



January 31, 2021 | 4th 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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#### **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!



## 4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

All were amazed and asked one another, "What is this? A new teaching with authority. He commands even the unclean spirits and they obey him." - Mk 1:27

#### **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,

In Jesus time, when someone acted in an abnormal or dangerous way it would often be attributed to unclean spirits. Unclean spirits had powers that could not be controlled. They held people in the grip of overwhelming evil. In order to combat an unclean spirit, someone would need to overpower it. Using the exact name of the demon could give an opponent power over it. Unfortunately, that power worked both ways. Hence, the man with the unclean spirit tries to call Jesus by name. But recognizing Jesus as “the Holy One of God” Mk 1:24 does not give the demon the power he needs; it merely acknowledges that Jesus is more powerful. Not only is he the Holy One of God, he is God. Jesus, Son of God, the prophet who God promised Moses would be raised up from among the Chosen People, had indeed come to destroy unclean spirits, those that took control over victims two thousand years ago as well as those that take control over our own lives. Naming that evil – addiction, violence, injustice, racism, and oppression – continues to give power to the powerless and hope to the hopeless as we call on the Lord to overpower the demons that prey on us and our neighbor. What evil makes us feel powerless? How can our faith give us hope?

This Tuesday is the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, a day when the Church blesses candles. We will not process with candles this year due to the pandemic but candles will be available in the Church. “Let us go in peace to meet the Lord.” What a rich summary of the Feast Day.

Normally, **February 3 is the memorial of St. Blaise**, the traditional day for the blessing of throats. The custom comes from a time when the entire year was filled with blessings. As the year unfolded, the Church offered up the whole of creation to bless the Lord. **In our Parish we will bless throats after all the weekend Masses. However, I will not leave the sanctuary or give individual blessings.** Blessing prayer: “**Through the intercession of Saint Blaise, Bishop and Martyr, may God deliver you from every disease of the throat and from every other illness: + In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**”

Although we will not celebrate The Volunteers Appreciation Dinner this year our gratitude is none the less heartfelt. From the bottom of my heart THANK YOU to all volunteers! Here is a volunteer's prayer by St. Ignatius Loyola, 1491-1556: **“Loving Lord, teach me to be generous. Teach me to serve as you deserve; to give and not to count the cost; to fight and not to heed the wounds; to toil and not to seek reward save that of knowing that I do your will, O God. Amen”**

Today ends Catholic Schools Week. The theme this year was “Catholic Schools: Faith. Excellence. Service.” Catholic schools' purpose is to form students to be good citizens of the world, love God and neighbor and enrich society with the leaven of the gospel and by example of faith. Catholic schools benefit all year long from the religious guidance, prayers and support parishes provide. May our parish join in supporting our Catholic Schools and offer prayers today for the efforts of Catholic education.

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

## Liturgy of the Word



**Liturgy of the Word:** God has blessed us with many leaders who have brought God's word to the people. Moses promised the Chosen People that God would raise up a prophet among them who would speak God's words. Saint Paul was called by God to preach to Gentiles all over the known world. Jesus spoke words with the power to drive out unclean spirits, astonishing the people in the synagogue with his authority. Let us listen attentively to the living word of God and hear Jesus' voice still speaking to us in our house of worship.



**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

### Distraction During Prayer

#### Question:

I get annoyed with myself when I am distracted while I pray. Is it a sin? How can I be more attentive?

#### Answer:

The mind is a marvelous and complex thing, producing amazing thoughts, images, wisdom and inspiration. Yet at times it is like a two-year-old: it does not follow directions, does what it wants and loves to tell us “no!” This is probably the oldest and most common problem in the spiritual life-dealing with distraction. It comes in all forms: good intentions forgotten, wandering thoughts at Mass, daydreaming, etc. A little poem says it all: When the soul begins to pray, the brain always wants to play!

There are many ways to handle distractions. If we are distracted by thoughts about our families or friends, we should pray for them. If we lose our focus, we need just “re-collect” ourselves. If some worry or concern just won't leave our mind, then we deal with it and come back to prayer or make it part of our prayer. And when words just won't come, the only prayer we might offer is our presence, our suffering, and our desire to be close to the Lord. Most importantly, we need to be patient with ourselves. These things are not sinful, but reminders of our human frailty. Our weaknesses and good efforts are all acceptable to God, who reads the love in our hearts and the good intentions of our minds.

**Parish News**



A general blessing of throats will be held after all Masses this weekend. Also, candles will be blessed and for sale at the front of the church in celebration of the Presentation of the Lord which is celebrated on **February 2**.

**POT OF GOLD WINNERS**

01/18/21	#407	\$ 75	Edward Creedon
01/19/21	#217	75	Erin Schmidt
01/20/21	#043	75	Tom Shaffer
01/21/21	#435	75	Jolene Lesnaik
01/22/21	#625	75	Dianne Digwood
01/23/21	#642	75	No Winner
01/24/21	#458	75	No Winner

**CONGRATULATIONS!!**

**Cardinal John J O'Connor  
Knights of Columbus Council**

Queen of the Apostles has reestablished our Knights of Columbus Council which was once operational at SS Peter & Paul's Parish.

Please consider becoming a KNIGHT! Catholic men 18 years or older are welcome to join. Our goal is to be an asset to our Pastor, Parish and Community by lending our assistance wherever needed. Contact Grand Knight Bob Ryzner @ 570-885-2096 for more information.

Meetings will be held every 4th Monday of the month at the parish hall starting at 6:30 pm with the Rosary and meeting to follow. Next meeting February 22.

WE NEED TO FIND GOD AND HE CANNOT BE FOUND IN NOISE AND RESTLESSNESS. GOD IS A FRIEND OF SILENCE.  
ST. TERESA of Calcutta

**"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 February, 2021**

**Violence Against Women:**

We pray for women who are victims of violence, that they may be protected by society and have their sufferings considered and heeded.

**Stewardship**



**01/24/21 Sunday Collection: \$6,314.00**

Next Week's Second Collection:

*Care & Education of Priests*

**Thank you for your generous support!**

The Parish Office has contacted Church Budget about our January/February envelopes and was told there is a backlog in the Post Office which is causing the delay in monthly envelopes being send out. Some people have received them, but for those who have not, please use a plain white envelope and mark where you want the money to go. Include your name and envelope number so you will get proper credit. Sorry for the inconvenience and Thank you for continuing to support our Parish!

**Life, Family & Culture**



"Walk with each other. Do not be afraid to embrace God's gift of life. Whatever storms or trials we face, we are not alone. He is with us. 'Behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age' (Matthew 28:20)."

**EASTER BASKET PROJECT:** The Social Concerns/ Respect Life Ministry will be conducting their Easter Basket project for those parishioners who are in need. Baskets provide food for the Easter Sunday meal. The baskets will be privately blessed Father Phil on **Holy Saturday, April 3 at 12:00 Noon. Recipients will be contacted and individual pickup will be conducted.** Anyone who is in need of a basket or knows of someone who would be in need of one, please contact the parish office at #570-457-3412. Deadline for submissions is **March 21.**



Every good and perfect gift is from above.

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**Food Pantry Items for February  
Canned Fruit**



## Ordinary Time

**EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP**  
**RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS**  
 Embracing Change in Christ:

It's officially one month since we popped the champagne, toasted 2021 and wrote down a list of resolutions. This is usually the time when we start to take a good, hard look in the mirror to assess what we have done — or have not done — with the first month of this brand-new year.

New years can be scary, can't they? Full of promise, sure, but also full of room for failure. Full of space for our old baggage, old fears and the continuation of old mistakes.

The same can be said of Christ, and the new life he offers us, if we are brave enough to accept it. Opportunities like that can be intimidating. In that moment, we might find ourselves like the man with the unclean spirit crying out: "What have you to do with me, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us?"

Jesus is a comforter of the afflicted; he is a consoling figure, but he is also a challenging one. Sometimes we have grown attached to our afflictions. The idea of correcting bad habits or forming new ones is frankly terrifying to us. We have a voice deep inside who sees Christ and his invitation to repentance, and it cries out in fear: "I know who you are!"

When we live in the present, disavowing the baggage of the past or fear of the future, we submit ourselves to the promise of redemption. Let us be brave everyday stewards and invite Christ's healing power into our lives. We won't regret it — I'm sure the demoniac never did.— 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 the following revised email address: [https://stores.inksoft.com/queen\\_of\\_the\\_apostles/shop/home](https://stores.inksoft.com/queen_of_the_apostles/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



### American Red Cross Blood Drive

The American Red Cross will hold a Blood Drive on **Friday, February 5, 2021 in our Parish Hall from 1:00-6:00PM.** During this ongoing crisis, your help is needed now more than ever! Scheduled appointments are strongly recommended. Please remember to wear your mask and bring photo id. As a thank you for donating you will receive a \$5 Amazon gift card by email. Please call 1-800-733-2767 or visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) and enter Avoca to sign up. Any help will be greatly appreciated!

### Hoagie Sale

**Saint John the Evangelist Parish in Pittston** will be conducting a **Hoagie Sale on Tuesday, February 9 from 2:00-4:00 p.m.** with pickup in the Pastoral Center (former Seton Catholic auditorium). Your choice of Ham, Turkey, and Italian hoagies with lettuce, tomatoes, and cheese will be available for \$8 each or 2 for \$15, included with a bag of chips and bottle of water. **Please call Jane Roche at 570-905-0325 by Friday, February 5 to place your order.** We are only accepting advance payment. Masks must be worn and distancing followed at all times during pickup.

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 **1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 31, 2021 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

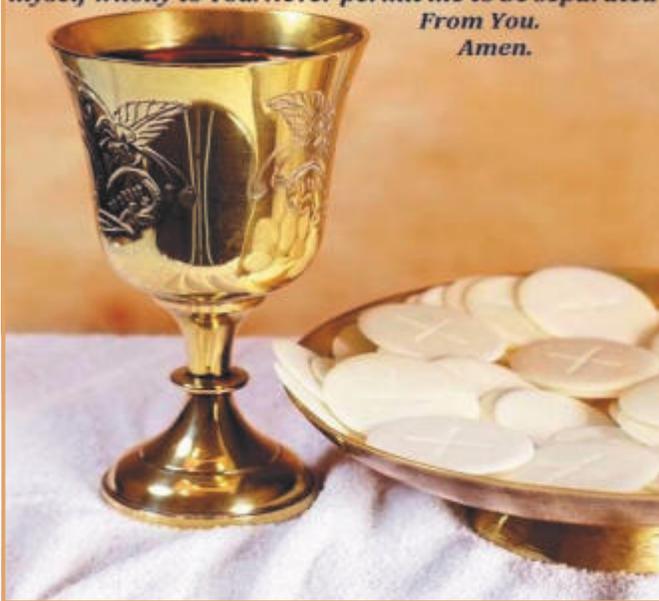
- Monday 8:00 AM February 1 Rose ( Anniv.) & Sam Rosetti & Christine Hindmarsh...
Tuesday 8:00 AM February 2 ~ The Presentation of the Lord Gil & Jason Shearer...
Wednesday 7:00 PM February 3 ~ St. Blaise, Bishop & Martyr Celia Domoracki...
Thursday 8:00 AM February 4 Andrew Bartush, Sr., Pauline (wife), John Sr., Anthony, Edwin & Anthony, Sr. (sons)...
Friday 8:00 AM February 5 ~ St. Agatha, Virgin & Martyr Teddy Kerechuk...
Friday 7:00 PM Peg Gusinski & Dan...
Saturday 4:00 PM February 6 ~ St. Paul Miki & Companions, Martyrs Tony "Cooper" Blaskiewicz...
Sunday 8:00 AM February 7 ~ 5th Sunday in Ord. Time Parishioners Intentions...
Sunday 10:00 AM Ernie Renfer...

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 Annette Malecki, Cookie Coleman & Lynn Hamilton. The parish community of Queen of the Apostles offers sympathy to their family and friends.

Sacramental Bread & Wine throughout February in loving memory of the Deceased Members of the Ozark Family by Family

\*\*\*\*\*

Sanctuary Candle in loving memory of Christine Hindmarsh by Ann & Mike Jake & Family

\*\*\*\*\*

Sacred Heart Shrine in loving memory of Rose & Sam Rosetti by Ann & Mike Jake & Family

\*\*\*\*\*

Sanctity of Life Memorial in loving memory of Marilyn Brock by Tuesday Night Card Club

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!

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