



February 21, 2021 | 1st Sunday of Lent

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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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

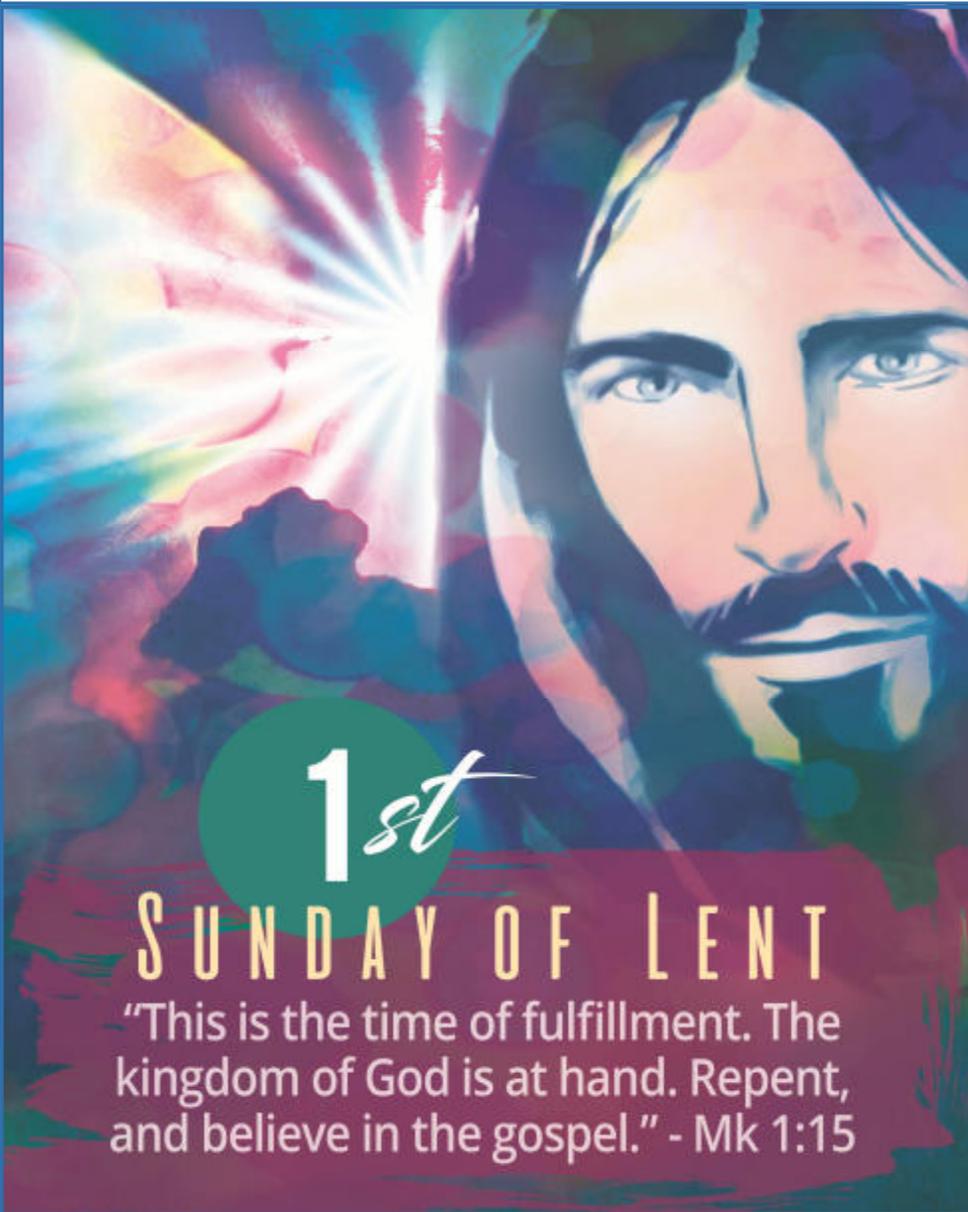
Parish Office
570-457-3412

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!



1st
SUNDAY OF LENT
"This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel." - Mk 1:15

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,

Typically on the first Sunday of Lent we hear a detailed account of Satan's temptations, but Mark narrows down his account of Jesus' forty days in the desert to two sentences. Instead he emphasizes Jesus' message, his gospel: "This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel". In three terse sentences, Jesus summarizes his mission. During Lent we bring to mind the suffering Jesus endured to accomplish his mission, but we would be remiss if we did not keep in mind the point of his mission. God's love for us all. God's mercy for us, God's desire for us each to repent and believe is stronger than any flood, any disobedience, and any power of Satan. Among all humanity, only Noah and his family were saved. But now God assures us that this will never happen again. God's covenant with humanity, renewed through Abraham, Moses, David and now Jesus further and further tilting in our favor remains in force as sure as a rainbow follows a storm, as sure as our baptism binds us to salvation. Repent and believe, for this is the time of fulfillment. How can we live out our baptismal commitment during this time of fulfillment?

So, Lent opens before us on this first Sunday. The Holy Spirit drove Jesus into the desert for forty days. We, too, are sent into the desert of repentance to search our hearts, hoping to resist what is evil and to embrace all that is good. God is faithful to us on our journey of faith. As we continue that journey we are encouraged by the prayerful support of one another.

When many of us were children, we might remember giving up candy for Lent. And, it seemed like a real sacrifice. As we grew up, it was often more difficult to decide what special thing to do, to make Lent a special season - to get our attention and to prepare ourselves for deeper sacrifices.

What would help me grow in freedom? That's the question to ask. For some of us, it could be, committing ourselves to give up judging others. For others, it could be giving up a bad habit we've developed. For still others, it is obvious what seems to be the important choice for me during Lent.

For many of us, the choice may not be to give something up, but to add something to our daily lives. We may commit ourselves to extra prayer time. We may decide to do some service for the poor. We may choose to increase our almsgiving to the poor - perhaps related to something we choose not to do, e.g., some might choose not to go out to eat one night a week, and to give that total amount to the poor.

Whether it is fasting, abstaining or other acts of penance, the whole desire we should have is to use these means to help us grow closer to our Lord and prepare ourselves "to celebrate the paschal mystery with minds and hearts renewed." (First Preface of Lent).

This is the Sunday that our diocesan candidates and catechumen go to the Bishop to be accepted to receive Easter Sacraments. I pray for the many to be received this Sunday afternoon by Bishop Bambera. We are not conducting RCIA at our parish this year. But, God bless the mission of our Catholic Church and all those to be received.

Thank you for all you are and all you do. Keep reading those little Black Books. God bless you and see you in Church, Fr. Phil

Liturgy of the Word

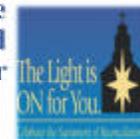


Liturgy of the Word: Our readings today revolve around the covenant God established with all of humanity, with all of us. It began with just the few people taking refuge on the ark, but after the flood Noah and his family were all of humanity. The First Letter of Peter identifies baptism as a sign of that covenant with humanity, calls us to repentance and faith. May we heed that call and renew our covenant with God by living out the gospel.



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.**



Stations will be held each Friday of Lent 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.

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. The Knights of Columbus will pray the Rosary for Life every second Sunday of the month. 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.**



First Penance Class of 2021

On Saturday, February 13, at 10:00 am the following 2nd grade students received their First Penance in preparation for First Eucharist. Please keep them in your prayers.

Colin Brady
Katherine Gilchrist
Jack Homschek
Addison McAndrew
Mason O'Donnell
Nicholas Posluszny

Nicholas Serino
Claire Silinskie
Angelica Shimonis
Lyla Walters
Brian Wood.

Parish News



The Social Concerns/Respect Life Ministry will conduct a Lenten Food Sale on **Friday, March 5** to benefit the Ministry's projects. The following will be available for orders only:

- Red or White Clam Chowder - Quart \$8.50
- Haluski - \$6 Quart
- Vodka Sauce - \$8.50 Quart

Orders can be placed by calling Carol Wood at #570-947-5159 or Ruth Lee at #570-457-2111. Deadline for placing orders will be **March 1**. A drive thru pick up will be available from 11:00 am thru 2:00 pm and from 4:30 pm thru 6:30 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.



Scout Sunday was celebrated on February 7 at the 10:00 am Mass here at Queen of the Apostles. Pictured are some of the scouts that were in attendance from Scout Troop 318 along with their leaders.

Our Holy Father's Prayer Intention for February, 2021
Violence Against Women:

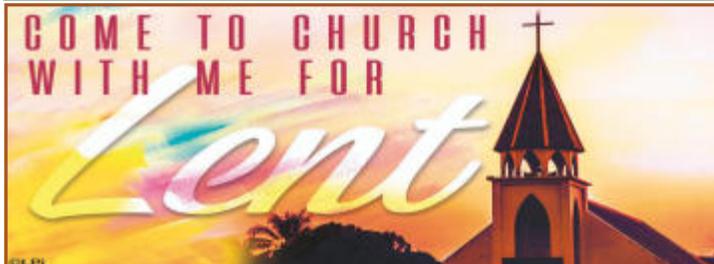
We pray for women who are victims of violence, that they may be protected by society and have their sufferings considered and heeded.

Stewardship



02/14/21 Sunday Collection: \$2,965.00

Thank you for your generous support!



Life, Family & Culture



"Abortion affects countless marriages more than many people recognize. But there is no doubt that God will bring great healing to those who trust in his infinite mercy. If a past abortion can be acknowledged and addressed, a married couple can make great strides in experiencing even more fully God's design that 'the two shall become one' (Mt 19:5)." USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities "Healing within Marriage from an Abortion" respectlife.org/healing-in-marriage

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

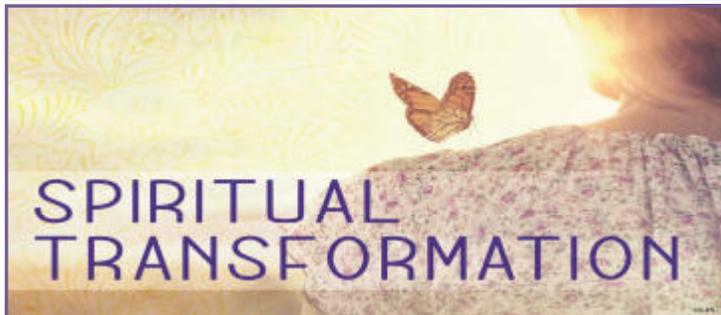
Feb. 17 to March 26, offered for the special intentions of ending abortion and closure of the Planned Parenthood location in W-B. Rosary is prayed each weekday, **Monday thru Friday, at 10 am**. in front of the offices of Planned Parenthood, 101 N. Main St., W-B. Pro Life campaign draws attention to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



Food Pantry Items for February
Canned Fruit



Lenten Season



As we march through Lent, it can be easy to think it's all about sacrifice. No chocolate, no alcohol, no meat on Fridays. We don't fast from dessert to lose weight. We don't donate money or serve others because it's merely a nice thing to do. Lent is about transformation!

Reflections

Genuflecting & Kneeling

Question:

Does it matter what leg you kneel on when genuflecting?

Answer:

Genuflection is an act of devotion that literally means “to bend the knee.” For many Catholics, it’s an almost automatic gesture that we perform before entering our pew or row of seats at Mass. But, like many of the symbols and gestures of our faith tradition, genuflecting can also be an invitation for deeper reflection.

The practice of “bending the knee” is an ancient way of recognizing the presence of someone greater than we are. It has been said that the practice dates back to the time of Alexander the Great, but it became a common part of etiquette in the royal courts of the Middle Ages. From throne rooms and palaces, it was a small step to genuflecting, becoming part of the devotional lives of Christians who used this secular gesture especially in the Eucharist. In our tradition, although many have been taught or prefer to genuflect by placing their right knee on the ground, there is no prescribed way to genuflect. This is especially important to keep in mind if physical limitations or age make certain movements difficult for us.

Today, Catholics are asked to genuflect in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament (whether in the tabernacle or exposed on the altar during eucharistic adoration). So, while it has become second nature to genuflect before entering your seat in church, we should pay attention to where the Blessed Sacrament is kept in each church or chapel we visit, and genuflect in the direction of the tabernacle where the Blessed Sacrament is kept. In churches or chapels in which the tabernacle is in a separate space, we are invited to simply bow toward the altar.

Redemptoris Custos Assembly #3755

4th Degree of the Knights of Columbus

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\$8.00 per dozen Certificates – Redeemable in store

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Call 570-885-2096.

Proceeds benefit the Assembly and help to fund our programs.

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.**



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 21, 2021†1st Sunday of Lent

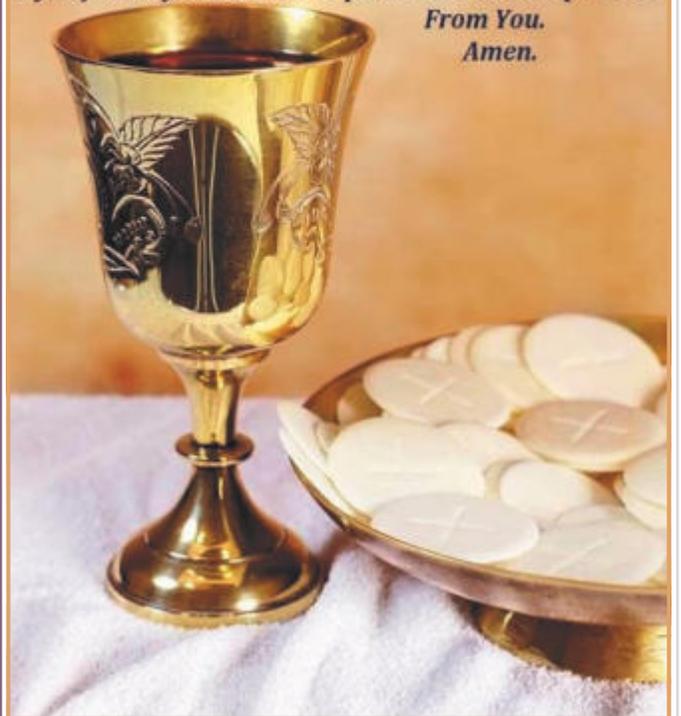
- Monday February 22 ~ Chair of St. Peter the Apostle
8:00 AM Ruth Dooner Reap
By Barbara Quinnan
Tuesday February 23 ~ St. Polycarp, Bishop & Martyr
8:00 AM Patricia Johnson Mehalchick
By Father Phil
Wednesday February 24
7:00 PM John Oliveri
By Rita & Cathy Gunning
Thursday February 25
8:00 AM Annette Malecki
By Family
Friday February 26
8:00 AM Cookie Coleman
By Family
Saturday February 27
4:00 PM Margaret "Margie" Durko
By Family
Sunday February 28 ~ 2nd Sunday of Lent
8:00 AM Parishioners Intentions
10:00 AM Teddy Kerechuk
By Norine and Joe

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.



Sacramental Bread & Wine

throughout February in loving memory of the Deceased members of the Ozark Family by Brothers and Sisters

Sanctuary Candle in loving memory of John Oliveri

by Mom and Dad

Sacred Heart Shrine in Thanksgiving for Prayers Answered by Anonymous

Sanctity of Life Memorial in loving memory of John Oliveri by Nicole and James Noris

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.

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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