

**Queen of Apostles Catholic Church/
Reina de los Apostoles**

**Office of Children and Youth Ministries
Religious Education Program
2017 - 2018**

**General Information for Parents/
Información General**

Parish Clergy/Clero

Rev. Leopoldo Vives, DCJM, Pastor/Párroco

Rev. Juan Espino, DCJM, Parochial Vicar/ Vicario Parroquial and Director of Religious Education, Office of Children and Youth Ministries

Rev. Javier O'Connor, DCJM, Parochial Vicar/ Vicario Parroquial

Rev. Ignacio de Ribera, DCJM, In residence/En residencia

Deacon/Diácono Richard Caporiccio

Contact Information

Queen of Apostles Parish Office	Queen of Apostles Catholic Church and Hannan Hall	Queen of Apostles School
4329 Sano Street Alexandria, VA 22312	4401 Sano Street Alexandria, VA 22312	4409 Sano Street Alexandria, VA 22312
703-354-8711		703-354-0714

general@queenofapostles.org
<http://www.queenofapostles.org>

✠ **Religious Education (RE)** faith formation classes for students, kindergarten (age 5) - high school in English

- Sundays from 9:00-10:15 a.m. at Queen of Apostles School
- September 10, 2017 - June 3, 2018

For information about the Queen of Apostles Religious Education Program, to volunteer, or to learn about faith formation for adults, please contact s.gray@queenofapostles.org or call 703-354-8711.

✠ **Emmaus** (for high school/early college students who have sacraments) activities are generally scheduled on Fridays (except the last Friday of the month), 6:00-8:00 p.m. and include bible study, open gym and board games, adoration, apostolic projects, and social and cultural events.

Meet Fr. Juan at Christendom College/Notre Dame Graduate School (4407 Sano Street).

Open Gym is scheduled for the first Friday of the month, 6:00-8:00 p.m. at the School Gym with Mr. Kasenge.

✠ **Nazareth** (for students in grades 4-8) meets during the school year on the first and third Fridays of the month. Fr. Juan and Emmaus students lead faith discussions, games, and prayer time. Sign-in begins at 3:45 p.m. in Hannan Hall. A parent is asked to sign out their student/s at 5:30 p.m. Adults are needed to help with activities and snacks.

Students attending Queen of Apostles School, public school, and those who are homeschooled are welcome.

Contact youth@queenofapostles.org or call 703-354-8711 for information about joining Emmaus and Nazareth.

Updates about the Religious Education Program will be published in the parish bulletin, website, and email.

Queen of Apostles Catholic Church

Sunday Mass (The Lord's Day)/Misa dominical

- Saturday/*sábados*: 5:00 p.m. (*English*), 7:00 p.m. (*Spanish*)
- Sunday/*domingos* (*English*): 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 12 Noon

Holy Days of Obligation/Dias de precepto

Please check the bulletin to confirm Mass times and dates. Usually, Masses for Holy Days of Obligation are scheduled for 6:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 12 Noon, and 7:00 p.m. *Consultar el boletín.*

Weekday Masses/Misa diaria

- Monday through Friday/*lunes a viernes* (*English*): 6:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m.
- Saturday/*sábado* (*English*): 8:00 a.m.

Holy Hour/Hora Santa

- Thursday/*Jueves*: 7:30 p.m.

Sacrament of Penance/Confesiones (*English & Spanish*)

- Sundays/*domingo*: 10:00 a.m.
- Monday through Friday/*de lunes a viernes*: 7:00-7:30 a.m.
- Wednesday/*miércoles*: 6:30 p.m. until last penitent; *hasta la última persona en la línea de espera.*
- Thursday/*jueves*: 7:30 p.m. during Holy Hour/*durante la Hora Santa*
- Saturday/*sábados*: 4:00-5:30 p.m. and 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Under the protection of our Blessed Mother and guided by the Holy Spirit, our mission is to form disciples of Christ.

Religious Education: The Parent – Catechist Partnership

Thank you for enrolling your child/ren in the Religious Education Program at Queen of Apostles. The role of each family is to bring children to know Christ and to know the gift of His Church. Parents are the primary teachers of their children -- the home is where a child first experiences the Catholic faith. To assist families in this most important mission of living the Catholic faith, Queen of Apostles aims to work in partnership with parents in order to assist them in living their vocation as teachers.

Los padres son los primeros maestros de sus hijos/as. Uno de los propósitos del programa de la Educación Religiosa es ayudar a los padres en su vocación como maestros de sus hijos/as. El programa de Educación Religiosa ayuda, no re-emplaza la catequesis que sus hijos/as reciben en sus hogares.

The Religious Education Program at Queen of Apostles complements, and does not replace the catechesis that children ought to receive in the home. Our Religious Education Program is intended for Catholic faith formation over years and it is not only for receiving Sacraments. Because learning about the Catholic faith is lifelong, the program is designed to have continuity from kindergarten/grade 1 through high school. Skipping years between Sacraments does not allow for adequate faith formation or confidence in living the faith and evangelizing.

As a Family of Families, Queen of Apostles helps serve the family by linking faith and life, building relationships and community through active participation in Religious Education and other parish ministries. Children will stay in religious education if they see their parents striving to grow in holiness. As Catholics, attending Mass, praying individually and as a family, living the Sacraments, and going to Confession/Reconciliation should be intentional priorities in your schedule.

Mass.

Children and families are expected to attend Mass every Lord's Day, Sunday (or Saturday Vigil), and on Holy Days of Obligation. Religious Education classes are scheduled so that your family can attend Mass before or after class.

Prayer.

We strongly encourage all families to pray together. Please pray with your children at home, when they go to bed, when they wake up, before meals, etc. Prayer can be a brief moment in the presence of God to thank Him for all the goodness we experience from Him.

Sacraments.

Jesus reveals himself to us through His Holy Sacraments. By symbols and rituals, the life and work of Christ unfold through the Sacraments. As human beings, we need to be able to touch, smell, see and hear in order to understand that which we receive. Our Lord comes to us through oil, water, bread, wine and human touch. Sacraments must be treated with the same respect and love we have for Him. We must be sincerely prepared for and actively

desire a Sacrament in order for its graces to transform our lives. As a family of families, Queen of Apostles want to celebrate these milestones of grace with you.

Confession/Reconciliation.

We make a great effort to offer baptized children in grade 2 and above opportunities for Confession during class time. Nonetheless, we encourage you to go as a family to receive this Sacrament. A beautiful and enduring gift that parents can give their children is by going to Confession regularly.

We invite you take an active role in the parish. If you would like to volunteer or have ideas to improve the program, please talk with Fr. Juan Espino or call the parish office.

Early in the school year, please meet the catechist/s so they are familiar with you. Our catechists are background checked and comply with Diocesan Safe Environment training.

Queen of Apostles uses the *Faith and Life* text series that emphasizes the Creed, Commandments, Sacraments and Liturgy, and Prayer and Scripture. Please familiarize yourself with your child's text, upcoming projects, and reading A Note to Parents. The series is posted online at: <http://www.ignatius.com/promotions/faithandlife/index.htm>. Each week, please review the prayers (back blue pages) of *Faith and Life* with your child/ren.

Additionally, the Diocese of Arlington requires that students in grades 1, 5-8, and high school attend the Formation in Christianity/Called to Protect presentation that is part of the October/November curriculum. More information is posted to the Diocesan website, <http://www.arlingtondiocese.org/Child-Protection>.

Together with our catechists and aides, who serve as your first point of contact regarding Religious Education class, we welcome this opportunity to assist your children in living the Catholic life: learn to pray, know the Bible and learn Scripture, and prepare for and live the Sacraments.

Religious Education, sacramental, and youth programs information is posted to the website: <https://queenofapostles.org/> under the Youth & Family tab.

Queen of Apostles Policies and Procedures for Religious Education

1. Attendance, Homework, and Absences.

Religious Education classes are held at Queen of Apostles School located at 4409 Sano Street, Alexandria, VA. Parents must bring their children inside the School to Religious Education class on-time and with homework completed. Students are to bring their textbook, pen/pencil, paper, and other materials to class each week. Each week after class, please ask your child about homework that is due. Like school, your child/ren will be assigned Religious Education homework to complete and turn into the catechist.

*Students are not have more than 3 absences
for the school year.
The consequence of having absences is that the student may be delayed in advancing.*

Your child's faith formation ought to take precedence over extracurricular activities. If your child will be absent, a written note from you is to be provided to the catechist at least one week in advance. Please ask the catechist about homework and projects that will be due. For boys who serve as altar servers during the 9:00 a.m. Mass, an absence will not be recorded, however, please talk to the catechist about the absence. If your child will be absent due to illness, please send a message to s.gray@queenofapostles.org or call 703-354-8711.

2. Punctuality.

We suggest arriving by 8:45 a.m. on Sundays. Children arriving to RE after 9:00 a.m. will not be admitted to class and an absence will be recorded. Please make plans to leave the house early on rainy and snowy days to avoid a late arrival and interrupting the catechists and other students. Please park close to the school to allow Mass attendees to safely enter and exit the church and parking lot, and please, no parking in the fire lane or spaces outside the Hannan Hall kitchen. Students are expected to attend the entire class time and not leave early. After class, students will meet parents inside the School Gym.

Students are to wait outside of the classroom until the catechist/aide arrives.

3. Signing-in and out.

Each Sunday, a parent must sign-in their child before class and sign-out their child after class. Together, the family can attend Mass at 7:30 a.m. or 10:30 a.m. or another time. The same parent is asked to sign-in and sign-out on the same Sunday. If an authorized adult is picking up the student, please leave a written note with the Check-in Desk with the name and phone number of the person who is picking up the child.

*After class, a parent or authorized adult must sign-out and meet their child inside
St. Joseph Hall/School Gym.*

*Parents may sit on the bleachers while waiting for their child/ren. To comply with safety regulations,
the lobbies must remain clear.*

No student will be released from class until a parent/ authorized adult meets the child inside the school.

*A parent/ authorized adult is to wait for their child/ren inside the School Gym and not in the church or
in the parking lot.*

4. Walkers.

Families who live near the parish and wish to have their child/ren walk home must submit a written, signed, and dated statement authorizing their child/ren to walk home. Please submit the note to the Check-in Desk with the understanding that the child/ren 1) Must walk directly home; 2) Must follow all traffic rules; 3) Must cross only at crosswalks and corners; 4) May not skateboard or roller blade to or from RE class.

5. Clothing.

Students are expected to wear modest clothing. Shorts, low-cut shirts, tops that do not cover the midriff area, pants hanging off of the hips, mini-skirts, spaghetti straps, or holey pants, are never appropriate to wear to class. Graphic depictions or written words referring to drugs, alcohol, weapons, politics, violence, or graphic sexual connotation or profanity may not appear on any clothing. Flip-flop sandals are not permitted due to safety regulations. Hair must be neatly combed and hats removed.

Se espera que todos los estudiantes se vistan con ropa modesta y apropiada para el salon de clases. Shorts deberán tener el largo de los pantalones “Bermuda” es decir por debajo de las rodillas o mas largos. Las blusas que no cubran el ombligo, pantalones que cuelguen de las caderas, mini-faldas, blusas con tirantes, camisas con diseños o dibujos con malas palabras, o referencia a dogra, alcohol, armas, política, muerte, diabólica o con notación sexual no se permitirán durante el tiempo de catequesis. Los hombres deberán remover sus sarcillos y gorras dentro de la escuela y en la Iglesia. No se permite usar sandalias “flip-flop” debido a las reglas de seguridad. El pelo/cabello debe estar peinado.

6. Other Policies.

Students must respect the Queen of Apostles classroom school space, and grounds. This includes not writing on desks or removing items from school desks, tables, or the classroom.

Please, no food, drink, or chewing gum. Please make sure your child is rested, has eaten breakfast or a snack before entering the school, and has used the restroom.

Please, no phones, iPods, or other devices during RE class time. Students are to turn off and store devices.

If a student is using a device during classroom time, it will be removed from the student and returned to the parent at the Check-out desk.

Based upon the Catholic moral values and loving respect for others taught by Jesus, students:

- will be honest and committed to integrity.
- will be respectful and courteous toward all catechists, adults, and volunteers.
- will refrain from harassment of any kind.
- will use appropriate language.
- will speak respectfully to and about others.
- will complete all assignments and participate fully in class.
- will respect all school and personal property.

Offenses will be dealt with on an individual basis according to the age of the student, the nature of the infraction, and the severity of the case. Repeated infractions can result in more serious consequences, up to and including suspension and/or expulsion.

These policies are based on The Office of Catholic Schools/Queen of Apostles School's Code of Conduct and may be fully read starting on page 42:

https://s3.amazonaws.com/queenofapostles_alexandria/queenofapostlesschool/wp-content/uploads/20160725134217/16-17-Parent-Handbook-.pdf

In some cases, parents will be called to pick up their student during RE class time and/or meet with Fr. Juan Espino.

7. Weather Cancellation of Classes.

In the event of snowy weather, we follow Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) announcements for closings related to snow. If FCPS activities are cancelled at any time during the course of the day, our RE classes will be cancelled as well. Announcements may be heard on WMAL-AM 630 and WTOP-FM 103.5 and most television and radio stations.

Thank you for ensuring the safety of our children.

Sacraments – The Beginning of Something New

✠ **Baptism/Sacraments of Initiation.**

Baptism is the foundation of the Christian way of life and incorporates one into the Church as a son or daughter of God.

(Catechism of the Catholic Church 1267)

(From the Rite of Baptism)

You have asked to have your child baptized. In doing so you are accepting the responsibility of training him (her) in the practice of the faith. It will be your duty to bring him (her) up to keep God's commandments as Christ taught us, by loving God and our neighbor. Do you clearly understand what you are undertaking?

If your child has not been baptized, your child will receive formation in Christian life along with children his/her age. Fr. Juan Espino, along with your child's catechist, will determine when your child will be baptized. Generally, children over the age of 7 years old, who have attended at least two consecutive years of Religious Education will be considered for Baptism and the other Sacraments of Initiation.

The child is to show evidence of desire for the Sacrament/s.

If your unbaptized child is **under** the age of 7 years old, please contact the parish office at 703-354-8711 to register for a Baptism class (English or Spanish) and the corresponding Baptism date.

- For parents and godparents/sponsors of unbaptized children over the age of 7, there are three mandatory meetings to discuss details about Baptism/Sacraments of Initiation:
 - **Sunday, October 22, 2017** in the Multipurpose Room (school)/School Library at 9:00 a.m. (parent, godparent/ sponsor).
 - **Sunday, January 21, 2018** in the Multipurpose Room (school)/School Library at 9:00 a.m. (parent, godparent/ sponsor).
 - **Saturday, February, 2, 2018** in Queen of Apostles Church at 10:00 a.m. (student, parent, godparent/sponsor); Learn the Liturgy.
- In addition to these meetings, your child and godparent/sponsor are to attend:
 - Rites and Scrutinies for catechumens (unbaptized) that are scheduled during the 10:30 a.m. Mass on **Sundays, December 3, 2017, January 28, and March 4, 11, 18, 2018** at Queen of Apostles.
 - Additionally, the students and his/her godparent/ sponsor are to attend the Rite of Election on **Sunday, February 18, 2018** at 2:30 p.m. at the Cathedral of St. Thomas More (3901 Cathedral Lane, Arlington, VA).
 - Desiring and prepared students will receive Baptism/Sacraments of Initiation on Easter Vigil, March 31, or another time, as approved by the pastor.

Sacraments of Initiation practice is scheduled for **Saturday, March 31, 2018** at 11:00 a.m. (student, godparent/sponsor) in Queen of Apostles Church with Mass at ~8:30 p.m.

Following Baptism/Sacraments of Initiation, your students will make his/her First Penance in April/May.

There is a registration form, a \$30 sacramental fee, among other requirements. A Sacraments Packet will be distributed during the October 22, 2017 meeting.

If your child is in eighth grade or high school, he/she is to attend the **Saturday, December 2, 2017** retreat, 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., Hannan Hall, Queen of Apostles.

Dates and times may change.

✠ **First Penance (Reconciliation/Confession) and First Holy Communion.**

If your child has been baptized, has not received the Sacraments of First Penance and First Holy Communion, and is attending grade 2 or above, your child will be receive formation in Christian life along with children his/her age. Fr. Juan Espino, along with your child's catechist, will determine when your child will receive the Sacrament/s. Generally, the child will attend no less than two consecutive years of Religious Education before First Penance and First Holy Communion.

The child is to show evidence of desire for the Sacrament/s.

First Penance is scheduled for **Saturday, February 10, 2018** at 9:30 a.m. at Queen of Apostles. Family members are also invited to receive this Sacrament of Healing.

First Holy Communion is scheduled for **Saturday, May 12, 2018** at Queen of Apostles with a **10:00 a.m. Mass in English and a 12:30 p.m. Mass in Spanish.**

- We will have two mandatory meetings to discuss details about these Sacraments.
 - **Sunday, October 8, 2017** in the Multipurpose Room (school)/School Library at 9:00 a.m. (parent).
 - **Sunday, March 18, 2018** in the Multipurpose Room (school)/School Library at 9:00 a.m. (parent).
- First Holy Communion practice is tentatively scheduled for **May 7/11, 2018** at 6:30 p.m. in the church (student and parent).

There is a registration form, a \$15 sacramental fee, among other requirements. A Sacraments Packet will be distributed during the October 8, 2017 meeting.

Lastly, if your child is in eighth grade or high school, he/she is to attend the **Saturday, December 2, 2017** retreat, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Hannan Hall, Queen of Apostles.

Dates and times may change.

✠ **Confirmation.**

Generally, baptized students who have received First Penance and First Holy Communion receive the Sacrament of Confirmation during eighth grade or high school. Fr. Juan Espino, along with the student's catechist, will determine which students will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Confirmation is scheduled for **Monday, April 16, 2018** at 7:00 p.m. The date and time of Confirmation are determined by the Chancery. The student is to attend no less than two consecutive years of Religious Education before Confirmation.

Additionally, the child is to show evidence of desire for the Sacrament/s.

- We will have two meetings to discuss details about the Sacrament of Confirmation.
 - **Monday, September 25, 2017** in Hannan Hall at 6:30 p.m. (student, parent, and sponsor, if available).
 - **Sunday, February 25, 2018** in the Multipurpose Room (school)/School Library at 9:00 a.m. (parent and sponsor, if available).
- A mandatory retreat for all students in eighth grade and high school is scheduled for **Saturday, December 2, 2017**, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Hannan Hall, Queen of Apostles.
- The Confirmation rehearsal is tentatively scheduled for **April 9 or 13, 2018** beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the church. This is a mandatory rehearsal for the student and sponsor.

There is a registration form, a \$60 sacramental fee, among other requirements. A Sacraments Packet will be distributed during the September 25, 2017 meeting.

Dates and times may change.

For Sacraments requiring a godparent (Baptism) or a sponsor (Confirmation), please help your child choose a Roman Catholic in good standing.

According to Diocesan regulations and Canon Law, at a *minimum*, the godparent/sponsor:

- Has received the Sacraments of Baptism, Penance, Eucharist, and Confirmation.
 - Attends Mass every Sunday and Holy Days of Obligation.
- Receives the Sacraments of Holy Communion and Penance regularly.
 - If married, his/her (present) marriage is a valid Catholic marriage.
 - Is at least 16 years old and is not the candidate's mother or father.

In Closing

Thank you for enrolling your child/ren in Queen of Apostles Religious Education Program. Our catechists, aides, and volunteers are ready to help you with the most

important of missions: passing along the Catholic faith to your children, setting them on the path to salvation, and gaining heaven. Attendance and participation in the Religious Education and Youth Programs at Queen of Apostles provides opportunities for your child to grow in the Catholic faith and learn how to live the Christian life.

As part of the Disciples of the Hearts of Jesus and Mary apostolate in strengthening and building the family, from October 2017-June 2018, the program, **Toward a Missionary Family**, will be presented. A missionary family announces the joy of the Gospel to its extended family, to its neighbors and community, and at its workplace. The family is called to evangelize by inviting others to encounter Christ and by serving as joyful witnesses of connecting faith and life. Each month, a theme related to the Sacraments and their transformative (“beginning of something new”) power will be introduced. Practical ideas of how to live the Sacraments as a missionary family will be offered. Additionally, the **Rule of Life**, a set of spiritual practices that allows the faith to be fully alive, will be explained.

Additionally, Queen of Apostles is a subscriber to **Formed.org**, an online, digital platform that offers informative and entertaining Catholic audio talks, eBooks, feature films, documentaries, and video-based study programs. Materials can be freely accessed by registering and using parish code: **Z37RTW**

For parents and others who are missing Sacraments (Baptism, Reconciliation, First Communion, Confirmation, Marriage), Queen of Apostles can assist. The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is the process through which adults join or complete their initiation into the Roman Catholic Church. RCIA begins on September 18 (Mondays in English) and September 20 (Wednesdays in Spanish) 7:30-9:00 p.m. at Christendom College/Notre Dame Graduate School. For more information, please call 703-354-8711 or email s.gray@queenofapostles.org. Parents should be outstanding examples of living the Catholic faith.

Mary, Queen of Apostles, pray for us.

Queen of Apostles Vision, Mission, and Values

Vision:

To be a family of families committed to growing in discipleship of Christ and eager to invite others to join our family.

Mission:

Under the protection of our Blessed Mother and guided by the Holy Spirit, our mission is to form disciples of Christ by:

- Equipping parishioners with spiritual resources that will lead to deep spiritual growth
- Inspiring families to embrace joyfully their vocation to holiness.
- Encouraging the faithful to use their time, talent, and treasure to the glory of God.
- Introducing people outside the Church to the joy and beauty of the Gospel.

Parish Core Values:

- **Family:** The family is our home where we grow as we share our gifts. We value the unique role of the family in discipleship and the coming together of families to form a thriving parish family committed to our mission and vision.
- **Stewardship:** We believe that every individual has been gifted by God with unique time, talent and treasure and the path to spiritual growth is stewarding these gifts in a way that glorifies God and leads to an outpouring of the Fruits of the Spirit (Galatians, 5).
- **Discipleship:** We believe that the work of the Church is to make disciples of Christ who are invited and equipped to disciple others in the pursuit of Christ.

Aspirational Values:

- **Excellence:** We pursue excellence in our spiritual life, in the Liturgy we celebrate, in the formation we offer and in the way we manage parish operations.
- **Diversity:** We value the fruitfulness that diversity brings to our parish family.