

November 28, 2021 | 1st Sunday of Advent

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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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 10:00AM 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

Jane Maxwell 570-457-1107

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,

Happy New Year! Advent begins a new Church year. As it begins, we are reminded of the three comings of Christ: his coming into human history at Bethlehem, his coming at the end of human history, and his coming into our hearts through prayer. In today's Gospel we are called to be watchful! Be Alert! This call should serve to awaken us to the here and now of Christ in our world. As Saint Paul says, we must conduct ourselves in a way that is irreproachable on the day of the Lord and pleasing to God. Let us prepare ourselves this day and all of Advent to welcome the Lord into our hearts and homes. The spirit of Advent is one of Joyful Expectation as we cry out, "Come, Lord Jesus, Come." We light our Advent Wreath Candles and try to hold back our celebrating fully the mystery of Christ's birth until December 25. We keep Christ in this Christmas Season by displaying Nativity scenes and wishing each other, "Merry Christmas!" We are grateful for all we possess and all we are and we thank God for the gift of life itself.

Next Wednesday, December 8th is a Holy Day of Obligation, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Please take note of the mass schedule for the Holy Day and plan to attend. There will be a vigil mass on December 7 @ 5pm and an 8am and 7pm mass on December 8th. The Blessed Mother is the patroness of the United States, indeed of all the Americas under the title of the Immaculate Conception. Mary is a symbol of the Church. She represents all that we are called to be. Her willing response to God's invitation is a model for us when we, too, are invited to acknowledge that God is the center of our lives. We start a nine day Miraculous Medal Novena on November 29th and end on December 7th. Mary is a wonderful patroness for our parish and our Country. "O Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee." Mary, Queen of the Apostles, pray for us. December 8th is also the conclusion of the year of St. Joseph. The Oblates of St. Joseph will have a special mass to end the year at the Oblate Seminary. Bishop Bambera will be there to celebrate this liturgy and Fr. Shantillo will be the guest homilist. May God bless the Oblate Community who celebrate their patron, St. Joseph.

One of the symbols of Advent is the Advent wreath which originated with the Lutherans of eastern Germany a few hundred years ago. The custom of the lighting of the wreath during the four weeks preceding Christmas took place only in the homes of believers and represented the many thousands of years the Jews waited for the Messiah. Gradually, especially in Roman Catholic parishes this custom made its way into the church. The candles will be lit before the Advent Mass each week.

The annual Retirement Fund for Religious Collection will be held the weekend of December 11/12. The collection benefits 33,000 elderly Catholic sisters, brothers and religious order priests whose religious communities lack adequate retirement funding. The appeal raises about \$30 million each year. This ongoing generosity toward the needs of senior religious is truly heartwarming. We remember the Retired Religious as we take up a collection for their needs. I am continuing the tradition of remembering the retired sisters with a greeting card. I have gotten the list of retired sisters from the IHM community. I have started a tradition of passing the names out at this Advent Mass and I ask that you write a note of thanks for their sacrifices and service to the Church or send them a Christmas card of gratitude.

Please remember to take a tag off of the giving tree to prepare a gift for someone in need. This is our yearly Advent exercise to help us in our preparation for Christmas. Please, bring food for the hungry and place it in our Food Boxes. Also, take the six minutes a day to use the Little Blue Books. We journey with St. Luke's Gospel during Advent Sundays. He is the "Joyful Evangelist." Today the Church lights the first of four candles on the Advent Wreath. Perhaps you will want to light a candle too.

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 readings focus on two comings of Jesus: as the fulfillment of God's promise to the Chosen People and as judge at the end of time. The prophet Jeremiah and the apostle Paul offer words of hope and encouragement to their people as they anticipate these events. In the meantime, Paul advises the Thessalonians, they should act even more out of love for one another. May these words serve to prepare us as well during this holy season of expectation.



Eucharistic Adoration



Adoration hours are Tuesdays, 9:30 am to 8:00 pm. Rosary and benediction begins at 7:30 pm. If you would also like to be a Eucharistic Adorer for any hour on Tuesdays or would like to consider being a backup adorer when we are in need, please contact Ann @ 570-457-3521 or the Parish Office at #570-457-3412. The Knights of Columbus will pray the Rosary for Life every second Tuesday of the month from 7:00-8:00 pm. Please pray for all prayer intentions for this day.

Reflections

Preparing the Manger

Where do you fall in the "Christmas-songs-in-November" debate — do you like them, tolerate them, or outright hate them? There's no theological problem with Christmas songs in November outside of worship, even if it's not everyone's cup of tea. But there is a problem with getting so caught up in the baggage of the season — the trimmings, the gifts, the celebrations, all of which are marvelous in their own way — that you forget to prepare the manger. Every good Catholic knows that Lent is a penitential season. It's hard to miss that point — Lent doesn't even have any fun songs you can groove to on the radio. We are pretty good at recognizing that Lent calls us to examine ourselves. To deny ourselves. To give of ourselves. And most of all, Lent calls us to prepare, as a good steward does, for the return of our master.

It's harder for us to remember that with Advent, but Advent is just as much of an opportunity for penance, preparation, and reconciliation to God — and just as much reason, too. The very name of the season — "advent" — encourages us to focus on what is coming, not what is already here. Be on guard, the readings tell us today, "so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and (the coming of the Lord) catch you unexpectedly, like a trap." So let us not forget — our master's advent is upon us. And let us ask ourselves: how can we prepare the manger?

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

Knights of Columbus



The Family of the Month for November was awarded to the family of Carmen & Amy Ferranti. Pictured above are Carmen, Amy, Mia & Jonah Ferranti, Knights Bob Ryzner, Rocco Scaramastro & Kermit Loch, Father Phil & Deacon Jim Rose. Congratulations!

2021-Harvest Tea



Thank you to all who came out to support QAP's Annual Harvest Tea. A special thank you to those who sponsored tables and provided excellent food and drink for all of their guests. This year 90 people attended to help raise money for the Marian Award Scholarship Fund.

Stewardship



11/21/21 Sunday Collection: \$5,000.00
Catholic Campaign for Human Development \$385.00
Thank you for your generosity!

Parish News



2022 STOCKING STUFFER POT OF GOLD
Tickets for the January 2022 Pot of Gold Stocking Stuffer are now available in the back of the Church after all of the masses or at the Parish Office. Cost of tickets are \$10. Please return the top of the stub along with the payment to: Queen of the Apostles Parish, 715 Hawthorne St., Avoca, Pa. 18641.
For more information call Parish Office at 570-457-3412



The Women's Guild will have their annual Christmas Party on Saturday, December 11th, at 1:00 PM in the parish hall. Buffet menu will consist of red and white pizza, stromboli, tossed salad, chicken with butter and garlic, chicken enders, roast beef au jus, penne with vodka cream sauce, mashed potatoes and gravy, California blend vegetables, and dessert. Cost is \$30.00 per person. Please call Peg Callahan at (570)457-8887 or Jane Maxwell at (570) 335-8678 as soon as possible so we can give a count to the cater. Thank You!

2021-2023 SYNOD

The Church is beginning to conduct a *Mini Vatican II* which is called a Synod. Pope Francis is inviting the Church and each diocese around the world to gather and to listen to each and every Catholic to find the Church's path forward at this time in our history. This is a moment for the voice of God's people to be heard to give voice to the direction of the Church. Listening is one of the most powerful and deeply human experiences we can have because it respects and validates what is being said. Everyone has a chance to be heard including those often marginalized or left out, as well as those who have fallen away from the Church, and young people and families who have not returned to the Church community since receiving their sacraments.

The information will be gathered by filling out a survey which can be found on the Diocese of Scranton website : dioceseofscranton.org and click on Synod on Synodality to complete the survey online. For those without a computer, a phone survey can be completed by calling 570-591-5024. Sometime in January, we plan to have an in person gathering in January to capture the thoughts and experiences of all the People of God. Everyone will be welcome to attend. Please pray for all those participating in this important endeavor of our Church. As Pope Francis said in his opening Mass for the Synod on October 10th, "Let us not miss out on the grace-filled opportunities born of encounter, listening and discernment."

Community Events



Solemn Conclusion of the Year of St. Joseph

When: Wednesday, December 8, 2021
Where: Oblates of St. Joseph Route 315 Pittston, Pa.
Holy Hour: 6:00PM & **Mass** 7:00PM

A light reception will follow in the Community Room. All are invited to attend.

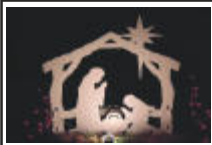
Catholic Choral Society Advent-Christmas Concert



Following a 73 year choral history of music for the Advent season, the Catholic Choral Society will present an Advent – Christmas Concert on Sunday, December 5th at 3 PM at St Mary’s Church of the Immaculate Conception at Our Lady of Fatima Parish, 134 S. Washington St., Wilkes-Barre, PA Rev. Joseph D. Verespy, Pastor.

The chorus will be presenting sacred Advent and Christmas music as well other Christmas selections. The concert is open to the public free of charge, however, a free will offering will be available.

A Christmas Cookie Walk will be held at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, 215 Lackawanna Ave., Dupont, on Saturday, Dec. 11, from 3 to 6 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 12, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. in the church hall. Homemade cookies will be sold for \$8 per pound and will be available until supplies last. **Please be aware, this will not be a nut free environment.** For more information, call Tammy at 457-3855.



NO ROOM AT THE INN: Over five hundred Nativity sets from the personal collection of Lynn Prociak will be on display at the **Forty Fort Presbyterian Church, 1224 Wyoming Avenue, Forty Fort, on Saturdays December 4 and 11 from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. and on Sundays December 5 and 12 from 12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m.** The Nativity sets tell the story of the birth of Christ through the lenses of diverse cultures and peoples from around the world. A Christmas Shop and cookie sale will be available, and retired nativity sets will be on sale. Admission is free. Donations will be accepted for the Kirby Family House in Wilkes-Barre, which provides shelter and social services for families struggling with homelessness. For more information, please call 570-542-4182 or visit www.facebook.com/NoRoomNEPA.

St. Lucy's Church, 949 Scranton St. Scranton, Pa 18504 will be holding **"SAINT LUCY'S FEAST DAY CELEBRATION, PATRONESS OF EYES"**, on Saturday, Dec. 11, 2021 at 4:00 PM Mass. As part of our celebration, Fr. Sam Ferretti will be blessing our congregation with our 1st class relic of Saint Lucy. Parishioners are encouraged to invite friends and family whom are suffering from any eye ailments to have an individual blessing with the relic.

At the conclusion of Mass, we invite everyone to join us for a coffee and cake social in Cabrini Hall located in the basement of the church.



Cursillo



The Cursillo Movement in the Diocese of Scranton is sponsoring the following programs. All are welcome.

School of Leaders: Saturday, 12/11/21 @ Queen of the Apostles Rectory Meeting Room

For further information, please visit the Cursillo website: www.scrantoncursillo.homestead.com

Life, Family & Culture



“A truly welcoming society must be a culture of Life...We must appreciate the dignity of Life in all its seasons...and look toward the day when every child born and unborn, is welcome in Life and protected in law.”
Gov. George W. Bush



The Giving Tree is now up in the vestibule. Please take a tag to help children in need. Gifts must be in by December 17th and they will be distributed on December 20th.

Thanks for the overwhelming response to the Thanksgiving Project. Food and monetary donations provided food bags for over 25 people in need.



Quarts of “Paul’s Famous Homemade Sauce & Meatballs” are still available for sale while supplies last! Order Forms are at the doors of the Church or call Paul or the Parish Office to place your order.

**\$ 8 Sauce only
 \$10 Sauce /Meatballs
 \$10 Vodka Sauce**

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.

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.

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

November 28, 2021† 1st Sunday of Advent

- Monday November 29 8:00 AM Alice & Jim Galvin
Tuesday November 30 ~ St. Andrew, Apostle 8:00 AM Andrew Bartush Jr.
Wednesday December 1 7:00 PM Helen O'Hop
Thursday December 2 8:00 AM Mary Lizak O'Brien & Sons
Friday December 3 ~ First Friday 8:00 AM St. Francis Xavier, Priest
Saturday December 4 ~ St. John Damascene, Priest & Doctor of the Church 4:00 PM Edwin & Marion Bartush
Sunday December 5~2nd Sunday of Advent 8:00 AM Parishioners Intentions
10:00 AM Deceased Members of The Philbin & Labathy Families

Ministry Schedule for the Week

12/4/21 2nd Sunday of Advent 4:00 PM
L - Kaplavka, Thomas
S -Kester, Javien
S - Inglima, Rachael
S - Kester, Jesinia
EM - Tanski, Pat
EM - McCawley, Judy

12/5/21 2nd Sunday of Advent 8:00 AM
L - McMahan, James
S - Doran, Paris
S - Perks, David
S - Perks, Aubrey
EM - Lee, Ruth
EM - Janik, Bob

12/5/21 2nd Sunday of Advent 10:00 AM
L - Ferranti, Carmen
S - Miller, Abigail
S - Miller, Maddie
S - Ferranti, Mia
EM - Ryzner, Theresa
EM - Ryzner, Bob

Sacramental Bread & Wine throughout November in loving memory of Francis & Betty Durkin by Sons, John & Phillip

Sanctuary Candle in loving memory of Freddie Gedrich by Sister, Marita Shearer

Sacred Heart Shrine in loving memory of Debbie Radle by Husband, Dave & Family

Sanctity of Life Memorial in loving memory of Kay George By Nancy Allardyce



Food Pantry Items for December Soup

PRAYER CHAIN: If you have an intention or would like to become part of the chain, call Jim Jumper at #570-457-5867.

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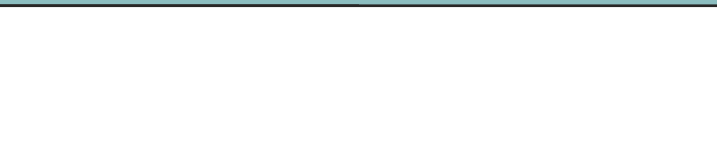
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