



February 28, 2021 | 2nd 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
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staff@queenoftheapostles.com

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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

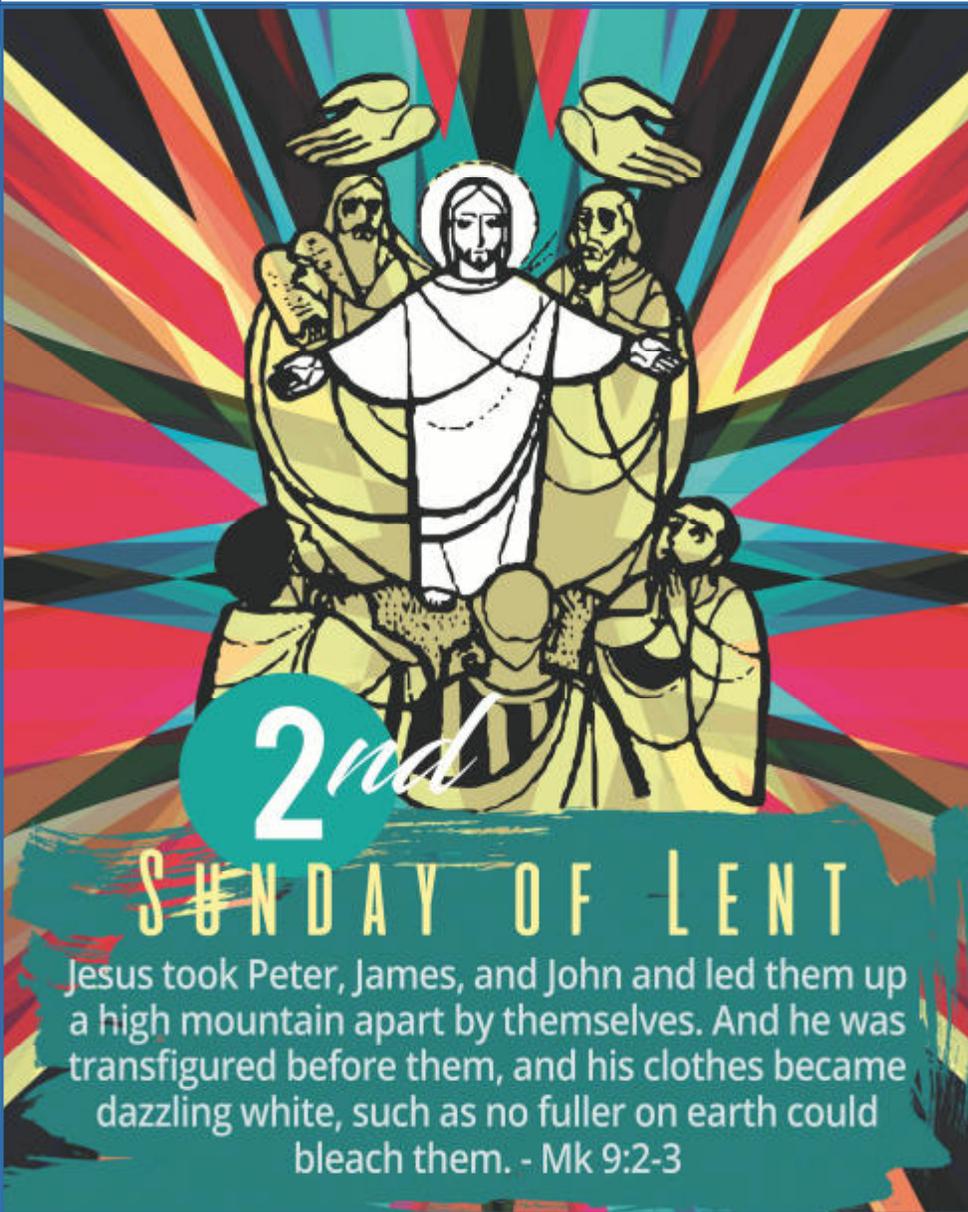
Parish Office
570-457-3412

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!



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,

Occasionally we are given a glimpse of an alternate reality hidden just below the surface. It can be a trans-figurative moment. Right before the passage we hear today, Jesus had confided that he would suffer, be killed and rise after three days. Peter did not take this well. So Jesus gave him, James and John his closest disciples, a glimpse of an alternate reality. They hear God repeat the words from Jesus' baptism, which they had not heard, with the additional instructions: "Listen to him". Listen to him when he says what he must face. Listen to him when he says you must take up your cross (which he had just told them). Listen to him when he says that he will rise from the dead. Listen to him and be transfigured. Abraham's viewpoint is transfigured when God intervenes. Paul encourages the Romans to look at their lives differently in light of God's willingness not to spare God's own Son. Our lives have been transfigured by the One raised to glory at God's right hand. Can we see the difference? What can we see when we allow God to transfigure our perspective?

On Ash Wednesday the church was given the solemn invitation, 'Turn away from sin and believe the good news.' It is therefore fitting to have several penitential celebrations during Lent, so that all the faithful may have an opportunity to be reconciled with God and their neighbor and so be able to celebrate the paschal mystery in the Easter Triduum with renewed hearts. Sometimes we forget the promises we made at our Baptism and repeat every Holy Saturday to turn away from sin and be faithful to the gospel. The candidates for reception into full communion (RCIA) in the initiation process are prepared for the Easter Sacraments by receiving Reconciliation (Confession) if they will not be baptized. **Throughout the Lenten season we will have Confession in the Church each Monday from 5:30pm to 7pm. The church will be warm, lit, the Blessed Sacrament will be on the Altar and I will be in the confessional ready to receive any who come. Remember, "The Light is on for you."**

Please remember Stations of the Cross will take place weekly after the 8am mass each Friday and at 5:15pm each Friday during Lent. Although the traditional Road to Resurrection cannot be held during this time of pandemic Our Lady of the Eucharist will have a mass each Wednesday morning with Fr. Paul McDonald preaching at 8am. This will be our Road to Resurrection. You may also view this on OLE Facebook page live and afterwards. It will be taped. Although our Rice Bowls never arrived (they were sent) we will still carry through with the Rice Bowl program that seeks to provide for the needs of the third world. You may place your donations in an envelope and return them on Holy Thursday.

Once again this year I see no plans for our Annual Chicken Dinner. We may try another fundraiser. However always keep the needs of our parish in your thoughts and prayers.

Keep following the daily readings from the Lenten Little Black Book. Stay firm with those Lenten plans. Most of all Stay Safe. Thank you for all you are and all you do. God bless you and see you in Church, Fr. Phil

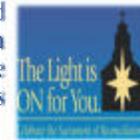
Liturgy of the Word



Liturgy of the Word: In today's difficult first reading, Abraham proves his faithfulness to God, trusting the Lord completely, unlike Adam and Eve, who had turned away. God blesses Abraham with descendants too numerous to count. Each of us is one. Indeed, each of us is blessed because Jesus, God's only Son, made the ultimate sacrifice for us and now intercedes for us. In the Gospel, he is transfigured in glory, a sign of his future place at God's right hand.

The Light is On For You

Confessions will be held every Monday Evening during Lent from 5:30-6:30 pm. (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.**



Reflections

Why Use Incense?

Question:

Why do we use incense at Mass?

Answer:

The use of incense in religious ceremonies and worship is a practice that predates Christianity, and which is also found in many other religious traditions today.

Incense, which is made from resin infused with aromatic spices and oils, is one of those fundamentally human symbols that incorporates more than one of our senses, helping us to reflect on realities that transcend the everyday details of our lives.

The use of incense in the Church's liturgy — in the Mass, as well as in devotions to the Eucharist and the Liturgy of the Hours — is inspired by the use of incense in the Jewish tradition. In the writings of the Old Testament, we hear about incense being used in the worship of the temple, and Psalm 141 asks, "Let my prayer be incense before you; my uplifted hands an evening offering" (vs. 2). The image here is that, as the incense gently rises to heaven, our prayers also rise to God as something sweet and pleasant.

Another ancient use of incense that has also become part of our Catholic tradition is the idea that when we incense something, it's because it is something special or sacred. This is why the Book of the Gospel is incensed during the Liturgy of the Word and the bread, wine, priest celebrant, and congregation are incensed at the presentation of the gifts. To this, we can also add the incensing of the Blessed Sacrament during Eucharistic adoration and benediction, and the body of the deceased at the end of the Mass of the Resurrection (the Funeral Mass).

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

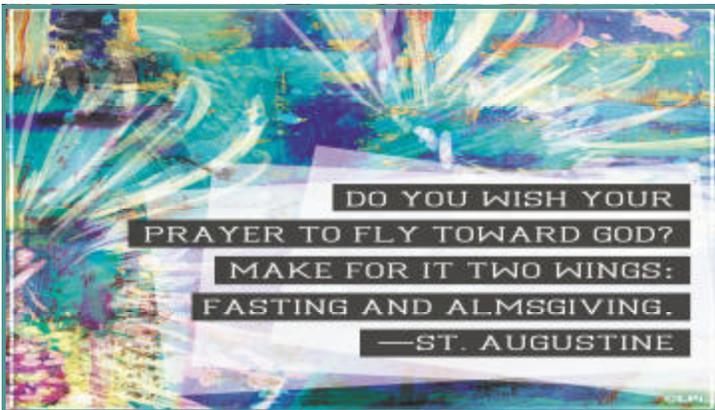
Orders can be placed by calling Carol Wood at #570-947-5159 or Ruth Lee at #570-457-2111. Deadline for placing orders will be March 1. A drive thru pick up will be available from 11:00 am thru 2:00 pm and from 4:30 pm thru 6:30 pm.

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.



Our Holy Father's Prayer Intention for March, 2021

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Let us pray that we may experience the sacrament of reconciliation with renewed depth, to taste the infinite mercy of God.

Stewardship



02/21/21 Sunday Collection: \$5,465.00

Next weekend's Second Collection: Care & Education of Priests Thank you for your generous support!



Life, Family & Culture



"The essence of our identity is that we are created in God's image and likeness and loved by Him. Nothing can diminish the priceless worth of any human life. Every person is cherished." ~ USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities Respect Life Reflection: Cherished, Chosen, Sent usccb.org/cherished-chosen-sent-reflection



Congratulations to Riley Rae, daughter of Kaitlyn Olsen Musto and David Behm who will be baptized this weekend. May she stay close to Jesus all of her 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.



Food Pantry Items for February Canned Fruit



Lenten Season



When Sacrifice Becomes Mundane

It seems to happen every year, like clockwork: we drag a bit, as we enter into the second week of Lent. On Ash Wednesday, we feel a bit like soldiers banging our shields, rushing into battle. “We’re ready, God!” our hearts cry out. “Transform us through sacrifice! Your will be done!”

But by now, these Lenten resolutions are no longer novelties — they’ve joined the ranks of everyday inconveniences, which somehow are the hardest to bear. Because transformation, in real life, happens in inches, just as a battle is won slowly in the crash of one sword against another. It’s not always a dramatic thing, to the naked eye. It’s the perseverance in prayer despite weariness, or the continual denial of some pleasure even though there’s that nagging voice in our minds saying: go ahead, God doesn’t really mind.

It’s a week when we all need a shock to the system — and wouldn’t you know it, this Sunday God gives us a double-whammy of dramatic sacrificial scenes. We picture Abraham, who also cried “Ready!” when God called, never imagining what He would ask: the surrender of his long-awaited son. We see Christ himself transfigured, as God shows us what He is ready to give up for love of us.

We must remain committed, persevering daily in acknowledging that everything belongs to God. What we sacrifice, we simply give back to Him.

If God is for us, who can be against us? Can we still reply, “Ready!” when we hear the call of God?

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

Community Events



Redemptoris Custos Assembly #3755
4th Degree of the Knights of Columbus

Krispy Kreme Glazed Donut Sale

\$8.00 per dozen Certificates – Redeemable in store
Sales runs from 2/14/21 thru 3/19/21.

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is valid for 1 Free dozen of glazed doughnuts
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Certificates are available from Bob Ryzner.

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 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-steamed via parish facebook and then posted to parish website. **Reservations will not be necessary.**



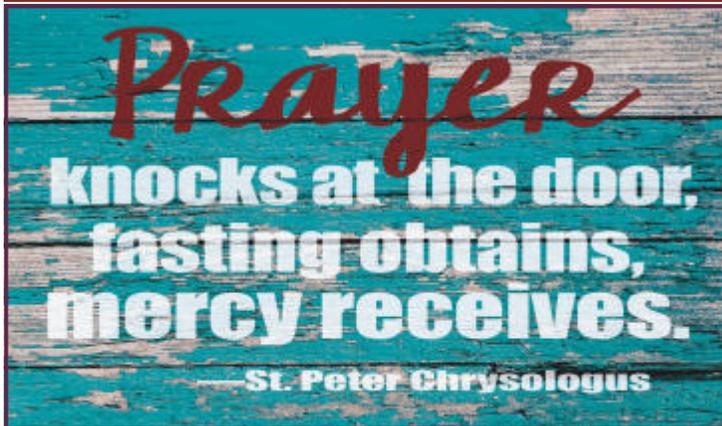
Al-Anon meetings are held every **Thursday night at 7 PM**, at the Brick United Methodist church on Foote Ave., Duryea. This is an anonymous 12-step program of recovery for families and friends of addicts & alcoholics. There are no dues or fees and meetings last approximately one hour and are open to 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 28, 2021+2nd Sunday of Lent

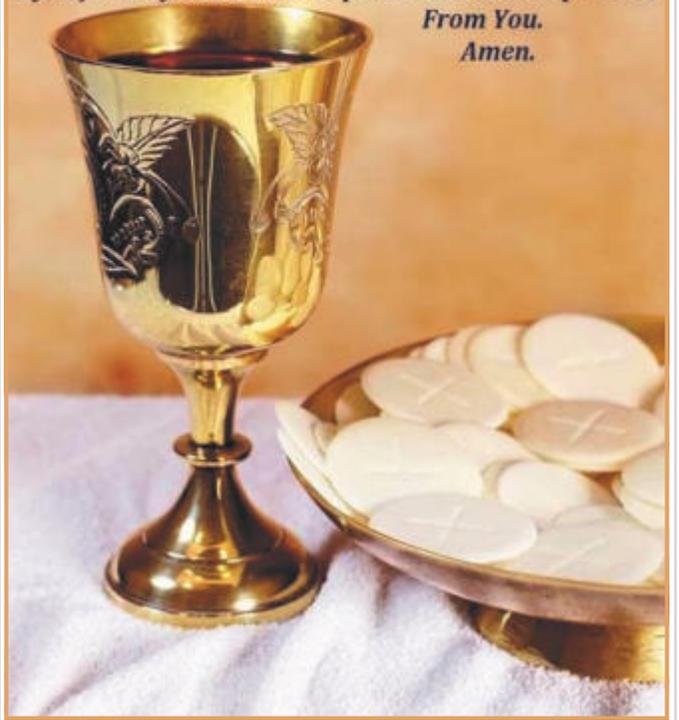
- Monday March 1 8:00 AM Marie, Bob and Kevin Dommermuth By Denise and Robin
Tuesday March 2 8:00 AM Lynn Hamilton By Tim & Denise Healey
Wednesday March 3 ~ St. Katharine Drexel, Virgin 7:00 PM Howard Best By Rev. Phillip Sladicka
Thursday March 4 ~ St. Casimir Bernard Jacek By Ray & Annette Jacek
Friday March 5 ~ First Friday, World Day of Prayer 8:00 AM Ann Haas By M/M Jerry Memory 7:00 PM Harry & Helen Houston By Joan Burton
Saturday March 6 ~ First Saturday 4:00 PM Cookie Coleman By QAP Women's Guild
Sunday March 7 ~ 3rd Sunday of Lent 8:00 AM Parishioners Intentions 10:00 AM Joseph & Mary Cesari By Josephine Grega & Family

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 March in loving memory of the Lisa, David and Craig Jones by Mom and Dad
Sanctuary Candle in loving memory of Grace Nolan by Tim & Ali
Sacred Heart Shrine in loving memory of Ann & Jimmy George by Mike & Kay George
Sanctity of Life Memorial in loving memory of Francis Sladicka by M/M Bradley Letterman

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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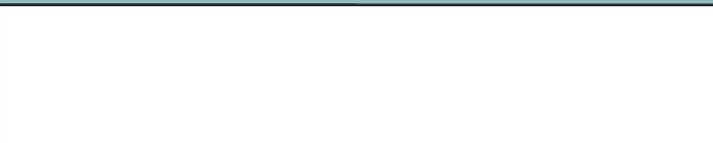
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