

December 12, 2021 | 3rd 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

#### **Like Us On Facebook:**

Queen of the Apostles Parish  
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 10:00AM 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**

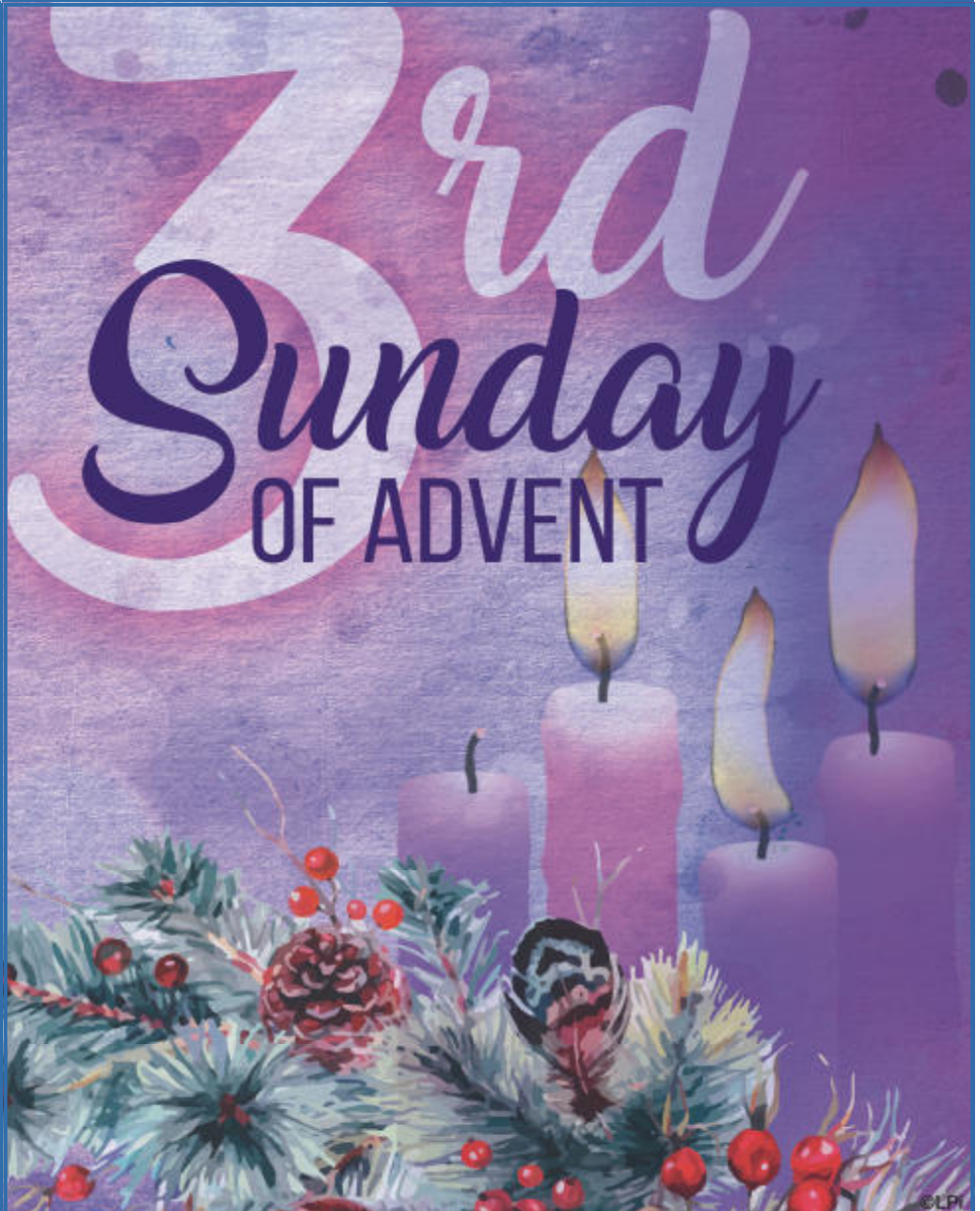
Parish Office  
570-457-3412

#### **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,

You wouldn't know it from his words, but Zephaniah preached during a very difficult time. God's Chosen People had turned away from the Lord, influenced by the legacy of a corrupt king and they were compromised by Assyrian rule. Yet he wrote, "Shout for Joy!" Be glad and exult. How could he say this? He believed that the people would change, for God was in their midst, ready to save them. John the Baptist came upon the scene at another difficult time. Once again, the Jewish people lived under foreign rule. Many had dishonored themselves by working for the occupying force. John called them to change. Tax collectors: Collect only what is fair. Soldiers: Stop extorting people. Everyone: Share what you have with those who don't have enough. God is in your midst, ready to save you, for the Messiah comes. Rejoice! Even in the darkest of times God is in our midst as well, ready to enter our hearts, ready to save us. Let us change how we live, becoming wheat for the world, and giving sustenance to our neighbor as we look to be gathered into God's kingdom. What can we do to be "wheat for the world," to be sustenance for our neighbor?

The annual Retirement Fund for Religious Collection will be held this weekend. The collection benefits 33,000 elderly Catholic sisters, brothers and religious order priests. Their 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 all 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.

If you take a tag off of the giving tree to prepare a gift for someone in need it needs to be returned with a gift by December 19, that's next Sunday. 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 six minutes a day to use the Little Blue Books. We journey with St. Luke's Gospel during Advent Sundays. He is "Our Lady's Troubadour" the "Joyful Evangelist." Today the Church lights the third of four candles on the Advent Wreath. The color is rose reminding us of the joy of this season. Perhaps you will want to light a candle in your home, too.

Please plan to attend the Deanery Penance Service at St. John the Evangelist Church, Pittston next Monday, December 20 at 7pm. There will be 12 priests available for confession. Masks are requested as you attend.

The 2021 Diocesan Annual Appeal, "Rising Together in Christ" is still ongoing as we strive to make the goal of \$5 million. We at Queen of the Apostles parish are \$650 away from hitting our goal of \$25,000. 27% of our 800 families have contributed. We received 143 gifts. I appreciate the generosity of our parish members. Thank you one and all. You may still contribute to the effort. Gifts of any amount are welcome.

Today is the feast day of **Our Lady of Guadalupe**. Mary is the Patroness of the Americas under the title of Our Lady of Guadalupe. On his trip to Mexico a few years ago, Pope Francis celebrated Mass at the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe. In his homily that day he spoke of Mary's humility in submitting to God's will. That humility is apparent in the fact that she appeared not to a bishop in a cathedral but to a peasant on a hillside. Our lady asked him to speak to the bishop to see that a church was built in that spot in her honor. The pope noted that, like Mary, Juan Diego had to overcome his own feelings of inadequacy in performing this mission. But he did, and the basilica is now visited by millions of pilgrims each year. After the apparition 6 million Mexicans were baptized and received into the Catholic Church and child sacrifice a practice of the Aztec Indians was ended.

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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 have the opportunity to hear John the Baptist's counsel to the crowds of people filled with expectation of the imminent coming of the long-awaited Messiah. Three times in today's Gospel they ask John, "What should we do?" Let us heed John's responses, for who better to prepare us for his coming into our world than the one who first prepared the world for his coming?



## 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.

## Annual Appeal

### Help Our Parish Reach its Goal!

Gifts to the 2021 Diocesan Annual Appeal change lives every day. As Christmas draws near, please support the diocesan ministries that help our children and families as well as the poor, lonely and vulnerable.



GIFTS OF ANY AMOUNT ARE APPRECIATED



Donate now at:  
[annualappeal.org](http://annualappeal.org)





Parish News



We are in need of 3 Eucharistic Ministers and 4 Altar Servers for the Christmas Eve 10:00 pm Mass. If you would be planning to attend this Mass and would like to serve please call the parish office or see Bob Janik.

Volunteers needed for

Decorating the Church for Christmas



Sunday, December 19, 2021 at 11:00 AM

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

Keep "Christ" in Christmas!

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."

Our Holy Father's Prayer Intention for December 2021

Catechists: Let us pray for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God: may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Stewardship



12/05/21 Sunday Collection: \$5,706.00
Care & Education of Priests: 551.00

This Week's Second Collection: Retirement Fund for Religious
Thank you for your generous support!

Life, Family & Culture



"O St. Bakhita, assist all those who are trapped in a state of slavery: Intercede with God on their behalf so that they will be released from their chains of captivity. Those whom man enslaves, let God set free." ~ USCCB, "Prayer to St. Josephine Bakhita"



Congratulations to Zoe Harper daughter of Jayson and Erin Martin Figuero and Lilliona Eve Marie Brown, daughter of MaryBeth Brown who will be baptized this weekend. May they stay close to Jesus all of their lives.

Prayer to Our Lady of Guadalupe



Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mystical Rose, make intercession for the Holy Church, Protect the Sovereign Pontiff, help all those who invoke thee in their necessities, and since thou art the ever Virgin Mary, and Mother of the True God, obtain for us from thy most Holy Son the grace of keeping our faith, of sweet hope in the midst of the bitterness of life, of burning charity, and the precious gift of final perseverance. Amen. (One Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be to the Father...in gratitude for the Miraculous Portrait as a continuing miracle and testimony.)

Our Lady said to Juan Diego: "Let not your heart be disturbed. Do not fear sickness, or any other anguish. Am I not here, who am your Mother? Are you not under my protection? Am I not your health? Are you not happily within my fold? What else do you wish? Do not grieve nor be disturbed by anything."



The Giving Tree is now up in the vestibule. Please take a tag to help children in need. Gifts must be in by December 19th and they will be distributed on December 20th.

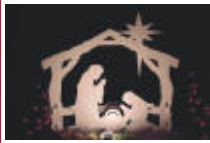
Christmas Stocking Coloring Contest

The Social Concerns/Respect Life Ministry announced last weekend a Children's Christmas Stocking Coloring Contest. A stocking was given to those who attended Mass and wanted to participate. Categories are age 1-3; 4-8; and 9-12. Parents please have your child please put their name and age on the back of the stocking. Stockings will be judged by Father Phil and Deacon Rose. A prize will be given to winner of each category. Winners will be announced after 10:00 am Mass on December 19. Please return your stocking so it may be displayed in the church.



Food Pantry Items for December Soup

**Community Events**



**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, Sunday December 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](http://www.facebook.com/NoRoomNEPA).

**Diocesan Announcement**

**Diocese Adds Name to List of Credibly Accused**

Following the release of the Pennsylvania Grand Jury Report in August 2018, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera made a promise that he would be open and transparent in the way that the Diocese of Scranton handles occurrences of child sexual abuse. That commitment remains true.

In August 2018, the Diocese published on its website a list of all clergy, staff and volunteers who had been credibly accused of child sexual abuse. Since that time, additional names have been added to the online list as necessary, with public notification.

The Diocese was recently notified by the Franciscan Friars, Holy Name Province, that the name of a friar who had previously been stationed in ministry within the Diocese was being included on its listing against whom credible sexual abuse/misconduct claims have been made. As a result of this information, the Diocese of Scranton has also decided to add the following name to its original list of credibly accused individuals:

**MEMBERS OF RELIGIOUS ORDERS**

Hennessy, Placid (OFM)

If you are aware of additional allegations of wrongdoing or any information that should be included on this list, please contact our Victim Assistance Coordinator, Mary Beth Pacuska at (570)862-7551 or Father Gerald W. Shantillo, Vicar General, at (570) 207-2269. If you have suffered abuse by clergy or anyone working on behalf of the Diocese, you are encouraged to immediately contact law enforcement and/or Mary Beth Pacuska.



In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Saint Lucy, your beautiful name signifies light. By the light of faith which God bestowed upon you, increase and preserve this light in my soul so that I may avoid evil, be zealous in the performance of good works, and abhor nothing as much as the blindness and darkness of evil and sin. By your intercession with God, obtain for me perfect vision for my bodily eyes and the grace to use them for God's great honor and glory and the salvation of all men. Saint Lucy, virgin and martyr, hear my prayers and obtain my petitions. Amen (Mention your request here...) Say 1: Our Father... Say 1: Hail Mary... Say 1: Glory Be...



**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**

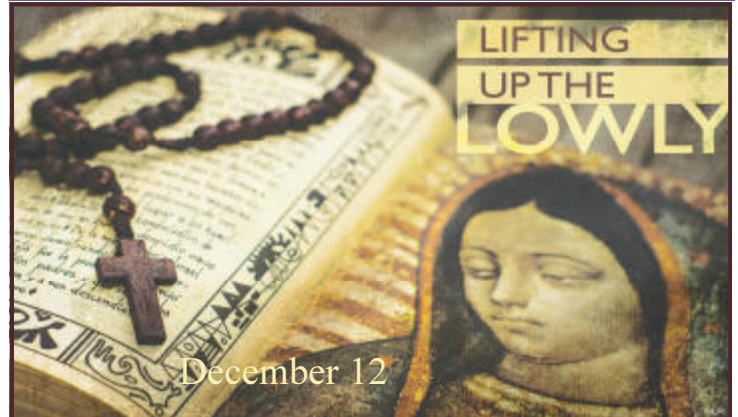
For further information, please visit the Cursillo website: [www.scrantoncursillo.homestead.com](http://www.scrantoncursillo.homestead.com)

**Community Events**



**Service of Lessons and Carols**

A Service of Lessons and Carols presented by lectors and musicians from Saint John the Evangelist and Saint Joseph Mareello Parishes in Pittston will be held **Wednesday, December 15 at 7:00 p.m.** at Saint Joseph Mareello Parish, 237 William Street in Pittston. All are invited to attend!



**The Avoca Food Pantry is open on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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

December 12, 2021 † 3rd Sunday of Advent

- Monday 8:00 AM December 13 - St. Lucy, Virgin Eleanor Loughney By Mary Janet Gilroy
Tuesday 8:00 AM December 14 ~ St. John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor of the Church M/M Glenard Houston & Son, William By Mary M. Houston
Wednesday 7:00 PM December 15 John Brostoski By Children & Grandchildren
Thursday 8:00 AM December 16 Marie Dooner By Mary Walsh
Friday 8:00 AM December 17 Butch Regan By Family
Saturday 4:00 PM December 18 Hailey Elizabeth Winters By Mom, Dad & Family
Sunday 8:00 AM December 19 ~ 4th Sunday of Advent Frank Creedon By Family
10:00 AM Parishioners Intentions

Ministry Schedule for the Week

12/18/21

3rd Sunday of Advent 4:00 PM



- L - Gregorio, Barb
S - Inglema, Rachael
S - Kester, Jesenia
S - Kester, Javien
EM - Krisiewicz, Peggy
EM - Trzcinski, Carol

12/19/21

3rd Sunday of Advent 8:00 AM

- L - Carroll, Mike
S - Doran, Paris
S - Perks, Aubrey
S - Perks, David
EM - Lee, Ruth
EM - Czar, David

12/19/21

3rd Sunday of Advent 10:00 AM

- L - Fox, Damien
S - Sudol, John
S - Jadus, John
S - Akbar, Chelsea
EM - Houston, Bob
EM - Lock, Kermit

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

Sanctuary Candle in loving memory of In Thanksgiving to St. Peregrine for Favors Received by June Quinnan

Sacred Heart Shrine in loving memory of Tom McLaughlin by Wife, Grace Marie

Sanctity of Life Memorial in loving memory of In Gratitude for Father Phil & QAP Staff by Jim & Helen Brogan



Eternal Rest Grant unto her, O Lord! May she rest in the peace of the Lord! Please pray for the soul of Eleanor Chmiel. The parish community of Queen of the Apostles offers sympathy to her family and friends.

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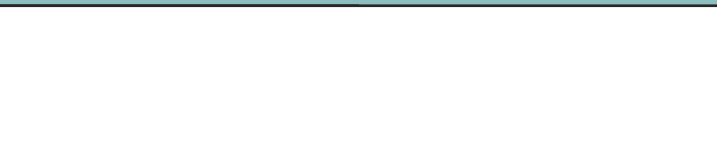
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