



January 17, 2021 | 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

queenoftheapostles.weconnect.com

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Avoca, PA

On-line Bulletin

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!



2nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

John was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he said, "Behold, the Lamb of God." The two disciples heard what he said and followed Jesus. - Jn 1:35-37

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,

God's call tends to leave out explicit directions. The Lord calls Samuel repeatedly, never saying, "I'm right here; don't keep running over to Eli." Jesus when asked where he was staying, doesn't say, "On the other side of town" or "By the Jordan River." No, God simply called, "Samuel, Samuel!" and Jesus simply said, "Come and you will see". No specifics just invitations. In both cases, the person called needed help from someone who recognized the Lord. For Samuel, it was Eli. For Andrew and the other disciples, it was John the Baptist. In turn, for Simon Peter, it was his brother Andrew. Their lives change after their encounters with the Lord. Samuel's every word now has effectiveness. Andrew immediately tells his brother, "We have found the Messiah". Simon's name is changed to Cephas ("ROCK" in Aramaic). No wonder Andrew and his friend appear to remember the exact hour of their conversation: "It was about 4 in the afternoon". The lives of the first disciples Jesus called have been completely transformed and they will never forget the moment it happened. Can we recall a time when our faith changed us?

We are conducting an Alpha program at QAP on Zoom. All are welcome to attend. The *Alpha* approach to parish adult faith enrichment has been around since 1977. Alpha will help bring people into a relationship with Jesus Christ by sharing the good news of the Gospel. It was directed to church-goers and non-church-goers alike. Alpha spread to other countries, including the United States. By 2016, more than 29 million people had experienced Alpha. Primarily a Protestant model, only recently has it found its way into Catholic parishes. One leader of a Catholic group commented, "I have not seen another 'church video series' that touched such a broad group of people. The amazing thing is how the videos impact people. Even if someone didn't like a video, they all said they were thought-provoking videos and led to meaningful discussions, sometimes much deeper than anyone expected. The videos are a means to an end. I think the deeper learning comes in the small group discussions and prayer." Alpha is free and accessible to anyone. You are welcome.

Tomorrow is the day we honor Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. May all citizens work to hasten the day when this country truly lives out the ideals for which he fought and gave his life for. It is a good day to think about and pray for ongoing equality and justice for all people. And, we especially remember to honor the Day of prayer and penance for Legal Protection of Unborn Children on **Friday, January 22**. The week of prayer for Christian Unity begins on January 18 and extends to January 25 -- "May we all be one."

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: God calls Samuel in the middle of the night in today's first reading, Samuel is confused, but eventually he responds, "Speak, for your servant is listening." John's disciples are listening when he points to Jesus and says, "Behold, the Lamb of God." They follow Jesus at once. Let us listen to God's word, ponder how we ourselves are called, and recommit ourselves to following 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

Location of Blessed Sacrament

Question:

Why do parishes have the Blessed Sacrament in a separate room?

Answer:

While many Catholics of a certain age have memories of the Blessed Sacrament being housed in the tabernacle on the high altar of the church, many parishes in the decades since the Second Vatican Council have chosen to build a separate space — a reservation chapel — where the Blessed Sacrament is kept. Although this practice is not universal, it is in keeping with the guidance offered by the US Bishops in their document *Built of Living Stones* (see nos 77-78). The goal is to create a space that is separated from the nave and sanctuary, but which is "integrally connected with the church" which can foster "reverence and can provide the quiet and focus needed for personal prayer." This can be especially important for communities that have continuous Eucharistic Adoration, allowing people to come and pray in a space separate from the normal activities of parish life.

The practice of reserving the Eucharist in a separate space — or in a dignified location away from the altar where Mass is celebrated — is that it emphasizes the importance of the liturgy itself, which is the "source and summit" of the life of the Church.

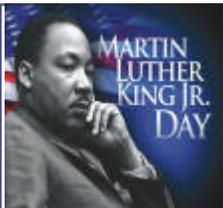
As with many things in the Church, the practice of placing the tabernacle in the sanctuary or in a separate chapel is not universal (as can be seen in visits to historic churches in Rome and other places). The important thing is that as communities question where to place the tabernacle, they listen to the voice of the Church, explore the ancient and varied liturgical tradition of the Church, consider the needs and life of the community, and also take into account the architecture and limits of the spaces they might already have.

Parish News

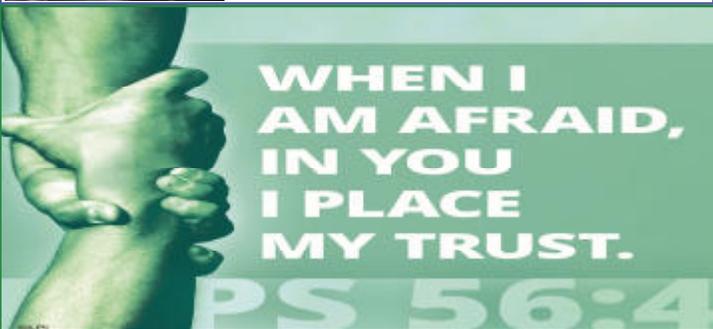


POT OF GOLD WINNERS

01/01/21	#276	\$500	No Winner
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01/05/21	#595	\$ 75	No Winner
01/06/21	#862	\$ 75	John Angelo Picchio
01/07/21	#723	\$ 75	Kathy Keffer
01/08/21	#733	\$ 75	Ann Smicherko
01/09/21	#409	\$ 75	Karen O'Brien
01/10/21	#758	\$ 75	Anne Gallagher



The Parish Office will be **CLOSED** on Monday, January 18, 2021 to observe Martin Luther King Jr. Day.



Notice Regarding Reporting Sexual Abuse of a Minor

It is the policy of the Diocese of Scranton to report any allegation of sexual abuse of a minor to law enforcement. If you are a victim of sexual abuse committed by a priest, deacon, religious or lay employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Scranton, you are encouraged to immediately report the matter to law enforcement. If any priest, deacon, religious, lay employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Scranton has cause or reason to suspect that a minor has been subjected to any form of abuse, including child sexual abuse, the matter will be reported to law enforcement. It is also the policy of the Diocese to adhere to all civil and state regulations. To this end, the Diocese is equally committed to adhering to the norms of the Code of Canon Law and to upholding the tenets of the USCCB Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, which includes supporting victims of sexual abuse in their pursuit of emotional and spiritual well-being. As such, information regarding an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor should also be reported to the Victim Assistance Coordinator, Mary Beth Pacuska at (570-862- 7551).

“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



01/10/21 Sunday Collection: \$2,887.00

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



“There is such a wide spectrum of issues involving the protection of human life and the promotion of human dignity. Good people frequently disagree on which problems to address, which policies to adopt and how best to apply them. But for citizens and elected officials alike, the basic principle is simple: *We must begin with a commitment never to intentionally kill, or collude in the killing, of any innocent human life, no matter how broken, unformed, disabled or desperate that life may seem.* In other words, the choice of certain ways of acting is *always and radically incompatible* with the love of God and the dignity of the human person created in His image.”

Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection Unborn Children



January 22, 2021, will be the 48th Anniversary of the Supreme Court Ruling of Roe vs. Wade along with Doe vs Bolton in which it became legal for a mother to abort her baby throughout all nine months of pregnancy. This day on the church calendar has been designated **A Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children.** On Tuesday, January 19th, at Queen of the Apostles Parish, we will be commemorating that tragic day beginning with the 8:00 AM Mass followed by the Divine Mercy Chaplet. Since our Church is open for private Adoration, this is a fitting time for reparation to Our Lord for the over 61.5 million lives lost since 1973 in our country alone. We invite all parishioners and the community to join in prayers this day. A special Eucharistic Holy Hour for Life will begin at 6:40 PM with a music meditation, the recitation of the Rosary for Life, a special Pro Life Program, and Benediction. What can we offer the souls of these innocent children of God if not an hour of pray for an end to this holocaust. We invite everyone in our parish and community to join in prayer on this day for the Sanctity of Life at all stages. We pray that the pro life victories in the past 4 years will breathe new life and vitality into the efforts to finally STOP ABORTION. Masks are required and social distancing guidelines will be in place.

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

RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

Christ Is Anything but Ordinary

We're about to dive headlong into week two of Ordinary Time, and we need to admit, after the hustle and bustle of the holidays, things are indeed looking more ... ordinary, at least in our spiritual lives.

The transcendent highs of the Christmas season are flat lining a bit and the vivid imagery of the Nativity scene has faded. The solemn anticipation of the Advent season is by now a distant memory.

Are you bored yet?

Here's a secret: I think that Ordinary Time can actually be quite extraordinary, if we're really living out our baptismal call.

In today's Gospel, Jesus point-blank asks Andrew, who is following him after hearing John the Baptist's testimony: "What are you looking for?" He's asking us the same question.

What are you looking for? Why are you following me? Is it for the Christmas cookies and the Advent carols? Is it for the King's Cake on the Epiphany? Is it for the feeling we get on Christmas when we just know God has done a wondrous thing?

None of those things are bad, but they are not what Andrew was looking for, and they were not what Christ promised him when he said, "Come, and you will see." Andrew was looking for the Messiah — the One who makes even Ordinary Time extraordinary. The One who can sanctify the longest and dullest of to-do lists, on the longest and dullest of days. The One whose peace can reign in our homes on January 25, not just December 25.

Remember what you are looking for. Come, and you will see.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS



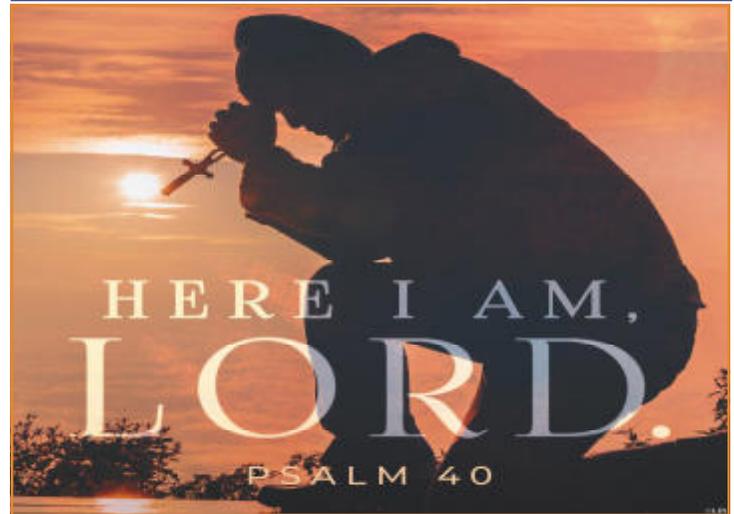
Queen of the Apostles Parish has opened a virtual store with Mad Tees. The store includes several different items with the parish logo and/or name on it. Orders, which take two weeks to complete, can be placed at https://stores.inksoft.com/queen_of_theapostles/shop/home. For more information, please 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 Intentions for the Week

January 17, 2021 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

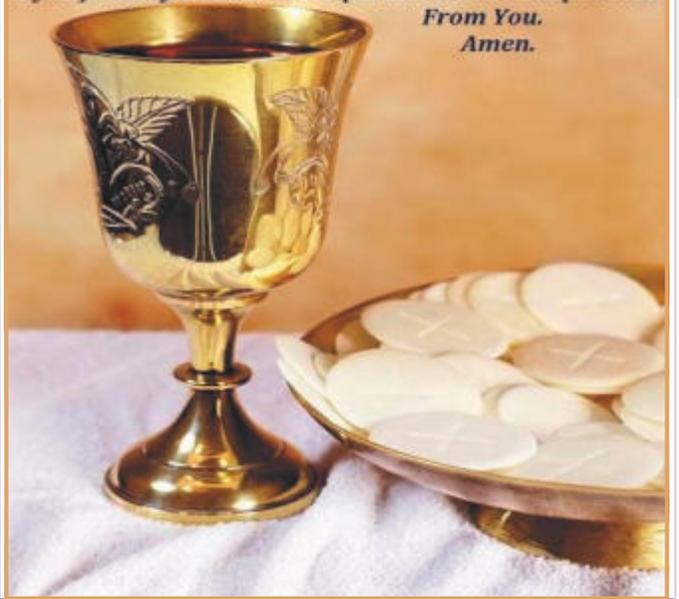
- Monday January 18 ~ Dr. Martin Luther King, Holiday
8:00 AM Theresa Gudz
By Debbie Baizdar & Bob Mancuso
Tuesday January 19
8:00 AM Regina Bartush
By Mike and Ann Jake
Wednesday January 20 ~ SS Fabian, Pope and Martyr & Sebastian, Martyr
7:00 PM Mark Buss
By Maryann Keating
Thursday January 21 ~ St. Agnes, Virgin & Martyr
8:00 AM Sophie Kernoschak
By Father Phil
Friday January 22 ~ Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children
8:00 AM For All the Unborn and Those Who Have Been Aborted
By Social Concerns/Respect Life Ministry
Saturday January 23 ~ St. Marianne Cope, Virgin St. Vincent, Deacon & Martyr
4:00 PM Theresa Gudz
By Rita Brody
Sunday January 24 ~ 3rd Sunday in Ord. Time
8:00 AM Parishioners Intentions
10:00 AM Eleanor Joyce
By Peggy Carroll

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.



In Remembrance

A beautiful way to remember a loved who has passed away or to honor someone on a very special occasion would be to purchase the Altar Flowers. We also have a Memorial Tree in the vestibule. Please contact the Parish Office for more information.

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 Theresa Gudz by Children

Sacred Heart Shrine in loving memory of twin Sister Mary Ann Kelly by Ann Marie Farrell & Family

Sanctity of Life Memorial in loving memory of Anthony (Cooper) Blaskiewicz by Peggy & Jim Krisiewicz

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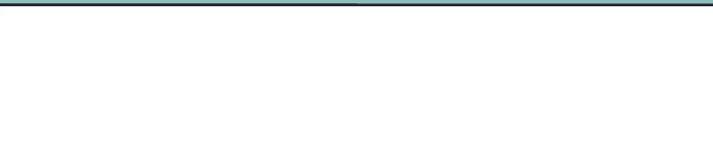
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