



February 7, 2021 | 5th 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!



5th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

He told them, "Let us go on to the nearby villages that I may preach there also. For this purpose have I come." - Mk 1:38

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,

Word traveled fast in Capernaum. After Jesus drove an unclean spirit from a man in the synagogue in the morning and cured Simon Peter's mother-in-law in the afternoon, "the whole town was gathered at the door" after sunset. They were not disappointed for Jesus spent the evening driving out demons and curing the sick. But it was not enough. The next day, after a predawn conversation with his Father, Jesus decided to leave Capernaum and set out to the nearby villages of Galilee. Why? "For this purpose have I come." Jesus' mission was to preach the good news, heal the sick and drive out demons not just in one town, but throughout the land. As is ours. It is no coincidence that Mark's Gospel ends with the risen Lord returning to Galilee and telling his disciples, "Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel...drive out demons...lay hands on the sick". Jesus passed his purposes on to his disciples, as well as to us. Paul embraced that purpose, though he admits he had no choice. Job did not choose his misfortune, but found no purpose and no hope to his life. May we find purpose and hope in carrying out Jesus' mission, our mission. I wonder how we have embraced the challenge of finding purpose in life? What can we do to discover our purpose and live it out?

Last Monday, February 1st was St. Brigid's feast day. Her image is in our Church stained glass window. She holds a candle and a bible. Here is a prayer to St. Brigid: *You were a woman of peace. You brought harmony where there was conflict. You brought light to the darkness. You brought hope to the downcast. May the mantle of your peace cover those who are troubled and anxious and may peace be firmly rooted in our hearts and in our world. Inspire us to act justly and to reverence all God has made. Brigid you were a voice for the wounded and the weary. Strengthen what is weak within us. Calm us into a quietness that heals and listens. May we grow each day into greater wholeness in mind, body and spirit. AMEN.*

On Wednesday, February 10, 2021, Bishop Joseph Bambera will celebrate the 12:10 p.m. Mass in St. Peter's Cathedral, Scranton, during which he will administer the sacrament of the anointing of the sick. Each parish in the Diocese is also encouraged to schedule a similar celebration either on February 11 or another convenient day near it. At www.dioceseofscranton.org on your computer you will find information about the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick.

Blessed Candles are available at the front of the Church for any who wish to take them home. They were blessed on Candlemas Day, February 2. Unfortunately, we had two feet of snow so only Bob Ryzner and myself were present for mass and the blessing which began the liturgy. Throats will be blessed in general this Sunday.

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: In ten days Lent will begin and we will be reminded of Jesus' sufferings, from forty days in the desert to his passion and death, but today we hear Jo lamenting the tragedies that have come to define his life. His sufferings are, to him, incomprehensible. He has lost all hope. None of us suffer as greatly as Job, but we have reason to hope. The psalmist reassures us that the Lord heals the wounded and brokenhearted. Paul willingly embraces his difficulties for the gospel. Jesus places the healing of the sick and troubled at the heart of his ministry. As we listen to today's readings, let us look for hope in 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

End of Mass

Question:

Is it ever Ok to leave Mass before it ends?

Answer:

This is an interesting question because beneath the surface there seems to be an assumption that if it's okay, then why do we have to stay after we receive communion? The short answer is "no," but we definitely want to go a bit deeper as we consider why.

First, when we think about questions like this, we must consider this in adult terms. If there is something gravely important that we need to do, then we must attend to that. However, if it is a matter of convenience or preference, then we really have to stop and think again. First, while we always want to recognize the importance of sacramental communion in the Mass, we also need to understand how important the time of thanksgiving and prayer after communion is. This is summarized in the Prayer After Communion offered by the celebrant and then we are also commissioned to "Go forth" during the Dismissal of the Mass, reminding us that we have been entrusted with a gift — the Word of God and the Presence of Christ in the sacrament — and that we are to share that gift with others.

If we simply leave after we receive communion, we risk two things. First, there is the possibility that we will turn our reception of communion into a purely personal, individual experience that is separated from our common experience of worship — and communion in the fullest sense — and, second, we lose an opportunity for gratitude and serious reflection if we simply leave after communion.

This time of thanksgiving, reflection, and, ultimately, missioning, are important and, in the end, an essential part of the celebration of the Mass.

Parish News



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

POT OF GOLD WINNERS

01/25/21	#285	\$ 75	Patty Durkan
01/26/21	#509	75	Christopher Ricci
01/27/21	#490	75	No Winner
01/28/21	#161	75	No Winner
01/29/21	#792	75	Kathy & Tony Alu
01/30/21	#950	75	No Winner
01/31/21	#877	500	No Winner

CONGRATULATIONS!!

This Sunday, February 7, 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. **The service will also be livestreamed on the Queen of the Apostles Facebook Page.**

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

OUR LADY of LOURDES February 11



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.

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



Collection amounts will be reported next week.

This Week's Second Collection:

Care & Education of Priests

Thank you for your generous support!



Life, Family & Culture



"A society is all the more human to the degree that it cares effectively for its most frail and suffering members, in a spirit of fraternal love. Let us strive to achieve this goal, so that no one will feel alone, excluded or abandoned." ~ Pope Francis, Message for the 29th World Day of the Sick 2021

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.

©LPi



Food Pantry Items for February
Canned Fruit



Ordinary Time

The Audacity of Holiness

Do you know a holy person? I'm not talking about piety — that's important, too, in its own way. But right now, I'm speaking of holiness.

St. Therese of Lisieux called holiness “a disposition of the heart that makes us humble and little in the arms of God, aware of our weakness, and confident — in the most audacious way — in His Fatherly goodness.”

The holy person sees a storm on the horizon of life, and rather than give themselves over to fear and despair (natural and understandable reactions), regards the gathering winds as an opportunity to rely more fully on God. The holy person takes a bad situation and sanctifies it with charity and understanding that defies our fallen human nature.

Peter's mother-in-law was still in the throes of a fever when Jesus grasped her hand. It wasn't until she took his hand and allowed him to help her up that “the fever left her and she waited on them.” Before the fever could leave her, she had to commit to holiness — to put her trust in him in a most audacious way. She had to find it within herself to lift her weakened hand to grasp his — and as soon as she did, she was rewarded. Her bodily health restored, she gave thanks, and attended to his needs.

God's hand is always outstretched to us. Will we take it, even if the fever of sin and pride and worldly concerns rages in our souls? Will we muster the strength? Will we be audacious enough to have confidence in His Fatherly goodness?



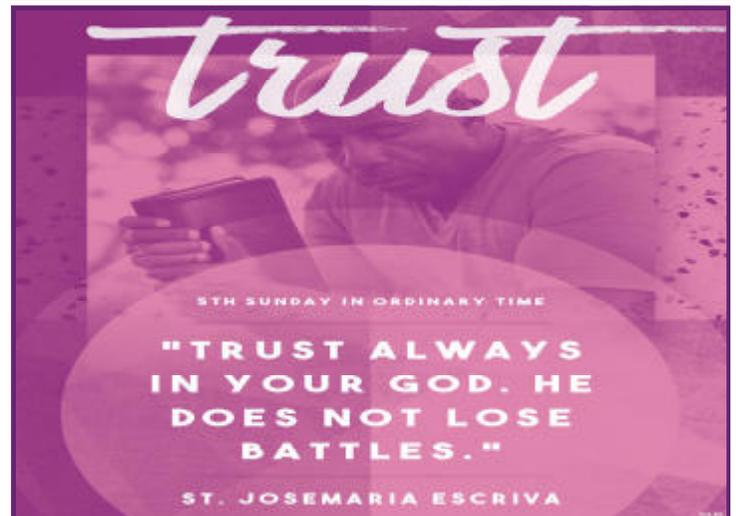
Queen of the Apostles Parish has opened a virtual store with Mad Tees. The store includes several different items with the parish logo and/or name on it. **Orders, which take two weeks to complete, can be placed at the following revised email address: https://stores.inksoft.com/queen_of_the_apostles/shop/home.** 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



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 **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

February 7, 2021 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

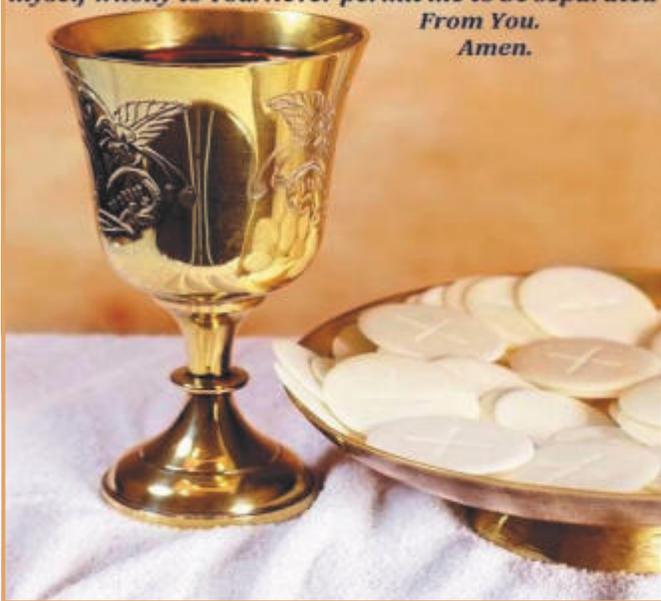
- Monday February 8 ~ St. Jerome Emiliani & St. Josefine Bakhita
8:00 AM Lynn Hamilton
By Patti & Brianna Nemeth
Tuesday February 9
8:00 AM Eleanor Loughney
By Shirley Berlew
Wednesday February 10 ~ St. Scholastica, Virgin Catherine & John Donelan
7:00 PM
By Mrs. Lorraine Borthwick & Family
Thursday February 11 ~ Our Lady of Lourdes
8:00 AM Henry F. Meade
By Pat O'Brien
Friday February 12
8:00 AM Lillian Bonczek
By Family
Saturday February 13
4:00 PM Francis Sladicka
By Kathleen & Paul Franceschelli
Sunday February 14 ~ 6th Sunday in Ord. Time
8:00 AM Parishioners Intentions
10:00 AM Patrick Shotwell
By Joan Burton

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 she rest in the peace of the Lord! Please pray for the soul of Claire Altieri. The parish community of Queen of the Apostles offers sympathy to her 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 February in loving memory of the Deceased members of the Ozark Family by QAP Parishioners
Sanctuary Candle in loving memory of Helen O'Hop & Helen A. Bartnicki by Pat & Joe Bartnicki
Sacred Heart Shrine in loving memory of Cookie Coleman by Ceil Goss, Marion Ralonski, Sharon Roche
Sanctity of Life Memorial in loving memory of William Sledgeski, Sr. & Jr. by Wife & Mother, Rose

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