



March 7, 2021 | 3rd 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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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

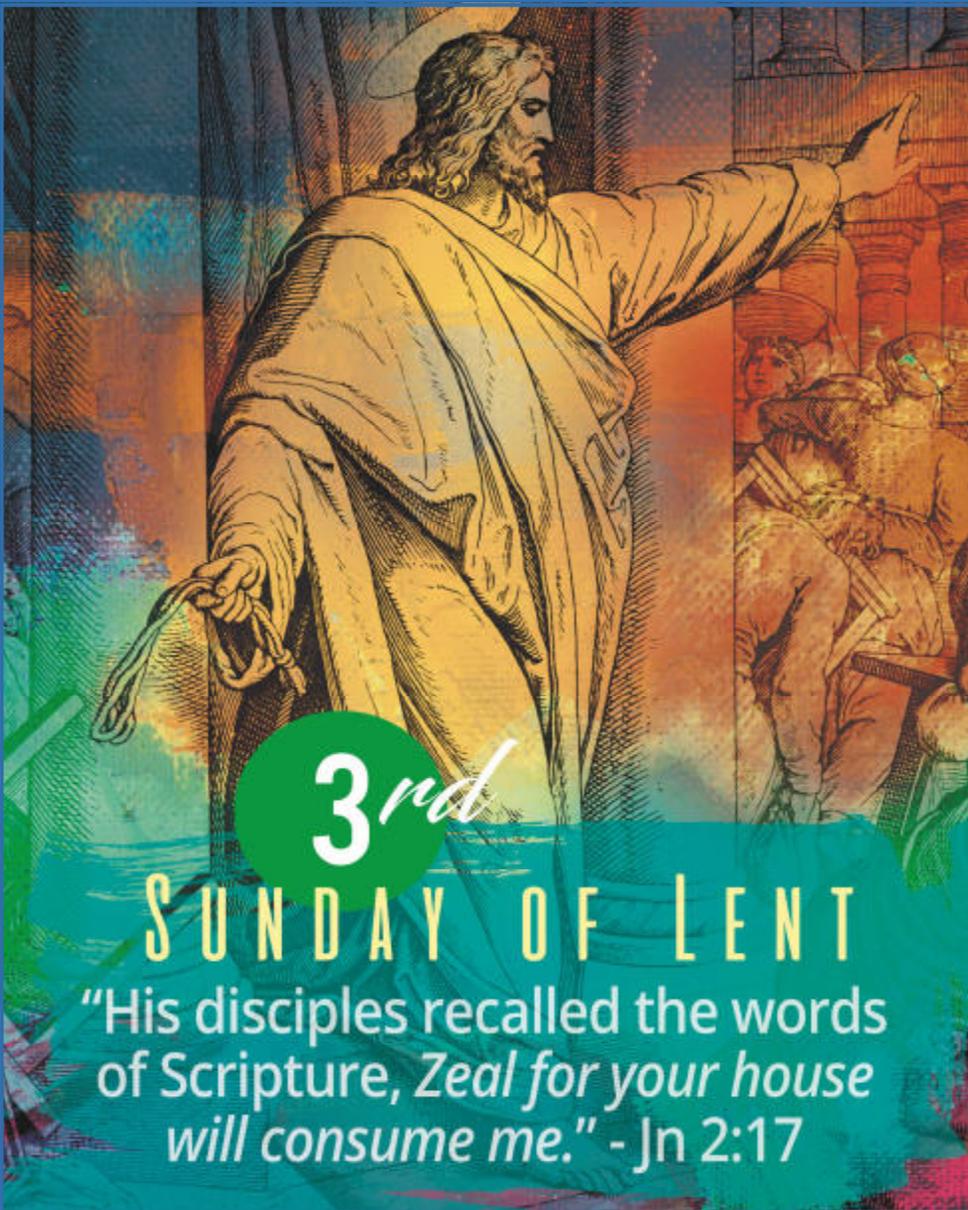
Parish Office
570-457-3412

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!



3rd
SUNDAY OF LENT

"His disciples recalled the words of Scripture, Zeal for your house will consume me." - Jn 2:17

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,

The practice of employing money changers in the temple precincts made sense. With Passover near, many pilgrims traveled for days, counting on paying merchants in the temple area for the animals required to sacrifice. The coins of the Roman Empire bore the image of Caesar or of pagan gods, so money changing was required. But Jesus' presence puts all this in a new perspective. No need to sacrifice sheep or doves; they are made obsolete by Jesus' own sacrifice. The temple, the sign of God's presence here on earth, is supplanted by presence of God's own Son. It is not a matter of rejecting the former; it is that Jesus is the fulfillment of each. But Jesus does not present it this way. Instead saying things like, "Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up," leading authorities to believe he is insane or worse, dangerous. His words create a stumbling block to believers, horrified by his suggestion and foolishness to outsiders, seeing it as ridiculous. Accepting his cross was neither foolish nor weak, but a sign of wisdom and strength, raising us all up with the promise of defeating sin and death. What do we do or can we do that looks foolish or weak to others, but expresses the strength and wisdom we have found in Jesus?

Keeping a Holy Lent: Fast from judging others; Feast on the Christ dwelling in them. Fast from emphasis on differences; Feast on the unity of life. Fast from apparent darkness; Feast on the reality of light. Fast from thoughts of illness; Feast on the healing power of God. Fast from words that pollute; Feast on phrases that purify. Fast from discontent; Feast on gratitude. Fast from anger; Feast on patience. Fast from pessimism; Feast on optimism. Fast from worry; Feast on divine order. Fast from complaining; Feast on appreciation. Fast from negatives; Feast on affirmatives. Fast from unrelenting pressures; Feast on unceasing prayer. Fast from hostility; Feast on non-resistance. Fast from bitterness; Feast on forgiveness. Fast from self-concern; Feast on compassion for others. Fast from personal anxiety; Feast on eternal truth. Fast from discouragements; Feast on hope. Fast from facts that depress; Feast on verities that uplift. Fast from lethargy; Feast on enthusiasm. Fast from thoughts that weaken; Feast on promises that inspire. Fast from shadows of sorrow; Feast on the sunlight of serenity. Fast from idle gossip; Feast on purposeful silence. Fast from problems that overwhelm Feast on prayer that strengthens.

Remember, Confession in the Church each Lenten 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."

Stations of the Cross will take place weekly after the 8am mass each Friday and at 5:15pm each Friday during Lent.

Daylight Saving Tim begins March 14 so set clocks ahead 1 hour.

Thank you for all you are and all you do. Stay safe. God bless you and see you in Church, Fr. Phil

Liturgy of the Word



Liturgy of the Word: Today we hear of the foundations of our faith. First we are reminded of the commandments God gave the Chosen People to guide them in their behavior. Saint Paul explains how Jesus' self-sacrifice was neither foolish nor weak, for in it he showed the strength of love over death. John explains that when Jesus lashes out at those who profane the temple and then declares that he will raise it up in three days he is referring to the temple of his body. Let us listen to these readings as people of faith, finding wisdom in God's word.

The Light is On For You

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

Differences Between Priest & Brothers

Question:

What's the difference between priests and brothers, friars, etc.?

Answer:

The distinctions titles and categories used for priests and the male members of religious communities can be confusing, especially since the categories can sometimes be intertwined as a man can be both a priest and a monk, or a brother and a friar. So, to help to piece the puzzle together, it's important to begin by noting some basic distinctions:

The distinction between priests (who are ordained for sacramental ministry) and brothers (who are non-ordained members of religious communities and who are committed to lives of prayer and service).

Priests: A priest is a man who has been ordained for sacramental ministry and these fall into two categories: A) Diocesan (or Secular) Priests can either be attached to a diocese and who serve under a bishop. Their ministry is usually oriented toward pastoral service. B) Religious Priests are members of religious communities (like the Franciscans, Jesuits, Salvatorians, or Carmelites) and their lives are guided by the special mission and charism of their community. While both kinds of priest practice sacramental ministry, their spirituality and how they live out their priesthood can be very different.

Brothers: Brothers are non-ordained members of religious communities (such as those mentioned above) who live lives committed to prayer and service. Religious priests and brothers serve together in their communities and their ministries include much more than the care of parishes.

Monks, Friars, and Canons: These are broad categories that include religious priests and brothers, and each of these is connected to specific ways of life and spiritualities.

Parish News



This Sunday, March 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.

Redemptoris Custos Assembly #3755

4th Degree of the Knights of Columbus

Krispy Kreme Glazed Donut Sale

\$8.00 per dozen Certificates – Redeemable in store

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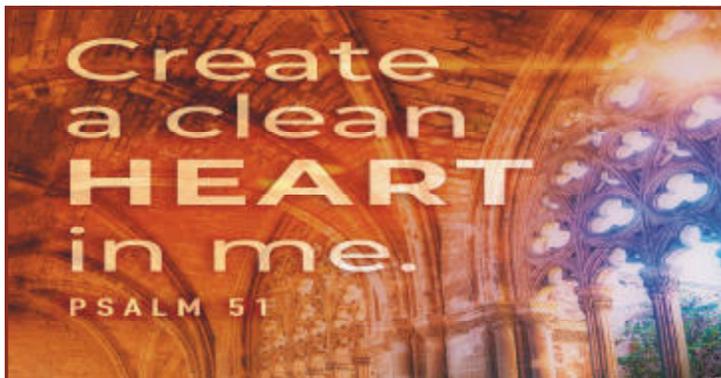
Proceeds benefit the Assembly and help to fund our programs.

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

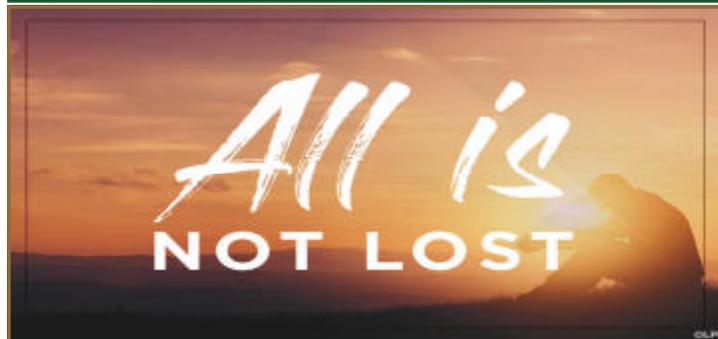
Sacrament of Reconciliation: Let us pray that we may experience the sacrament of reconciliation with renewed depth, to taste the infinite mercy of God.

Stewardship



02/28/21 Sunday Collection: \$3,444.00

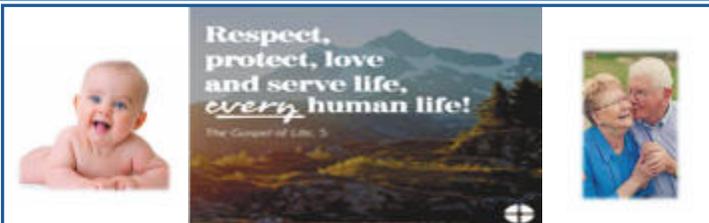
This weekend's Second Collection: Care & Education of Priests Thank you for your generous support!



Life, Family & Culture



"[The Gospel of Life] is therefore meant to be a precise and vigorous reaffirmation of the value of human life and its inviolability, and at the same time a pressing appeal addressed to each and every person, in the name of God: respect, protect, love and serve life, every human life! Only in this direction will you find justice, development, true freedom, peace and happiness!" (The Gospel of Life 5)



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 March Canned Vegetables



Lenten Season



Parents Just Don't Understand

Anybody remember the old rap song by the Fresh Prince, aka Will Smith, "Parents Just Don't Understand?" As we grow up, it is sometimes a struggle for us to imagine that our parents understand us. It can seem impossible that Mom and Dad remember the stress of exam week or peer pressure. We never saw them as children; we never saw their disappointed faces when they weren't invited to a party, or their dashed hopes at a bad test grade. We never saw them homesick their first week of college or nervous to ask their crush to Homecoming.

We're often the same way about God. We gripe about what He asks of us. "He doesn't understand sin — he's all-good," we think. "He doesn't understand temptation — He is perfect."

In Scripture, God can be very much a father, telling us what we can and cannot do. And yet, in His divine genius, He is sometimes simply a man at a well, asking for a drink.

For me, it turns out I didn't need to tell my parents anything about what I was going through as a kid — they knew already. What I needed was for them to tell me what to do, and how to do it.

Similarly, we don't need to tell God about human nature. We need God to tell us about His nature. He's good enough to ask us for a drink, to enter into our humanity. But we have to remember, for our own sakes, to have the humility to ask Him for something, too — the water that will quench our eternal thirst.
— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

Community Events



St. Maria Goretti
Fall TAKE-OUT Pasta Supper and Basket Raffle
St. Maria Goretti Church
42 Laflin Road, Laflin, PA 18702

Homemade Pasta & Sausage Dinner
Sunday, March 21, 2021
Noon -4:00pm - TAKE OUT ONLY (containers provided)
Includes Salad, Dinner Roll & Desert
Donation \$12.00
FACE MASKS REQUIRED
Facilities are Handicapped Accessible
Ample & Free Parking
Contact information – church office 570-655-8956

The Oblates of St. Joseph religious community will host the annual Novena to St. Joseph, March 10 – 18, in preparation for the Solemnity of the Patron of the Universal Church, Friday, March 19th. Daily Masses will be held in the Chapel of St. Joseph, 1880 Highway 315, Laflin, at 8:00am, 12 Noon and 7:00pm. The daily Noon Mass will be live streamed on the Oblates of St. Joseph Seminary Facebook page and broadcast live on JMJ Catholic Radio (98.9 FM / 750 AM). Serving as celebrant and homilist of the novena Masses will be priests of the Oblates of St. Joseph. Devotions to St. Joseph will conclude each Mass, before the distribution of Holy Communion.

The Solemnity of St. Joseph will be celebrated on **Friday, March 19th**, with Masses at 8:00am & 12 Noon. A Pontifical Mass will be celebrated at 7:00pm by Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., Bishop of Scranton. The Mass will be live streamed on Facebook and broadcast on JMJ Catholic Radio. No reservations are required, but the chapel's maximum allowed capacity will be strictly observed.

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:

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:

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.**

"Love is never defeated."

— St. John Paul II —



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

March 7, 2021 + 3rd Sunday of Lent

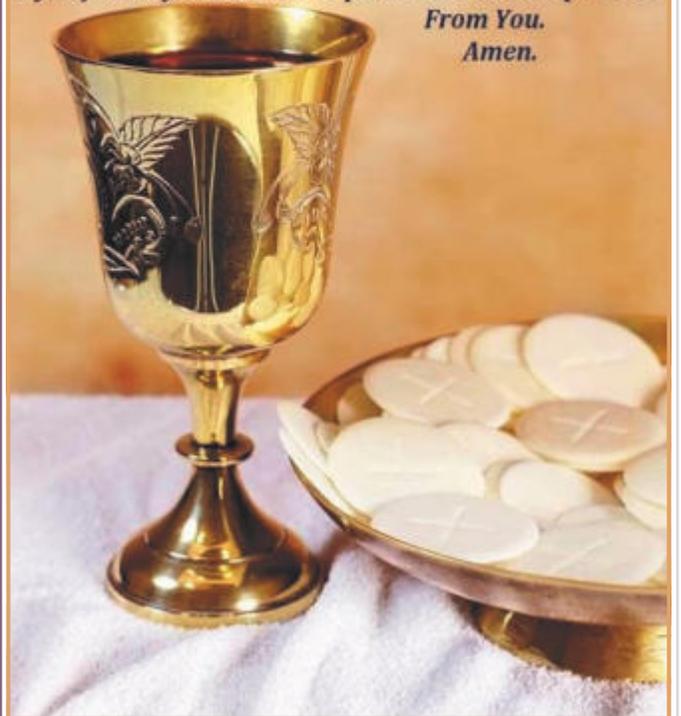
- Monday 8:00 AM March 8 ~ St. John of God Jim Allardyce & Tom Durkin By Jimmy Brogan
Tuesday 8:00 AM March 9 ~ St. Frances of Rome Richard Lesak By Father Phillip Sladicka
Wednesday 7:00 PM March 10 Deceased Members of the Gallagher Family By Joseph Gallagher
Thursday 8:00 AM March 11 Thomas Quinnan By Barbara & Family
Friday 8:00 AM March 12 Joseph McTigue & Peggy Callahan By Mary Walsh
Saturday 4:00 PM March 13 Tony 'Cooper' Blaskiewicz By Shirley Berlew
Sunday 8:00 AM March 14 ~ 4th Sunday of Lent Parishioners Intentions
10:00 AM George & Barbara Jadus By Peter & Maryann Jadus

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 Ellen Clifford Pascavage and Ethel Kerechuk. The parish community of Queen of the Apostles offers sympathy to their family and friends.

Sacramental Bread & Wine throughout March in loving memory of the Lisa, David and Craig Jones by Mom and Dad

Sanctity of Life Memorial in loving memory of Lisa, David and Craig Jones by Jim & Helen Brogan

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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