

March 28, 2021 | Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord



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
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Website

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Avoca, PA

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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-Cana 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

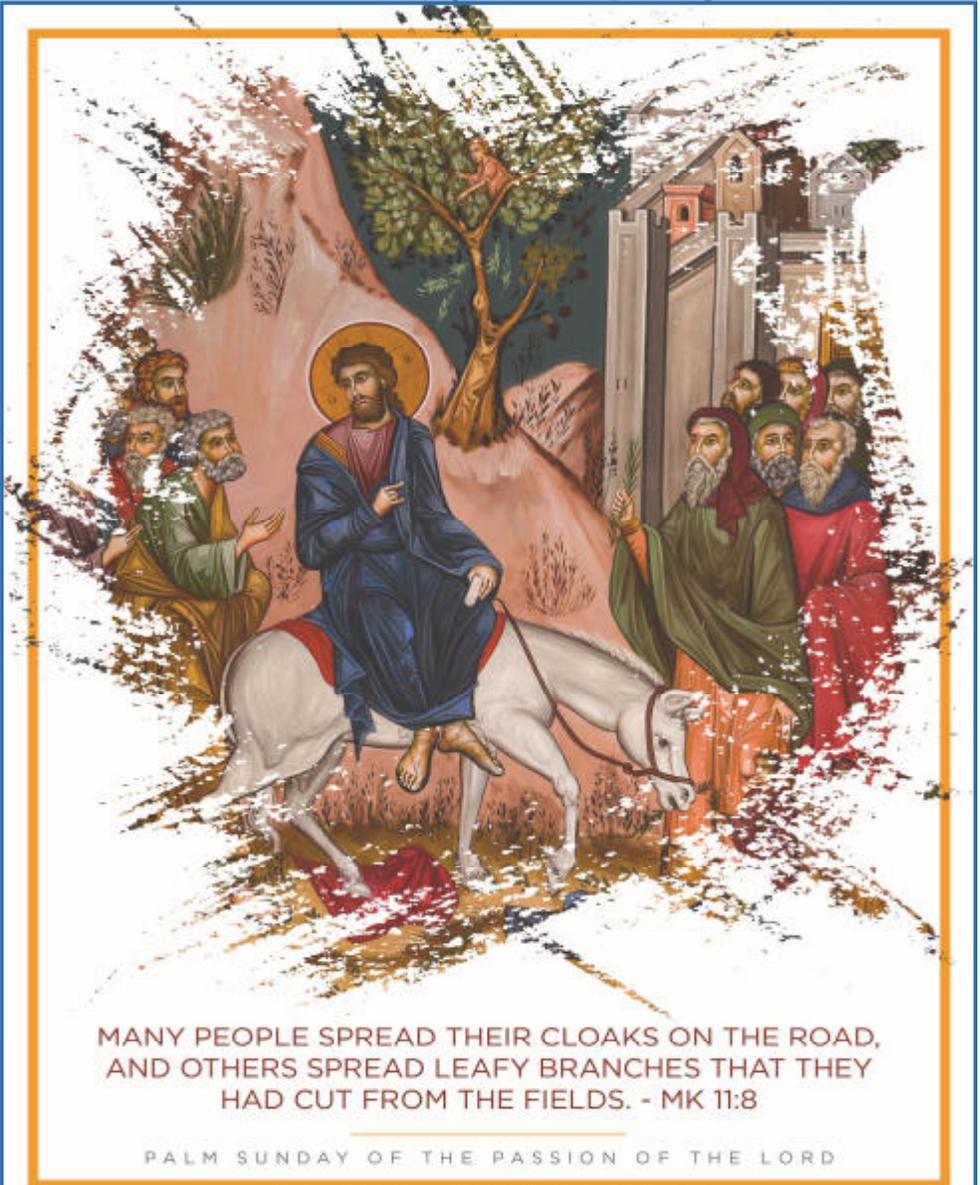
Parish Office
570-457-3412

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!



MANY PEOPLE SPREAD THEIR CLOAKS ON THE ROAD,
AND OTHERS SPREAD LEAFY BRANCHES THAT THEY
HAD CUT FROM THE FIELDS. - MK 11:8

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

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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,

"When the going gets tough, the tough get going." This certainly does not apply to Jesus' disciples in Mark's Gospel. Three times Jesus warned them that he would suffer and be put to death, then rise to glory. Each time the disciples made it clear that they did not want to hear that kind of talk. Peter rebuked him, James and John chose to focus on being seated with him in glory, and the other disciples just argued over who was the greatest. Today we hear what happens when they are faced with the cross. Judas betrays him. Peter, James and John fall asleep as he prays. Peter denies him. One of his followers, who no doubt had once been told to leave everything behind to follow him, literally leaves absolutely everything behind ... to run away naked. The going got tough and the disciples fled. Those who honored him when he rode into Jerusalem abandoned him before the cross. Jesus' disciples were decidedly not heroes. They were flawed human beings -- as are we. They made the wrong choices -- as we do. But we see Peter break down and weep as soon as he realizes he has done exactly what he swore he would not do. This Lent we may have fallen. We may have turned away. Today we pray for the strength to get up, to turn back to accompany our Lord on the way to the cross. This is the way to which we are called. How might we have let down the Lord? What might we be called to do differently?

Today, Palms will be blessed near the sanctuary due to Covid19. There will be no processions this Palm Sunday. After the blessing the Palms will be placed on the ramp porch exit. The blessed Palms will be left there for parish members to pick up on their way out of the church or during the day.

Palm Sunday is our entry into the most sacred week of the year, when the Church celebrates the Paschal Mystery. Passover begins today for the Jews. We are not play acting what happened almost two thousand years ago, but making a personal commitment, acclaiming Jesus today as the One who comes in the name of the Lord to bring us new life in God, winning for us salvation once and for all by his suffering and death. Our Mass today signifies our ascent with him and our willing participation in the act of his self-sacrifice on the cross. Today we remember the suffering and death of the Lord as recorded in the Gospel of Saint Mark.

The Passion Gospel is read only twice each year, on Passion Sunday and again on Good Friday. But even though we hear it read rather infrequently, it is the core of our faith. We believe that Jesus freely gave his life rather than renounce truth, goodness, or love. As you go about this week reflect and share with others what you would give up your life for or for whom would you give up your life?

Here is a Palm Sunday Prayer: Jesus, we believe in you and love you. Thank you for offering your life freely for me. Help me now to overcome sin and failure and to love more fully. May the grace that you offer me now through the action of the Holy Spirit guide me to know your will for me. Transform my heart, I pray, so that I can hear your call more clearly as you invite me to the goodness, truth and love for which you gave your life. Draw me near to my sisters and brothers who also hear your voice so that together we will have the courage to live and die as you have for others. Amen

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." Confessions are also heard before the Wednesday evening liturgy.

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: Today's first readings foreshadows what comes later. Isaiah's Suffering Servant continues to preach to those who are weary and hopeless despite the abuse he receives from his adversaries. Saint Paul, in the second readings, attests to Jesus' sacrifice and victory. In the Passion, we hear Saint Mark's account Jesus' final hours before his death on the cross. Listening to the word of God today, let us echo the words of the centurion upon Jesus' death: "Truly this man was the Son of God!"



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 on April 11 due to Easter 4:00-5:30 pm. This includes Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction. The Across the Waters Group will perform for the Sunday Service.**



HOLY WEEK



Palm Sunday: Sunday, March 28 - 8:00 am & 10:00 am. Palms will be available outside on Ramp Door Porch.

Light On for You: Monday from 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament during this time.

Chrism Mass: Tuesday, March 30, broadcasted live from St. Peter's Cathedral, 4:00 pm.

Holy Thursday: April 1, Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7:00 pm with procession to Repository. The Church will be open until 10:00 pm.

Good Friday: April 2, Liturgy of the Passion and Death of the Lord at 1:30 pm. **There will be no Living Stations.**

Blessing of Baskets: April 3 @ Noon and 4:00 pm in Church

Holy Saturday: April 3 @ 8:00 pm

Easter Sunday Masses: April 4, 8:00 am & 10:00 am. Resurrection Service @ 9:45 am

Parish News



Queen of the Apostles
Avoca, Pa
Christmas in July Pot of Gold

Within a few weeks, we will begin selling Christmas in July Pot of Gold tickets as our next fundraiser. Tickets will be \$10 and prizes will be based on the evening Pick 3 Daily number. Prizes will be awarded beginning July 1st. Daily prizes will be \$75 and \$250 will be awarded every Sunday, beginning July 4th. Tickets can be purchased by calling the Parish Office. We will let you know as soon as the tickets arrive, and once again, we thank you for your support.

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 April, 2021
Fundamental Rights We pray for those who risk their lives while fighting for fundamental rights under dictatorships, authoritarian regimes and even in democracies in crisis.

Stewardship



03/21/21 Sunday Collection: \$3,098.00
Thank you for your generous support!

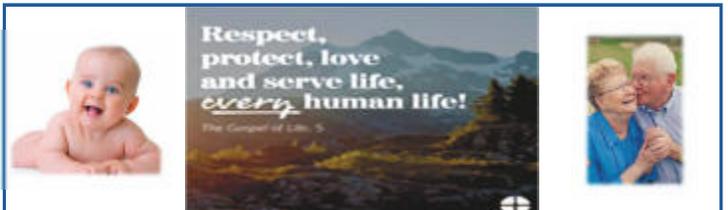
PLEASE NOTE: There is a backlog in the Printing Department and the Post Office which is causing the delay in March/April monthly envelopes being sent out. They are working on the problem. Please use a plain white envelope and mark where you want the money to go. Include your name and envelope number if you have it. I will make sure you will get proper credit. Sorry for the inconvenience and thank you for continuing to support our Parish!



Life, Family & Culture



"There is an everyday heroism, made up of gestures of sharing, big or small, which build up an authentic culture of life... Part of this daily heroism is also the silent but effective and eloquent witness of all those 'brave mothers who devote themselves to their own family without reserve, who suffer in giving birth to their children and who are ready to make any effort, to face any sacrifice, in order to pass on to them the best of themselves'... We thank you, heroic mothers, for your invincible love! We thank you for your intrepid trust in God and in his love. We thank you for the sacrifice of your life" (*The Gospel of Life* 86).



EASTER BASKET PROJECT: The Social Concerns/Respect Life Ministry baskets for those in need will be blessed by Father Phil on Holy Saturday, April 3 at 12:00 Noon.



Food Pantry Items for April
Instant Potatoes & Gravy



Lenten Season



**RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS
Walk Every Step with Christ**

Holy Week is a week for being mindful. We must set loose the baggage of Lent, and not be deterred by the dazzling sunrise of Easter morning beckoning in the distance.

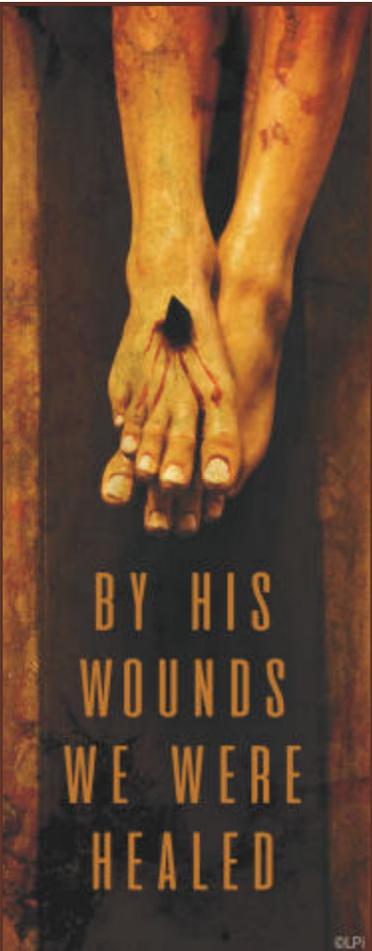
It's okay for us to be excited for Easter. We've waited so long, after all. In my opinion it's one of the best feelings there is: the yearning we have in our hearts for the Resurrection as we embark on Palm Sunday. And in a purely logical sense, many of us have Easter celebrations for which we are preparing, and practical considerations to contend with. It's going to be a busy week, one likely full of happy distractions.

But my friends, we simply must keep our feet on the ground. Let's not "skip" Holy Week. Resist the urge to flip to the last page of the book, to fast-forward to the final scene of the movie. Don't rob yourself of the journey. This week is a blessed opportunity. It is this week that teaches us who we are. In the span of the Triduum, we have the birthday of the priesthood, the institution of the Eucharist, the sacrifice on Calvary and so many other vivid and meaningful scenes.

It may sound strange, to advise someone to savor the moments of Holy Week. There are so many violent and heartrending moments, after all. But this is the valley of tears, remember — we are not in Heaven yet. And here, in our fallen, sin-filled world, it is the heartrending moments that seem to matter the most.

These are the moments that define us as Catholics. Live them. Cherish them. Be present for each one.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS



He grew up like a sapling before him, like a shoot from the parched earth; He had no majestic bearing to catch our eye, no beauty to draw us to him.

He was spurned and avoided by men, a man of suffering, knowing pain, Like one from whom you turn you face, spurned, and we held him in no esteem.

Yet it was our pain that he bore, our sufferings he endured. We thought of him as stricken, stuck down by God and afflicted,

But he was pierced for our sins, crushed for our iniquity. He bore the punishment that make us whole, by his wounds we were healed.

We had all gone astray like sheep, all following our own way; But the Lord laid upon him the guilt of us all.

Though harshly treated, he submitted and did not open his mouth; Like a lamb led to the slaughter or a sheep silent before shearers, he did not open his mouth.

Community Prayer



Road to Resurrection

This year the Road to Resurrection has been 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 last scheduled Wednesday Mass:

March 31

The Homilist will be Father Paul McDonnell, OSJ
The Mass 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.**

Community Events



St. Barbara's Parish Lenten Food Sale

St. Barbara's Parish, Exeter will conclude their Lenten Food Sale on **Good Friday, April 2nd** by offering **Potato Pancakes ONLY**. They will be sold for \$1.00 each, cash only and no pre-orders. The sale will begin at 12 noon and run until 6pm. All CDC guidelines for social distancing and wearing masks will be strictly followed.



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 28, 2021†Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

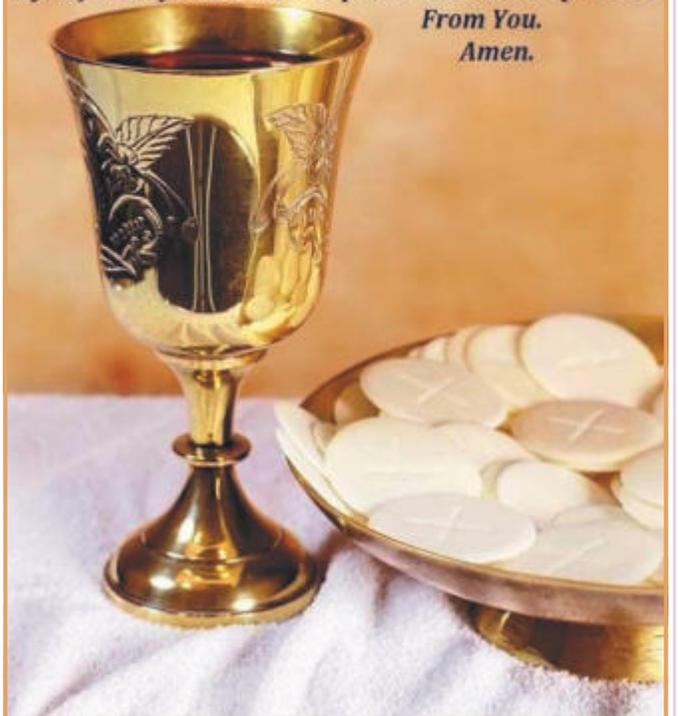
- Monday March 29 8:00 AM Joseph Joyce By Family
Tuesday March 30 8:00 AM Edward Ostrowski, Jr. (Anniv.) By Patty Strubeck & Family
Wednesday March 31 7:00 PM Joseph Casper By Wife, Catherine & Family
Thursday April 1 ~ Mass of the Lord's Supper 7:00 PM Francis Sladicka By Social Concerns/Respect Life Ministry
Friday April 2 ~ Good Friday 1:30 PM Liturgy of the Passion and Death of Our Lord
Saturday April 3 ~ Easter Vigil 8:00 PM Parishioners Intentions
Sunday April 4 ~ Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord 8:00 AM Parishioners Intentions
9:45 AM Resurrection Service
10:00 AM Parishioners Intentions

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 April in loving memory of Deceased Members of the Paddock & Wojtkowicz Families by Family

Sanctuary Candle in loving memory of Bill McAndrew, Sr. by Family

Sacred Heart Shrine in loving memory of Jim & Mollie Fela by David McAndrew

Sanctity of Life Memorial in loving memory of Chris Nossavage by Peg & Jim Krisiewicz

MEMORIAL OFFERINGS

There are limited amount of masses for the 2021 Calendar Year available. We have several 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



Beginning Friday, April 16, we would like to begin to reopen our parish hall for small gatherings. We want to start out with events such as Baby and Bridal Showers, Funeral Luncheons, Christenings and First Holy Communion Parties with a maximum capacity of 50-75 people. We still must abide by the CDC guidelines which include wearing masks and social distancing and catering is required. If you have any questions, please call Paul at #570-430-9015 or the Parish Office at #570-457-3412.

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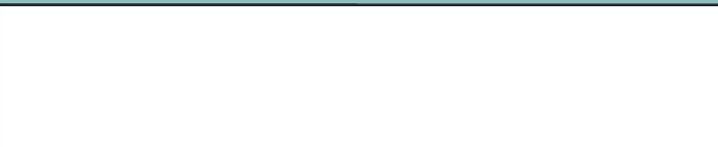
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