



February 13, 2022 | 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

# 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 10:00AM 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

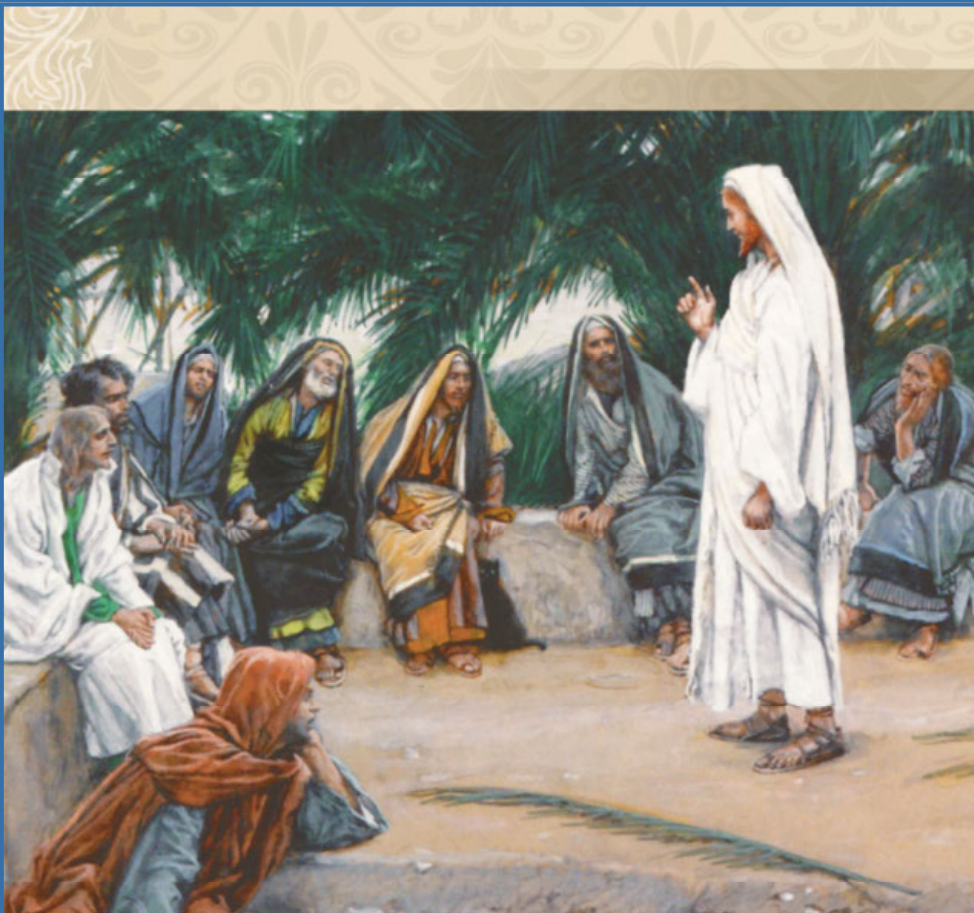
#### **Committee Contacts**

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!



## 6th Sunday

IN ORDINARY TIME

"Blessed are you when people hate you,  
and when they exclude and insult you,  
and denounce your name as evil  
on account of the Son of Man." - Lk 6:22

#### **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,

How would you feel if you received an invitation today to a simple but free meal, maybe a plate with beans, some bread, and a tall glass of cool water? If you are wealthy, you would likely refuse, for you know you could afford a much more sumptuous meal elsewhere. But if you are having difficulty putting food on your table and your family is starving, this complimentary meal would be a godsend. Exactly: a godsend. Something sent by the grace of God. In Luke's account of the Beatitudes, Jesus shows the crowds both sides of the coin. The hungry will be satisfied, but the satisfied will be hungry. The despairing will be joyful, but the joyful will despair. Jesus is able to preach this for he is literally a godsend, sent by God to save us. In him, we are redeemed. Because of him, we can train our eyes on heaven. As Paul wrote, our hope in Christ is not for this life only. Or to use Jeremiah's imagery from the first reading, we are like trees planted by a stream, stretching out our roots to the living waters Christ brings, for he satisfies us with joy, with plenty and ultimately, with the kingdom of God. How can we be a godsend for others?

Today is World Marriage Sunday which honors husband and wife as the foundation of the family, the basic unit of society. It salutes the beauty of their faithfulness, sacrifice and joy in daily married life. Consider planning a special date night with your spouse to celebrate this special day. It falls conveniently close to the feast of St. Valentine!! Prayer for Married Couples:

*"Almighty and eternal God, You blessed the union of married couples so that they might reflect the union of Christ with his Church; look with kindness on them. Renew their marriage covenant, increase your love in them, and strengthen their bond of peace so that, with their children, they may always rejoice in the gift of your blessing. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen."*

And now I would like to reflect on Vision 2030. The Vision is to create Parish Communities rooted in the Life of Jesus Christ. We have some challenges we must address to ensure the church is vibrant and present to future generations. A lot has changed not only in society – but also in the Diocese of Scranton during its more than 150 year history. By working together, we hope to strengthen the most vibrant expressions of parish life and to embrace the unavoidable changes which require us to respond in new ways.

As members of the Church of Scranton, we must work in a way that we best live out our baptismal calling in both a world – and local environment – that continues to change. We must continue to respond to the needs of the People of God with changing resources and opportunities. We have fewer parish members supporting the mission of the Church today. Long before the Covid-19 pandemic impacted parishes, regular weekend Mass attendance had been on the decline. The number of parish members who are registered in all parishes of the Diocese of Scranton dropped more than 16% between 2014 and 2020. The total number of Baptisms, First Communions and Confirmations in the Diocese of Scranton also dropped during this time period. In 2020, the diocese identified that there are more than 317,000 Catholic individuals within the 11 county territory. Only 224,075 are registered in a Catholic church. So 92,925 are not currently practicing the catholic faith. This challenge needs to be addressed. Vision 2030 is attempting to do that.

Please remember to go to the Diocesan Website and press Synod. The Holy Father is waiting for your response to the questions posed to the people in the pews.

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

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## Liturgy of the Word



**Liturgy of the Word:** Jeremiah explains that those who trust in the Lord will bear fruit like a tree planted beside gentle waters. Paul teaches that because Christ was raised from the dead, we can hope in our own resurrection. Jesus preaches that those who suffer now will be rewarded in time. Listening to God's word today, let us find hope in the promises of the Lord.



## 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

### Priests & Marriage Counseling

**Question:** How can a priest counsel people about marriage when he has never been married?

**Answer:**

If a marriage counselor is in a bad marriage does that mean that he or she will be a bad counselor? If one's counseling ability depended upon first-hand experience, would that require counselors to be perfect before they can help others? Obviously not. Some of the skills necessary to help others do come out of personal life experience. But you don't need personal, first-hand experience in order to understand something. We would not think that a doctor, who is an oncologist, would not be able to treat cancer because he himself has never been sick. We also would not expect every doctor to treat cancer. It is the same with priests.

Essentially marriage is a relationship and we've all been involved in different kinds of relationships: in our family, with our friends, and with God. And so counseling people about marriage is really helping them to look at the issues that really are part of their relationship, finding ways to better understand themselves in relationship to one another and in relationship to God. In many ways a priest's training, background, and experience, as well as his personal knowledge of many different relationships in families and couples, gives him a broad background from which to draw upon. Most priests are quite capable of helping couples prepare for marriage and discussing the issues that are important as they begin their life together. And they do not do it alone. With the help of married couples and specially trained counselors, most parishes offer a very good preparation for the sacrament of marriage.

### Our Holy Father's Prayer Intention for February, 2022

*For religious sisters and consecrated women* We pray for religious sisters and consecrated women; thanking them for their mission and their courage; may they continue to find new responses to the challenges of our times.

### First Penance Class 2022

On Saturday, February 19, at 10:00 am the following 2nd grade students will receive their First Penance in preparation for First Eucharist. Please keep them in your prayers.

- |                 |                    |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| Kaylee Cravetts | Michael Litchowski |
| Sophia Dessoye  | Sienna Mills       |
| Scott Felter    | Laura Ondich       |
| Ella Kania      | Annabelle Sobeski  |
| Emma Litchowski | Daniel Susko       |
| Cooper Warnek   |                    |

### Stewardship



02/06/22 Sunday Collection: \$5,362.00  
 Care & Education of Priests: 238.00

Thank you for your generous support!



### Scout Sunday



Scout Sunday was celebrated on February 6 at the 10:00 AM Mass here at Queen of the Apostles. Pictured are some of the scouts that were in attendance from Scout Troop 316 along with their leaders. A special award was presented to Father Phil in thanks for his support in sponsoring Troop 316 throughout the years. An award was also presented to Matt Fino for his dedication and leadership with the troop. The Scouts Annual Chili Cook-Off was also held after Mass in the Parish Hall.

### Life, Family & Culture



"Married love differs from any other love in the world. By its nature, the love of husband and wife is so complete, so ordered to a lifetime of communion with God and each other, that it is open to creating a new human being they will love and care for together." USCCB, *Married Love and the Gift of Life*

**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 blessed on Holy Saturday, April 16 at 12:00 Noon. 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 April 4.



On February 25, Nancy Mullery Musto will celebrate her 90th birthday. Nancy is homebound and there has been a request to help Nancy celebrate this special day in her life by having her receive 90 cards of birthday wishes. If you would like to help Nancy enjoy this special day, her address is 317 Everhart St., Dupont, PA 18641. Happy Birthday, Nancy in advance from your Queen of the Apostles Parish Family. May God Bless you with many more joy-filled birthdays!!



Food Pantry Items for February  
Canned Fruit



## Everyday Stewardship

### Planted Near Water

We all know that there are times when life can feel, as Jeremiah writes, empty and wasted. There are moments when we think we resemble a barren bush, thirsting in the desert sun.

That's why it is imperative for us to know the location of our water source. I promise you, it's closer than you think. God never planted a seed in barren ground.

For me, it's the Mass. Going to Mass is where I find total peace and renewal. I don't have any great theological explanation for this — Mass is simply where I can truly rest in God for a time, where nothing and no one in the world can touch me. And wouldn't you know it, it's in the toughest times that I need Mass the most — that my roots stretch harder for that water.

Woe to the rich, says Jesus — woe to the popular, to the content, to the happy. It's not because He hates to see us smile. It's because He knows our humanity. He knows our limitations. He knows that when things are going really well, we often stop looking for God.

What replenishes you as a disciple, as a steward, as a Christian? If it feels far away or hard to reach, why is that? How can you bring it closer?

We are all trees planted near water, to yield our fruit in due season. Let's pray for the strength to know where our water source is, and to seek it both in good times and in bad. —

*Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS*

## Community News



### NIGHT AT THE RACES

The Altar and Rosary and Holy Name Societies of Saint John the Evangelist Parish, 35 William Street in Pittston, will present a Night at the Races on **Saturday, February 26** in the Msgr. Bendik Pastoral Center (former Seton Catholic auditorium). Doors open at 6:00 p.m. and races begin at 7:00 p.m. Admission is free with dinner and beverages included. If you are interested in purchasing horses for \$10 each or sponsoring a race for \$50, please call the parish office at 570-654-0053 by Friday, February 18.



## Parish Meetings: February, 2022

Worship Committee	Monday	02/21/22	6:00 PM	RECTORY
Knights - Officers	Monday	02/21/22	7:00 PM	RECTORY
Knights of Columbus	Monday	02/28/22	6:30 PM	RECTORY



## Cursillo



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

### School of Leaders:

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

## Community Events



### St. Lucy's Spaghetti Dinner is Back!!!

Mark your calendars, St. Lucy's Church, 949 Scranton St. Scranton, is having their famous Spaghetti Dinner. The dinner will be on **Wednesday March 30 and Thursday March 31, 2022**. Take outs are available from 3:00pm to 5:00pm (containers provided). Sit down dinners will be served from 5:00pm to 8:00pm. Cost of the dinner is \$14.00 per ticket and includes salad, spaghetti and two meatballs, Italian bread and dessert. Tickets can be obtained by stopping in or calling the rectory during normal business hours at 570-347-9421 or by calling Joe Guido at 570-955-7469

## Knights of Columbus News

Knights of Columbus will be selling Krispy Kreme doughnuts after all Masses on **February 26th & 27th**. Doughnuts or doughnut certificates will cost \$10. If you are not at Mass, phone orders will be accepted up until those dates. Proceeds will benefit the Lamonica family with cost involved with little Gianna and her battle with cancer. Call Bob Ryzner at 885-2096 or Rocco Scaramastro at 357-5612.

**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

February 13, 2022† 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

- Monday 8:00 AM February 14 ~ SS Cyril, Monk, & Methodius Rita Moon By Family
Tuesday 8:00 AM February 15 Msgr. Alexander Kulik By Father Phil
Wednesday 7:00 PM February 16 Thomas Smith & William Malia By Jeanette Gronski & Family
Thursday 8:00 AM February 17 ~ The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order Michael Sedlak By Family
Friday 8:00 AM February 18 Agnes Loftus By Family
Saturday 10:00 AM 4:00 PM February 19 First Penance Class 2022 Ann Soy By Barbara Quinnan & Family
Sunday 8:00 AM February 20- 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time Parishioners Intentions Sally Ozark By The Ozark Family
10:00 AM

Ministry Schedule for the Week

02/19/22
7th Sunday in Ordinary Time
4:00 PM
L - Jeniga, Beth
S - Kester, Jesenia
S - Kester, Javia
S - Inglima, Rachael
EM - Tanski, Pat
EM - Trzcinski, Carol

02/20/22
7th Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:00 AM
L - Wruble, Leanna
S - Brogan, Kaitlyn
S - Wruble, Alexis
EM - Lee, Ruth
EM - Janik, Bob

02/20/22
7th Sunday in Ordinary Time
10:00 AM
L - Dowdell, Bill
S - Saporito, Grazia
S - Silinskie, Luke
S - Gilchrist, Thomas
EM - Dowdell, Janice
EM - Houston, Bob

Sacramental Bread & Wine throughout February in loving memory of The Deceased Members Ozark Family by Family

Sanctuary Candle in loving memory of Thomas McCabe by Wife, Diana & Sons

Sacred Heart Shrine in loving memory of Helen & Anthony Poplawski by Daughter, Diana & Family

Sanctity of Life Memorial in loving memory of Rosemary Fanucci by McCabe Family

MEMORIAL OFFERINGS

We have openings for Weekday Masses, Sanctuary Light, Sacred Heart Shrine, & Sanctity of Life Memorials for 2022. Each of these candles 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.

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