

April 4, 2021 | Easter Sunday

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-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

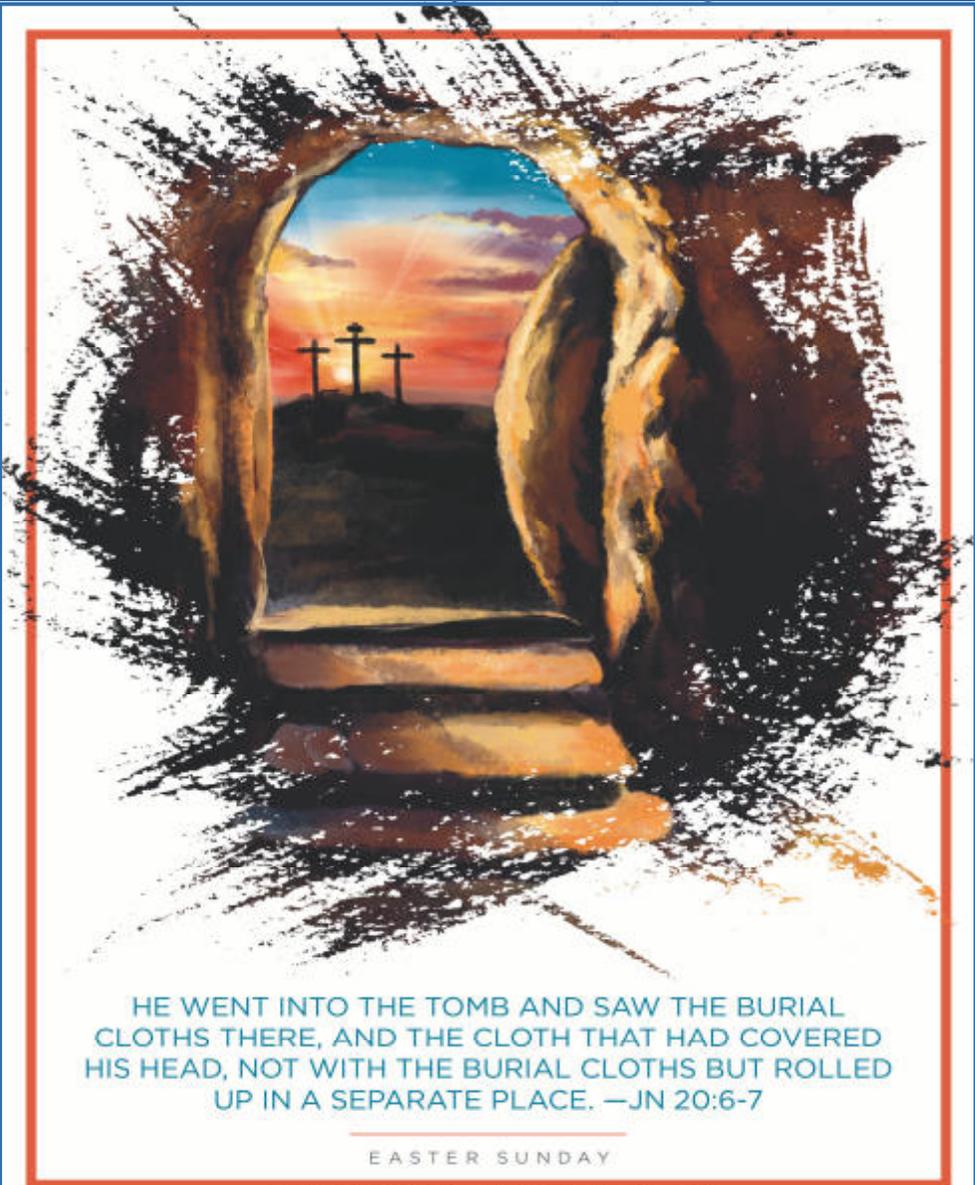
Parish Office
570-457-3412

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!



HE WENT INTO THE TOMB AND SAW THE BURIAL CLOTHS THERE, AND THE CLOTH THAT HAD COVERED HIS HEAD, NOT WITH THE BURIAL CLOTHS BUT ROLLED UP IN A SEPARATE PLACE. —JN 20:6-7

EASTER SUNDAY

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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,

Happy Easter!! Three people appear in the Easter Gospel: Mary of Magdala, Peter, and the disciple whom Jesus loved, generally regarded as John. Two were present at the foot of the cross on Good Friday: Mary of Magdala comforted Jesus' mother as Jesus was executed. In some of his last words, Jesus entrusted his mother into John's care. Now Mary of Magdala purposefully finds John when she saw that the tomb was empty. Though Mary would have been there too, she does not summon her, perhaps not wishing to upset her any further with this news. But she also ran to one other disciple: Peter. Peter, who abandoned Jesus when he was arrested. Peter, who thrice denied knowing him. Peter, who likely wept in shame each subsequent morning when hearing the cock crow. Perhaps he was relieved this morning to have an emergency to distract him from his guilt. Peter, ashamed of his behavior, and John, concerned for his adopted mother, ran as fast as they could to the empty tomb. When they got there, impetuous Peter leapt right in as reflective John saw and believed. The empty tomb is not the end. Easter is just the beginning. He lives! May Christ rise in us as he did in his closest disciples on that first Easter morn. We might ask: "How does Christ rise in us on this Easter Sunday?"



Let me tell you, "the Joy of Easter resurrection is here." It is not a future hope or a past historical event, but it is a part of the present moment. Christ is dying, rising and coming again in every moment of life. We celebrate the potential for resurrection today in this moment with all its hope and promise.

As the season of Easter unfolds we hear in the readings how the experience of resurrection unfolded in the life of the disciples. They were not ready for it; like Mary who felt she had lost the Lord, or Thomas who did not know how to believe, like the disciples on the road that led into darkness, or those disciples locked behind doors out of fear, we are often only aware of the absence of deep faith in our lives and of how easily hope seems like a foggy reality.

But it is precisely in the moments of fear and dying that resurrection unfolds bit by bit, piecing together what death, suffering and sin has broken. Resurrection is always healing what seems to be destroyed.

May our Risen Lord's love be the light of your Easter and your happiness all through the year. Have a bright and "Blessed" Easter Sunday. 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 we journey to the tomb with Mary of Magdala, Simon Peter, and John, the first witnesses of the empty tomb in John's Gospel. But first we hear the testimony of Peter himself, addressing an assembly of Gentiles, and Paul, addressing Christians in distant communities. Now it is our turn to give witness--to those close to home and to folks far away. As we listen to these witnesses of this transformational event, let us reflect on how we can testify to this joyful news.



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.**



Reflections

Communion Fasting**Question:**

Do we need to fast for one hour before Mass, or one hour before communion?

Answer:

The practice of fasting before receiving the Eucharist is a centuries-old act of devotion that was once very different than it is today. In the 1917 Code of Canon Law, for example, anyone who wanted to receive the Eucharist had to fast from midnight until the time of communion (even water and medications were forbidden). Over the following decades, the rules for the Eucharistic fast were relaxed, first by Pope Pius XII and, later, by Pope Saint Paul VI.

The current Code of Canon Law (1983) states very clearly: "A person who is to receive the Most Holy Eucharist is to abstain for at least one hour before holy communion from any food and drink, except for only water and medicine" (Canon 919, §1). And, in the case of those who are ill and the elderly, the rules are even more accommodating, "The elderly, the infirm, and those who care for them can receive the Most Holy Eucharist even if they have eaten something within the preceding hour" (Canon 919, §3).

So, if we strictly follow the "letter of the law," the fast is calculated from the time of Holy Communion and not the start of Mass. However, when we remember why we fast — it is a reminder of the deeper hungers of the spirit that our physical thirst or hunger symbolize — we see that the issue is much bigger than simply fulfilling what is called for by Church Law and tradition. Joining fasting to our prayers and reflection before Mass is an opportunity to really center ourselves and to prepare our minds, hearts, and bodies to welcome the One we receive in the Eucharist.

Parish News



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

The July Pot of Gold Tickets have arrived and will be available at the Parish Office beginning April 1. 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 thank you for your support. If you have previously received tickets from Ann Marie Piccini and would like those numbers please let us know by calling the parish office.



What's happening in your diocese to protect the most vulnerable?

- We report all allegations of abuse directly to law enforcement and cooperate with civil authorities on all investigations.
- Our diocese has a designated Victim Assistance Coordinator whose primary role is to accompany survivors and provide resources for their healing journey.
- We also have an independent review board, consisting primarily of lay members. The role of the review board is to review allegations and make a recommendation to the bishop regarding the suitability for ministry.
- We train adults on how to maintain a safe environment and how to report concerns.
- We train minors in parish religious education programs and in Catholic schools to identify warning signs of abuse and inappropriate behavior, as well as how to report abuse.
- By following all of our diocesan policies and procedures to create safe environments, we can maintain a culture of protection and healing.

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



Collections amounts for March 28 will be available in a future bulletin due to early submission of this bulletin.
Thank you for your generous support!

Next Sunday, April 11 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.



Life, Family & Culture



“Like us, Christ entered the world through the womb of a woman. He willingly experienced the fullness of human suffering. He breathed his last on the Cross at Calvary in order that He might save us. Therefore, ‘God is the foundation of hope: not any god, but the God who has a human face and who has loved us to the end’ (*Spe salvi* 31).” USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities “Respect Life Reflection: Christ Our Hope in Every Season of Life” (Citing Pope Benedict XVI, *Spe salvi* © 2007, Libreria Editrice Vaticana. Used with permission. All rights reserved.)



Food Pantry Items for April
Instant Potatoes & Gravy



In Memory



On Monday, March 15, 2021, Queen of the Apostles Parish lost a dear friend. **Philomena Errico** was well known to everyone who attended the healing masses or any of our many fundraising events. She was very religious and was devoted to the Brown Scapular and the Rosary. She received two miracles in her lifetime. In 1979, she lost her voice and received a miracle in St. George's Church as she promised St. Theresa that if the Blessed Mother could tell Jesus to bless her so she could speak again, she would give out the scapulars to those in need. Her prayers were answered and she gave out over 20,000 scapulars from that day on. Her second miracle came in 2010 right here at Queen of the Apostles Parish where her thumb that was going to require surgery was completely healed. She witnessed many other miracles for family and friends and prayed every day for those in need.

She was a very close friend of Father Phil and would do anything to help our Parish. She made 50lbs. of baked beans each year for our Pig Roast, sold hundreds of tickets to all of her friends and family for our Chicken Dinner, Pot of Gold, Night at the Races and supported anything that would benefit our Parish. Father Phil celebrated a mass of Christian Burial on March 27th at St. Anthony of Padua Church in Dunmore. Her final wish was that in lieu of flowers, all contributions were to be given to Queen of the Apostles Parish. She was a wonderful lady who is now living out her life in the presence of the Lord and will forever be watching over all of us!

Next Sunday, April 11, is Divine Mercy Sunday. Good Friday was the start of the Divine Mercy Novena which continues to Divine Mercy Sunday. This Novena is very powerful and Our Lord's Mercy on our world is most needed at this critical time. If you have not started the novena, please consider beginning it today. The extraordinary grace extended by our Lord to those who pray the novena and recite the chaplet will be extended to the faithful by receiving Jesus in your heart with great longing and love -- also known as making an act of Spiritual Communion (see page seven). God will give you all the graces you need because of your trust in HIM. God does not abandon anyone. He is especially close to the broken-hearted and those bound by disease, sin, despair, loneliness, or physical handicaps. For those who have access to the internet, the novena will be prayed each day via Facebook at 3:00 pm. from the Divine Mercy Shrine, Massachusetts or at 3:00 pm on EWTN. A plenary indulgence is extended to those who participate in praying the novena, not be attached to sin and as soon possible going to confession and receiving communion, and offering prayers for the intentions of our Holy Father (Our Father, Hail Mary & Glory Be). Divine Mercy Novena Pamphlets will be available at the side entrance to the church. **The Divine Mercy Novena will be prayed in song after morning Mass at our parish during the weekdays.**



On behalf of Father Phil, Deacon Jim and the entire Parish Staff, to you and your loved ones we extend every joy and blessing of the Easter Season. Thank you for your support during this Lenten and Easter Season!

Knights of Columbus and Ministry Activities



Cardinal John O'Connor
Knights of Columbus Officers
1st row from left to right:
Bob Ryzner, Grand Knight; Father Phil Sladicka, Chaplin; Art Phillips, Warden; Art Bobbouine, District Deputy.

Kneeling: Carlo LaMonica, Advocate
2nd row from left to right:
Deacon Jim Rose, Chancellor; Mitch Megliola; Financial Secretary; Mike McAndrew; Recorder; Mike Lavelle, 3rd year Trustee; Mike Dessoie Jr., Treasurer;
Rocco Scaramastro, Deputy Grand Knight.

Absent from photo: Marc Phillips, Lecturer; Dillon Bitsko, Outside Guard; Jeff Wastradowski, Inside Guard; John Orluk, 1st year Trustee.

Social Concerns/Respect Life Ministry Thanksgiving Project

Pictured from the right: Carol Wood, Carol Trzeinski, Kathy Strach, Bob Janik, Ruth Lee, Ann Jake and Grace McLaughlin. Jane Maxwell photo taker.



Social Concerns/Respect Life Ministry “Lenten Soups & More Sale”

Just a few of the many workers who made our sale a great success.

Pictured from the left: Kathy Strach, Carol Trzeinski, Helen Brogan, Ann Jake and standing behind Grace McLaughlin.

Easter Season



A Happy Ending Isn't the Whole Story

“Is there a happy ending?”

When my kids were young, we never made it past the first whiff of any narrative tension before I got this question. As soon as whatever princess or furry woodland animal who was the hero of the story got into any small scrape, they wanted that reassurance, “Is there a happy ending?”

I can't say I blame them. Don't we all feel that way sometimes? We enter into a relationship with someone or some situation, and we just want to protect ourselves. We want to know it's not going to go badly — or, if it does, that we will be able to come back from it. It's a human instinct, a reflex. Our inclination to protect ourselves makes it so that we sometimes want to press fast-forward on the bad stuff and skip straight ahead to the happily-ever-after.

Easter is the ultimate happy ending. It's the day of miracles. The day when all the stones roll away and all the sins are forgiven. It's the day that puts everything right.

But if we learned anything from this week — from the Passion and death of the Lord — it's that we can't press fast-forward on the hardships of life. That tension, that loss, that fear — it's crucial, isn't it? As Catholics, we are who we are because of Easter. But Easter doesn't happen without Good Friday.

So, does the story of salvation have a happy ending? We know it does. But we also remember that the ending isn't all that matters. — Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS



Parish Meetings: April, 2021

Social Concerns/ Respect Life Ministry	THURS	04/08/21	7:00 PM	RECTORY
Women's Guild	TUES	04/13/21	7:00 PM	RECTORY
Knights of Columbus	MON	04/26/21	6:30 PM	Parish Hall

Community News



The audio CD entitled “**SACRED CHANT: Latin Hymns from Dupont**” is now available for sale at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, 215 Lackawanna Ave., Dupont. This professionally recorded CD features some of the Latin language hymns that have been sung in church for the seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent, Holy Week and Easter, as well as Eucharistic chants and seasonal Marian antiphons and chants. Parish organist, Anthony George, can be heard on the CD singing these hymns in Sacred Heart of Jesus Church while playing the church organ. CDs can be purchased at the Parish Office for \$15 each. If you are unable to purchase a CD in person, then one will be mailed to you for \$15, plus \$4 for shipping and handling. Please contact the Parish Office at 570-654-3713 or by email at shojesuschurch@gmail.com.

**We cannot give up
in the face of evil.
God is Love and he has
defeated evil through
Christ's death and
resurrection.**

— Pope Francis —

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

April 4, 2021 † Easter Sunday

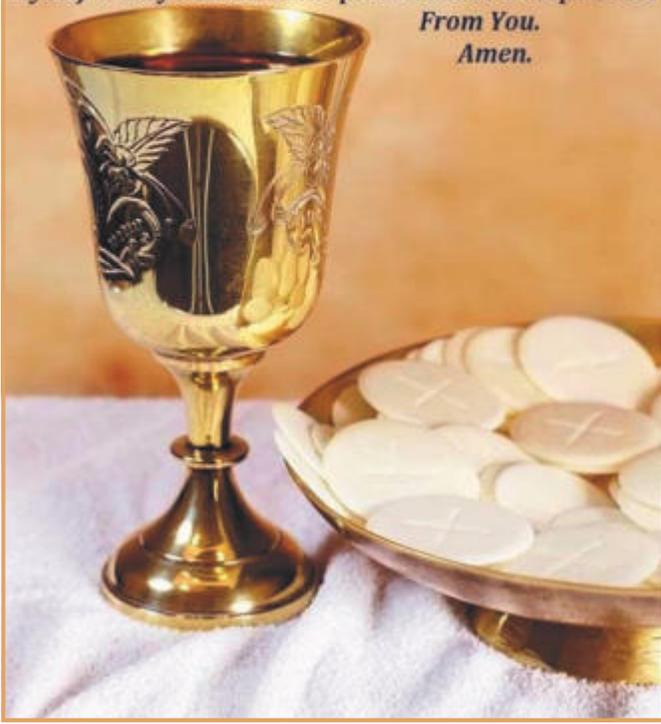
- Monday 8:00 AM April 5 Susan Philbin By M/M Bob Wierbowski
Tuesday 8:00 AM April 6 Alice & Edward Kearney By Family
Wednesday 7:00 PM April 7 Mary Jane Wrubel By Family
Thursday 8:00 AM April 8 Bob Adomiak By Marilyn Redington
Friday 8:00 AM April 9 Diane Bremer By Father Phil
Saturday 4:00 PM April 10 Edward, Ann & Eddie Ostrowski By Patty Strubeck
Sunday 8:00 AM April 11 ~ Divine Mercy Sunday Parishioners Intentions
10:00 AM Alfred, Angeline & Adeline Romeo By Bob & Donna Charmack

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 Mary Ann & Karen McAndrew by Family

Sacred Heart Shrine in loving memory of Gloria Gilvary by Kathy & Paul Franceschelli

Sanctity of Life Memorial in loving memory of Ceil Exter by QAP Women's Guild

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



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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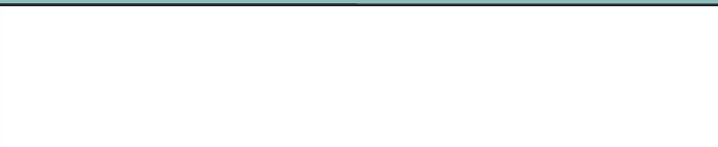
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