of the house: **19 + C + M + B + 52**. The three letters stand for the three kings who were traditionally known as Caspar, Melchoir, and Baltassar. The numbers, of course, indicate the year in which the blessing was given. Incense is used in this blessing, presumably in remembrance of the incense offered by the Three Kings.

In religious houses the legend is written over the door of every room. Like the other blessings of homes, this one is meant to invoke protection over the mind and body of those who dwell within. In this instance the priest prays:

"Bless, O Lord, Almighty God, this home, that in it there may be health, chastity, strength of victory, humility, goodness, and industry, a fullness of law and the action of graces through God the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost; and that this blessing may remain on this home and on those who frequent it. Through Christ our Lord. Amen."

Volunteers are needed to take down our Christmas Decorations. This will take place on Wednesday, January 13, at 9:00 AM. Thank you for your assistance.

"Paul's Famous Homemade Sauce and Meatballs" are still available. The cost will be \$6.00 for a quart of Sauce, and \$8.00 for a quart of Meatballs & Sauce. Please call Paul at 570-430-9015 or the Parish Office at 570-457-3412. Thank you for your support!



Our Holy Father's Prayer Intention for January, 2021

Human Fraternity: May the Lord give us the grace to live in full fellowship with our brothers and sisters of other religions, praying for one another, open to all.

Stewardship



12/27/20 Sunday Collection: \$ 4,010.00
 Christmas Collection: \$10,292.00
 Christmas Flowers: \$ 1,191.00

This week's second collection:
Care & Education of Priests
 Thank you for your generous support!

LAST CALL FOR STOCKING STUFFER!!
Tickets for the January Pot of Gold Stocking Stuffer are now available at the Parish Office. Cost of tickets are \$10. Please call or mail requests for particular numbers along with the payment to: Queen of the Apostles Parish, 715 Hawthorne St., Avoca, Pa. 18641. PLEASE BE SURE TO INCLUDE IN YOUR RETURN THE TOP HALF OF YOUR TICKET! For more information call

**Ann Marie Piccini at 570-510-3125 or
 Parish Office at 570-457-3412**

Life, Family & Culture



"Through the Incarnation and birth of Christ, God reveals to us the dignity of all human life. Human life, as a gift of God, is sacred and inviolable. The Son of God has united himself with every human being and desires for us to share eternal life with him... Each of us is made in the image and likeness of God, and we reflect his glory in the world." USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities
"The Gospel of Life: A Brief Summary"

How do we live out the message of Christmas in the New Year?



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Food Pantry Items for January
Coffee, Tea and Hot Chocolate



To Our Parish Family



On behalf of Father Phil, Deacon Jim and the staff of Queen of the Apostles Parish, we would like to wish everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year!!



Just in time for the holiday season, Queen of the Apostles Parish has opened a virtual store with Mad Tees. The store includes several different items with the parish logo and/or name on it. Orders, which take two weeks to complete, can be placed at https://stores.inksoft.com/queen_of_theapostles/shop/home. For more information, please call the parish office at 570-457-3412. **Please note that our church benefits monetarily from items sold. Since our fundraising funds have been reduced greatly due to Covid restrictions, every little bit would help in trying to replenish them. We would like these items to remain available for the winter season which will be possible based on volume of orders. Thank you for all you can do to help.**

Community Events 

Virtual Grief Support Group
 Winter and the post-holiday season can be difficult times to navigate grief, particularly during an ongoing period of social distancing. Please consider joining the virtual grief support group offered by Cathedral of Saint Peter Parish in Scranton. Anyone is welcome; you do not have to be a member of the parish to participate. The group will convene online, Wednesday evenings 6:30 to 7:30. The dates of the virtual meetings will be January 6, 13, 20 and 27. For more information please contact Deacon Ed Shoener at 570-814-5133 or the parish office at 570-344-7231.

The Light of God



Al-Anon meetings are held every **Thursday night at 7 PM**, at the Brick United Methodist church on Foote Ave., Duryea. This is an anonymous 12-step program of recovery for families and friends of addicts & alcoholics. There are no dues or fees and meetings last approximately one hour and are open to anyone.

The Avoca Food Pantry is open on the **1st and 3rd Thursday** of every month for anyone in need. Pickups can be made **@ 4:00PM** at the rear of the Bethel United Methodist Church, 532 Main St. distribute food from 1:30PM. Come join us and your help will be greatly appreciated! We are a community helping one another in need.

Outreach Services 

- | | |
|---|----------------|
| AA Helpline: | 1-800-640-7545 |
| Al-Anon -- Friends & Family of those addicted | 1-800-339-9006 |
| Bread Basket of NEPA | 570-343-2324 |
| Consumer Credit Counseling Service | 1-800-602-2227 |
| Catholic Social Services Wilkes Barre | 570-822-7188 |
| Scranton | 570-207-2283 |
| Greater Pittston Food Pantry (St. John's/Seton) | 570-654-9923 |
| National Hotline for Abortion Recovery | 1-866-482-5433 |
| PA 24-Hour Child Abuse Hot Line | 1-800-932-0313 |
| Pennsylvanians for Human Life, W-B Chapter | 570-826-1819 |
| Rachel's Vineyard-Post Abortive Healing | 1-877-467-3463 |
| St. Joseph's Center-Mother Infant Program | 570-207-6677 |

Mass Intentions for the Week

January 3, 2021†The Epiphany of the Lord

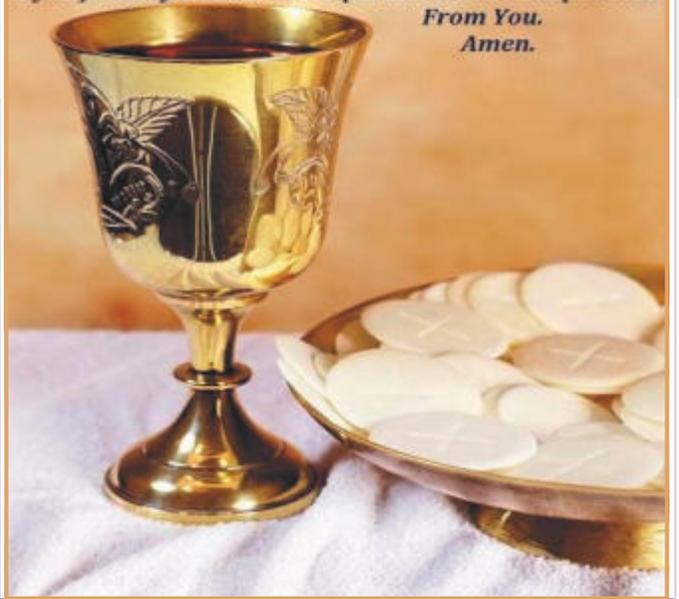
- Monday 8:00 AM January 4 ~ St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Bob Adomiak By Family
Tuesday 8:00 AM January 5 ~ St. John Newman Edward Massakowski, Sr., Josephine Bartush, wife, and son Andrew By Family
Wednesday 7:00 PM January 6 ~ St. Andre Bessette Mary & Jerry McCawley By Sharon Baloga
Thursday 8:00 AM January 7 ~ St. Raymond of Penyafort Deceased Members McEvoy Family By Karen & Family
Friday 8:00 AM January 8 Theresa Hannon By Ned & Mary Kay Jones
Saturday 4:00 PM January 9 Thomas McLaughlin By Mary Jon & Bob Wierbowski
Sunday 8:00 AM January 10 ~ The Baptism of the Lord Parishioners Intentions
10:00 AM Frank Ozark By Children & Grandchildren

Ministry Schedule for the Week



Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated From You. Amen.



Eternal Rest Grant unto them, O Lord! May they rest in the peace of the Lord! Please pray for the souls of Cooper Blaskiewicz, Teddy Kerechuk, Jr., and Ann Twardowski. The parish community of Queen of the Apostles offers sympathy to their family and friends.

MEMORIAL OFFERINGS
Masses for the 2021 Calendar Year are now available. We also have openings for Sanctuary Light, Sacred Heart Shrine, & Sanctity of Life Memorials. Each of these run for 1 week. The donation for the Light and Shrine memorial are \$15, and the Sanctity of Life Memorial and daily masses are \$10.00. Please call the Parish Office to schedule these items for your loved ones.

Queen of the Apostles Parish Hall Reservations
Due to the COVID 19 pandemic, our Parish Hall has been closed since March 15th. Strict CDC guidelines have forced us to cancel and suspend ALL rentals and events since then, and this will need to continue for the time being. We will not be accepting any new reservations and if you have something scheduled, we will be contacting you. We will continue to revisit this issue as rules and regulations change. The safety and well being of our parishioners and guests is our top priority. We apologize for this inconvenience, and if you have any questions, please call Paul at #570-430-9015. Thank you for your understanding!

Sacramental Bread & Wine throughout January in loving memory of the Deceased Members of the Sladicka & Lopatofsky Families by QAP Parishioners
Sanctuary Candle in loving memory of John Tobin by Jim & Helen Brogan
Sacred Heart Shrine in loving memory of William McAndrew, Sr. by Family
Sanctity of Life Memorial in loving memory of Tom McLaughlin by Ned & Mary Kay Jones

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