

January 10, 2021 | The Baptism 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
Phone: 570-457-3412
staff@queenoftheapostles.com

Website

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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-Canva 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 BAPTISM OF THE LORD

This is what John the Baptist proclaimed: "One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." - Mk 1:7-8

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,

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. We find that many kings, prophets and holy people served God in the Old Testament times, but in four places in the book of the prophet Isaiah, God speaks of someone with whom he is especially pleased. The servant is not identified by name, and because the passages are in poetic form, they are usually referred to as the servant songs. They were written about 500 years before Christ. Perhaps the passages refer to someone who was alive at the time of the prophet but, amazingly, although they were written 500 years before the time of Christ, they describe Jesus so perfectly. At Jesus' baptism, the voice of God is heard, introducing Jesus to the world, as not only his servant, but as his beloved Son. In Baptism we become also beloved sons and daughters of God. How can we become more faithful servants and more beloved children of God?

The Baptism of the Lord is the Sunday that ends the Christmas Season. We now begin the Liturgical Time called Ordinary. It is a brief stretch of 42 days of Time until Lent starts (**January 11 to February 16**).

The reason why the Church has a "Liturgical Year" is to mark the sanctification of time. Many ancient cultures saw time as "cyclical" – i.e. a never-ending cycle of repetition, going nowhere. The Christian view of time is "linear" – i.e. moving constantly ahead, "on a line," going somewhere. The liturgical seasons and feasts recur year after year, but they are like a spiral staircase – going upward, not around in the same circle.

At times in our lives, we may feel like we're trapped in a cycle (e.g. we make resolutions, break resolutions, make resolutions) but it doesn't have to be that way. We may not be able to break out of it on our own, but the Lord helps us do what we can't do on our own. It's called "God's grace."

For the past 43 days (Advent/Christmas), we've experienced prayer for "six minutes a day." There's no reason why we can't continue doing this. Consider taking your bible and, beginning with Luke 4:14 (just after the baptism and temptation of Jesus), spending six minutes mulling over a few verses each day. They are graced words, and the Lord speaks to us personally through them.

If any are able to help take down our Christmas decorations we would appreciate it. This will take place on **Wednesday, January 13, @ 9AM**. Thank you for your assistance.

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



Liturgy of the Word



Liturgy of the Word: Isaiah proclaims the Lord's invitation: "All you who are thirsty, come to the water." John the Baptist invites everyone to come to the water as well, but tells them that the one who is coming will baptize with the Holy Spirit. John tells us that the Spirit testifies to the truth. Reborn in the waters of baptism and filled with the Spirit, we listen to God's word, searching for the truth.



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

Why Hold Hands?

Question:

Why do we hold hands during the Our Father?

Answer:

The practice of members of the assembly holding hands while praying the Lord's Prayer during the Mass is a custom that developed organically in the 1970s and 1980s. While some commentators acknowledge that the practice varies from place to place, it is a fairly universal reality in parishes across the United States. For some, this action symbolizes the communion of Christians praying together as one family of believers honoring the Father of All. Critics of the practice sometimes express concern that holding hands can be a distraction from the more significant unity that is experienced when we process to the altar to receive sacramental communion.

And so, we're left to ask, what is the answer?

The General Instruction of the Roman Missal (the document that offers specific instructions for the celebration of the Mass) is silent on the practice, saying only that "all the faithful say the prayer" with the priest. The website of the US Bishops simply observes that "No position is prescribed in the Roman Missal for an assembly gesture during the Lord's Prayer." And so, we're left to discern within ourselves and within our parish and religious communities what is an authentic gesture of praise during this important point of the Mass. For some, this means continuing to hold hands, while for others, this may mean adopting another posture of prayer.

PRAYER CHAIN: If you have an intention or would like to become part of the chain, call Jim Jumper at #570-457-5867.

Parish News



This Sunday, January 10, 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. This month's service was moved to this Sunday due to last week's inclement weather. Subsequent services will be held the **First Sunday** of each month at this time.

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

Prayer:

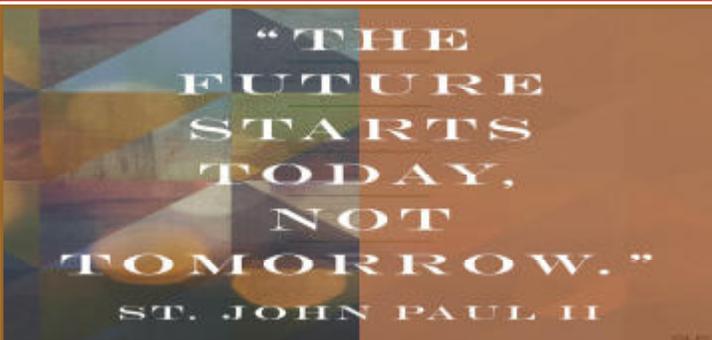
With chalk, especially blessed for the occasion, the priest writes the following legend at the top of the door of the house: **19 + C + M + B + 52**. The three letters stand for the three kings who were traditionally known as Caspar, Melchoir, and Baltassar. The numbers, of course, indicate the year 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!



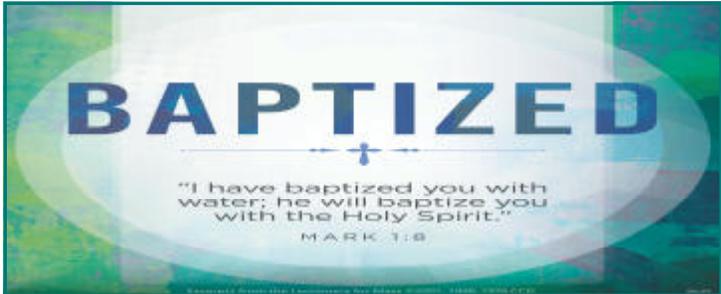
Our Holy Father's Prayer Intention for January, 2021
Human Fraternity: May the Lord give us the grace to live in full fellowship with our brothers and sisters of other religions, praying for one another, open to all.

Stewardship



Solemnity of Mary:	\$ 609.00
01/03/21 Sunday Collection:	4,581.00
Christmas Collection Add'tnl:	1,670.00
Care & Education of Priests:	50.00
Thank you for your generous support!	

Please call the parish office at 570-457-3412 if you would like a 2021 Calendar. They will be available at the parish office.



Life, Family & Culture



"When we encounter Christ, experience his love, and deepen our relationship with him, we become more aware of our own worth and that of others. His love for each person is cause for great joy, and growing understanding of this priceless treasure motivates us to share his love with others. Our lives are often changed by the witness of others; so too, others' lives may be changed by our witness and authentic friendship with them."

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



Ordinary Time

Because the term *ordinary* in English most often means something that's not special or distinctive, many people think that Ordinary Time refers to parts of the calendar of the Catholic Church that are unimportant. Even though the season of Ordinary Time makes up most of the liturgical year in the Catholic Church, the fact that Ordinary Time refers to those periods that fall outside of the major liturgical seasons reinforces this impression. **Yet Ordinary Time is far from unimportant or uninteresting.**

Why Is Ordinary Time Called Ordinary?

Ordinary Time is called "ordinary" not because it is common but simply because the weeks of Ordinary Time are numbered. The Latin word *ordinalis*, which refers to numbers in a series, stems from the Latin word *ordo*, from which we get the English word *order*. Thus, the numbered weeks of Ordinary Time, in fact, represent the ordered life of the Church—the period in which we live our lives neither in feasting (as in the Christmas and Easter seasons) or in more severe penance (as in Advent and Lent), but in watchfulness and expectation of the Second Coming of Christ.

It's appropriate, therefore, that the Gospel for the Second Sunday of Ordinary Time (which is actually the first Sunday celebrated in Ordinary Time) always features either John the Baptist's acknowledgment of Christ as the Lamb of God or Christ's first miracle—the transformation of water into wine at the wedding at Cana.

Thus for Catholics, Ordinary Time is the part of the year in which Christ, the Lamb of God, walks among us and transforms our lives. There's nothing "ordinary" about that!

Why Is Green the Color of Ordinary Time?

Likewise, the normal liturgical color for Ordinary Time—for those days when there is no special feast—is green. Green vestments and altar cloths have traditionally been associated with the time after Pentecost, the period in which the Church founded by the risen Christ and enlivened by the Holy Spirit began to grow and to spread the Gospel to all nations.



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.



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 for the Intentions for the Week

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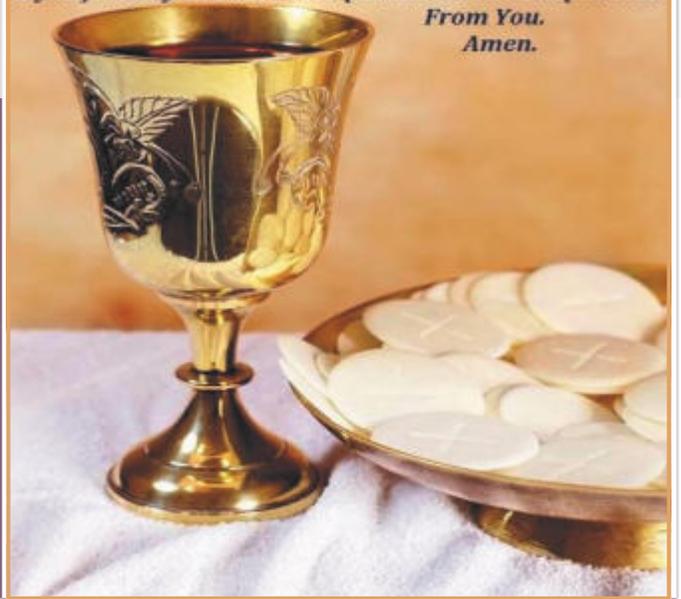
- Monday January 11 8:00 AM Rev. Edward Buchheit By Rev. Phillip Sladicka
Tuesday January 12 8:00 AM Richard Grega By Josephine Grega & Family
Wednesday January 13 ~ St. Hilary 7:00 PM John Kuchinski By Family
Thursday January 14 8:00 AM Michael Clifford By Family
Friday January 15 8:00 AM Robert & Catherine McMullen By Pat Quinn & Family
Saturday January 16 4:00 PM Ray McAndrew By Shirley Berlew
Sunday January 17 ~ 2nd Sunday in Ord. Time 8:00 AM Parishioners Intentions
10:00 AM Sal Mulea By Joe & Sharon Colarusso

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 her, O Lord! May they rest in the peace of the Lord! Please pray for the souls of Marie Davis, and Mary Ann Kelly. 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 Anthony (Cooper) Blaskiewicz by Ann McMullen & Family
Sacred Heart Shrine in loving memory of Rev. Peter Zardecki & Rev. Mark Bochinski by Betty McAndrew & Family
Sanctity of Life Memorial in loving memory of Deceased Members of the Maslowsky & Rosetti Families by Ann & Mike Jake & Family

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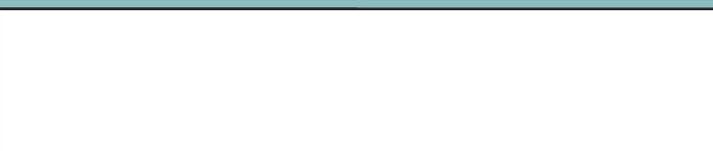
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