

February 14, 2021 | 6th 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

Like Us On Facebook:

Queen of the Apostles Parish
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

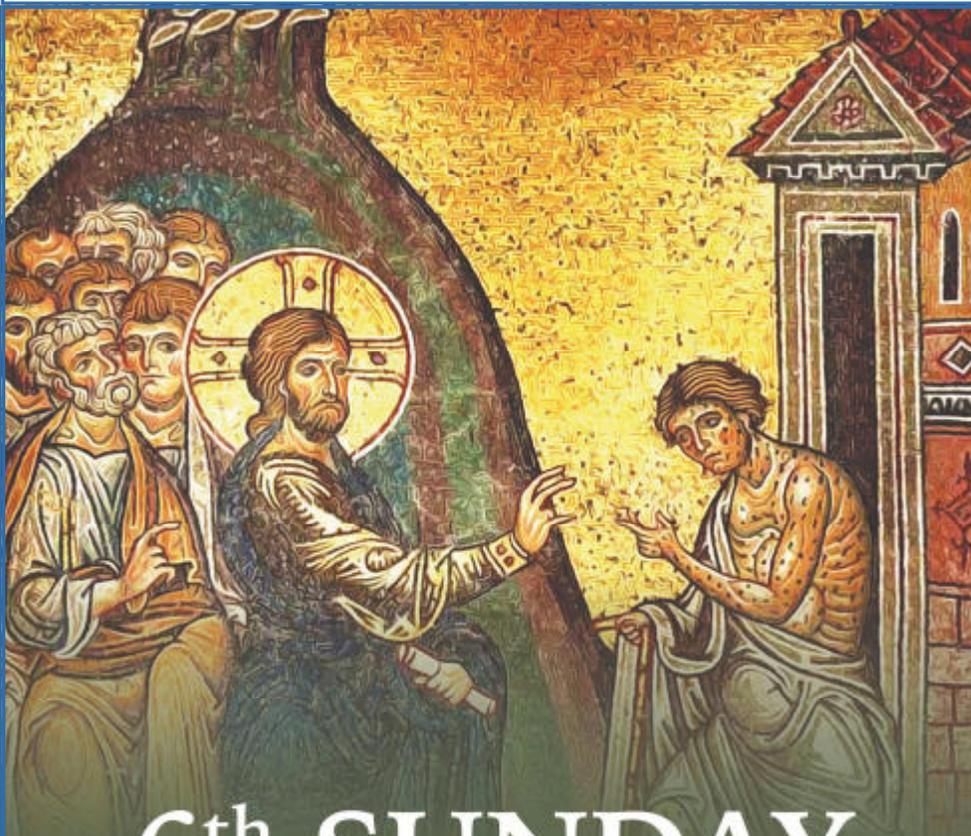
Social Concerns/Respect Life Ministry

Ann Jake - 570-457-3521

Women's Guild

Jeanette Gronski - 570-457-7804

New Members are always Welcome!



6th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

A leper came to Jesus and kneeling down begged him and said, "If you wish, you can make me clean." Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand, touched him, and said to him, "I do will it. Be made clean." - Mk 1:40-41

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,

How are the lepers in today's readings made clean? How are we made clean? What does it mean to be made clean? The leprosy addressed in today's readings refers to any skin disease, any visible and possibly contagious infection. For the health of the community the afflicted person was excluded. Also because the disease was thought to be a punishment, they were regarded as seriously sinful. So when the leper came to Jesus asking to be made clean, not only did he want his health restored, he wanted acceptance. He wanted to be readmitted to the community. Jesus crossed both barriers when he reached out and touched this contagious and "sinful" man. Though the external cure was obvious, the internal effect was stronger. After all, Jesus came into this world not to perform individual cures on a few, but to offer salvation to all. Our sinfulness makes us all imperfect, unclean. But like the leper in the gospel, we call out to the Lord to forgive us, to make us clean, to include us on the way of salvation. We also can follow Saint Paul's counsel, imitating Christ, reaching out to those who have been cast out and applying Jesus' healing touch. When have you felt "made clean" through forgiveness or acceptance?

Tomorrow is President's Day formerly Washington's Birthday. Take this opportunity to remember the leaders of our Country and to pray for them and the continued blessing of God upon our country through our leaders.

Ash Wednesday is this week. Please take note of the schedule. I wanted to offer opportunities for any who are interested to be able to attend mass and receive ashes. There will be a special Holy Hour on the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday, February 16th led by the Knights of Columbus at 7pm. The second Tuesday of each month the Knights of Columbus will be present to lead the Rosary before the Benediction. Knights of Columbus, thank you for your witness of prayer. Please consult the bulletin for the times for the Stations of the Cross, and the "Light is on for you" confession schedule. The Road to Resurrection will be held at Our Lady of the Eucharist Parish at 8am each Wednesday of Lent. Fr. Paul McDonald will be preaching. It can be viewed on their Facebook page. **Wednesday evening Mass remains at 7pm at our QAP parish.**

Today is Valentine's Day and we celebrate World Marriage Sunday. How appropriate. Happy Valentine's Day everyone. I am including a prayer for Married Couples:



Almighty and eternal God, You blessed the union of married couples so that they might reflect the union of Christ with his Church: look with kindness on them. Renew their marriage covenant, increase your love in them, and strengthen their bond of peace so that, with their children, they may always rejoice in the gift of your blessing. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Today we remember that the church is the family of God and a family of families. As a family, how can we share Christ with married couples and families in our parish? Do we have any friends and family members who are struggling in their marriage, alone during this time of isolation or particularly afflicted by this pandemic? When was the last time we checked on our elderly neighbors? Is there someone in the parish that we haven't seen in a while? How can we as a parish family reach out to those who are in need?

Thank you for all you are and all you do. Happy Valentine's Day. God bless you and see you in Church, Fr. Phil

Liturgy of the Word



Liturgy of the Word: Both the first reading and the Gospel deal with the illness of leprosy, not exactly the subject we hoped to hear about on Valentine's Day. In Moses's day, leprosy was a sign of sinfulness and separation from God. But in the Gospel, Jesus, the Son of God, reaches out and touches the leper. The leper is literally not separated from God at all. Not even leprosy is a barrier to Jesus' healing touch. As members of the body of Christ, it is now up to us to break through those barriers. Listening to the word of God, let us take Paul's words as a challenge: "Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ."



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

Face-To-Face Confession

Question:

In today's digital world, do we really need to be face-to-face with a priest to confess our sins? Would Facetime or Zoom ever be allowed?

Answer:

The question of whether or not Catholics can celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation virtually (via social media, by phone, or in some other way) is a question that has actually been around for several years. The recent COVID-19 pandemic brought the question back in a new way, especially as many parishes were forced to introduce a sort of "social distanced" confession, with the sacrament being celebrated outdoors.

In reflecting on this question, however, there are a couple points that we want to keep in mind. First, as the Code of Canon Law observes in different places, the faithful have a right to the sacraments of the Church and the Church's ministers have a responsibility to make them accessible. At the same time, however, we always have to be sure that we respect the nature of the sacraments themselves.

Although modern forms of technology and communication can help us in our work of evangelization catechesis, the Pontifical Council for Social Communication has reminded us that, "Virtual reality is no substitute for the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist, the sacramental reality of the other sacraments, and shared worship in a flesh and blood human community. There are no sacraments on the internet" (The Church and the Internet, no. 9).

Although our encounters with others on the internet and via social media can be considered "real" in one sense, in the sacraments we encounter Christ in a personal and ecclesial way. It is never just a private experience but is always grounded in the life of the Church and this means that it must truly be personal, including the contact between the confessor and the penitent. While the convenience or ease of online celebrations might be appealing for many reasons, at heart, we always want to keep in mind the fullness of the Church's tradition and the meaning of the sacraments.

Parish News



The Light is On For You

Confessions will be held every Monday Evening during Lent from 5:30-6:30 pm. (February 22, March 1, 8, 15 & 22). Also during this hour each Monday the Holy Eucharist will be exposed on the altar. All are welcome to receive God's grace in the Sacrament of Confession and also to spend some time in reparation to our Blessed Lord during this hour.



The Knights of Columbus will conduct this week's Holy Hour Service on Tuesday, February 16 from 7:00 - 8:00 pm. which will include the Rosary for Life. Each subsequent Rosary for Life will be conducted by the Knights on the Second Tuesday of each month.



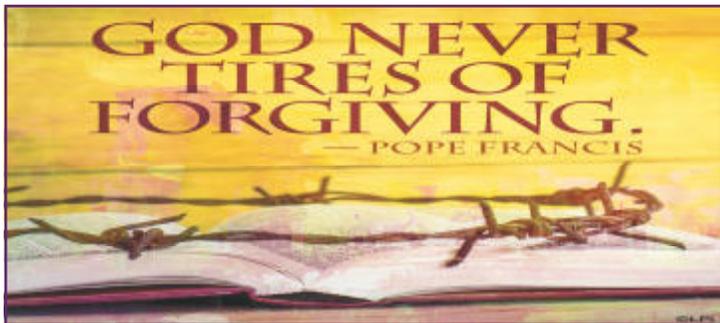
Ash Wednesday Services are as follows:

8:00 am., 12:00 noon, and 7:00 pm. -- Mass and Distribution of ashes. 5:00 PM Service and Distribution of Ashes



Stations of the Cross

Stations will be held each Friday of Lent beginning February 19 after the 8:00 am Mass and at 5:15 pm. Our Lady of Sorrows Rosary will be prayed before the Stations at 4:45 pm.



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



01/31/21 Sunday Collection: \$4,797.00
02/07/21 Sunday Collection: 3,978.00
Care & Education of Priests: 252.00
Pot of Gold Profit: 4,675.00

Thank you for your generous support!

Life, Family & Culture



"Married love differs from any other love in the world. By its nature, the love of husband and wife is so complete, so ordered to a lifetime of communion with God and each other, that it is open to creating a new human being they will love and care for together." ~ USCCB, *Married Love and the Gift of Life*

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.

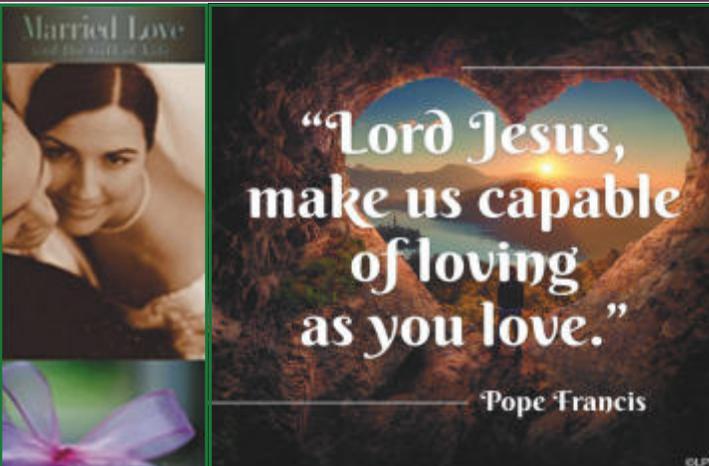


40 Days for Life Pro Life Gathering

Feb. 17 to March 26, offered for the special intentions of ending abortion and closure of the Planned Parenthood location in W-B. Rosary is prayed each weekday, Monday thru Friday, at 10 am. in front of the offices of Planned Parenthood, 101 N. Main St., W-B. Pro Life campaign draws attention to the evil of abortion through prayer and fasting, constant vigil, and community outreach.



World Marriage Day



Food Pantry Items for February
Canned Fruit



Ordinary Time

The Unfailing Goodness of God

I have always wondered why Jesus told the cleansed leper not to publicize how he had been healed by the Son of God. It's not that I can't understand why Jesus would want to keep the matter quiet — after all, he knew that as soon as people heard, he would be mobbed with requests for healings, and his movements restricted.

What gets me is the fact that Jesus simply must have realized the leper would not listen to him. Why give someone a command you know they will ignore? It's a complicated question, and when I reflect on it, I can't help but connect it to another equally complicated question: why does God, all-good and all-knowing, allow bad things to happen?

Yes, God is all-good and all-knowing. So when He gives us free will, He knows what we will do with it. However, He is also all-powerful. He can and will bring good from any situation, any tragedy, or even any instance where someone ignores Him.

Was it a sin for this leper to do other than what Jesus had said? That's a heavy question for a Sunday morning! But it's plain to see that, even though this man ignored Jesus' command, God still used his actions. How many were brought to Christ because of the news spread by this leper!

As someone trying to live out a stewardship way of life, what is God requesting of you right now?
— 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.** 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



Road to Resurrection

This year the Road to Resurrection will be held each Wednesday during Lent at Our Lady of the Eucharist Parish, 535 North Main St., Pittston at 8:00 am. The following is the scheduled Wednesday Masses:

February 24, March 17, March 24, and March 31

The Homilist will be Father Paul McDonnell, OSJ
All Masses will be live-streamed via parish facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/OLEPARISH> and then posted to the parish website at <https://eucharist-pittston.org/> **Reservations will not be necessary.**

SUNDAY EVENING PRAYER

Sunday Evening Prayer each week prior to the Wednesday Road to Resurrection will also be held at Our Lady of the Eucharist Parish at 5:00 PM on the following scheduled dates:

February 21, February 28, March 7, March 14, & March 21

Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament, Quiet Time, Evening Prayer, Reflection by either Deacon Walter Janoski or Deacon Andre Kabacinski and Benediction. All services will be live-streamed via parish facebook and then posted to parish website. **Reservations will not be necessary.**



The Red Cross would like to thank everyone who participated in their recent Blood Drive. It was an overwhelming success. A total of 29 Units were collected.

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 14, 2021 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

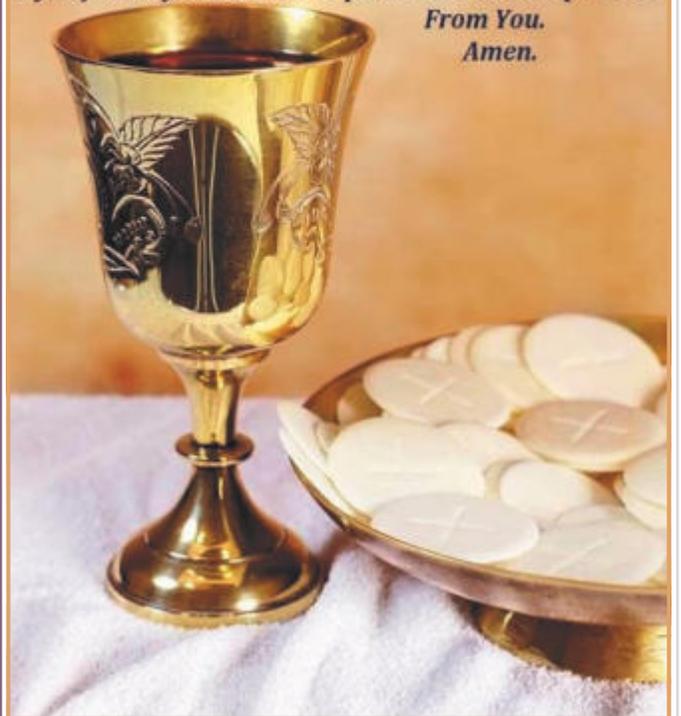
- Monday 8:00 AM February 15 ~ President's Day Marie Dooner By Family
Tuesday 8:00 AM February 16 Deceased members of the Jack Smith Family By Karen & Family
Wednesday 8:00 AM February 17 ~ Ash Wednesday Parishioners Intentions Frank, Lydia, Joseph & Hilda Janik By Family
12:00 Noon ASHES ONLY Frank, Helen & Teddy Voyack By Family
5:00 PM
7:00 PM
Thursday 8:00 AM February 18 Bernard Trescavage By Family
Friday 8:00 AM February 19 Joseph Skoronski By Anna McMullen
Saturday 4:00 PM February 20 Joseph Shimko By Joe & Pat Bartnicki
Sunday 8:00 AM February 21 ~ 1st Sunday of Lent Parishioners Intentions
10:00 AM Ruth Dooner Reap By Barbara Quinnan

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.



MEMORIAL OFFERINGS

Masses for the 2021 Calendar Year 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.

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 James Spigarelli by Family

Sacred Heart Shrine in loving memory of Paul Bartush by Lorraine Bartush

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!

SUPPORT THE ADVERTISERS THAT SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY



**PRESSURE WASHING - RAIN GUTTER CLEANING
SNOW REMOVAL - SIDEWALKS / DRIVEWAYS
GRASS CUTTING - FALL CLEAN UP/LEAVES**
Reasonable Prices - Free Estimates
570-417-1797

GREGORY A. TIMONTE PROPRIETOR
You make the memories of a lifetime
We make them last forever
DUPONT MONUMENT SHOP INC.
273 Main, Dupont, PA 18641
PH-570-654-0561 FAX-570-883-0380
email: dupontmonument@aol.com
www.Dupontmonumentshop.com

RUSSOMANO CLEANING SERVICE'S
For all your carpet and upholstery cleaning needs.
Call and book your
Fall cleaning today!
570-947-4368



**PROTECTING SENIORS NATIONWIDE
MEDICAL ALERT SYSTEM**
\$29.95/MO
BILLED QUARTERLY
PLUS SPECIAL OFFER
CALL NOW! 1.877.801.7772 • WWW.24-7MEDALARM.COM

AVAILABLE FOR A LIMITED TIME **ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS HERE**
Renee Puchalski • rpuchalski@4LPi.com • (800) 477-4574 x6453

**YUSCHOVITZ
BUILDING AND REMODELING**
AVOCA, PA
JOHN YUSCHOVITZ • 570-457-1284
DIANE YUSCHOVITZ • 570-594-6282

PROUD SPONSOR
Fidelity BANK
bankatfidelity.com • 570.342.8281 | 800.388.4380
Member FDIC

Carmen Ferranti, CFP®, ChFC®, RICP®
Do you have a Retirement Income strategy?
Do you know your options for Social Security?
Phone: 570-963-2228

ODAK
What's in your water?
Water is the single, most important ingredient to life. When you want the purest water, remember **Odak!**
A LOCALLY OWNED COMPANY SERVICING YOUR WATER
FILTRATION NEEDS SINCE 1979.
Say goodbye to bottled water with our K500 drinking water system cost effective, environmentally friendly, convenient & guaranteed!
Free basic installation for all church parishioners.
CALL NOW! 1-888-901-ODAK • odak.com

SPREAD THE WORD
A Thriving, Vibrant Community Matters
SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS

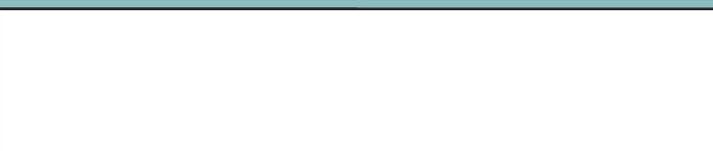
SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL PARISH.
Buy a bulletin ad space today!

LET US PLACE YOUR AD HERE

DOMIANO APPLIANCE REPAIR
Reliable Service For Over 25 Years
570-457-8982
Old Forge, PA 18618
JOE DOMIANO

FREE AD DESIGN WITH PURCHASE OF THIS SPACE.
- 800-477-4574 -

THIS SPACE IS AVAILABLE



Too Sick for Mass?
SUPPORT OUR PARISH NO MATTER WHERE YOU ARE!
Sign-up to get your bulletin delivered right to your inbox!
www.parishesonline.com

LINDA TOMLINSON, Proprietor
TOMLINSON FLORAL & GIFT
"Special Creations for Special People"
509 S. Main St., Old Forge, PA 18518
(570) 457-1790 • Find us on Facebook!

LAMONICA LAW FIRM LLC
Carlo A. LaMonica
Attorney at Law
• Probate & Estate Administration
• Estate Planning
• Powers of Attorney
• Advance Health Care Directives
• Estate & Inheritance Taxes
• Veterans Disability Claims
Prepare For Your Future. Protect Your Family.
Schedule your FREE CONSULTATION today!
(570) 751-1571 • www.LaMonicaLawFirm.com

FUEL OIL DEALERS
FALCON OIL
570-383-3257 • 570-654-3441
1630 MAIN ST., BALKELY. | www.FalconOilpa.com
Wholesale Distributor of Gasoline Fuel Oil
"Call Today for Lowest Heating Oil Price" / It's Our Service That Makes The Difference

TROY MECHANICAL, INC.
HEATING • COOLING CONTROLS • DESIGN
100 State Hwy., Moosic, PA 18507
Voice: (570) 451-0140 • Fax: (570) 451-0150
mtroy@troymechanical.com
MICHAEL TROY

LET US PLACE YOUR AD HERE.

Kiesinger Funeral Services, Inc. for your peace of mind
Traditional & Contemporary Funeral Services • Advanced Planning • Serving All Faiths
Mark Kiesinger, Funeral Director - Supervisor
We specialize in providing professional, comforting, one-on-one attention in your time of need.
255 McAlpine St., Duryea Handicapped and Wheelchair Accessible • Ample Off Street Parking
570-457-4387