

QUEEN OF APOSTLES CATHOLIC CHURCH

4401 Sano Street, Alexandria, VA 22312 (703) 354-8711 www.queenofapostles.org

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time - August 23, 2020



CLERGY

Fr. Alexander Díaz, Pastor
Fr. Joseph Rampino, Parochial Vicar
Deacon Richard C. Caporiccio

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday: 8:00 am, 7:00 pm (*Spanish*)
Sunday: 8:00 am, 10:00 am, 12:00 pm
1:30 pm (*Spanish*)
3:00 pm (*Ghana Community Mass*)
Monday-Saturday: 8:00 am

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

Wednesday: 8:30-9:00 am
Thursday: 7:00 pm until last penitent
Friday: 6:30 pm until last penitent
Saturday: 3:30 pm until last penitent

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Wednesday 8:30 am-8pm
Thursday: 7:00-8:00 pm



QUEEN OF APOSTLES CATHOLIC SCHOOL

FAITH, EXCELLENCE, JOY

4409 Sano Street
Alexandria, VA 22312
www.queenofapostlesschool.org

School Office Hours (Summer):
Mon-Fri: 9am–12pm and by appointment

STAFF

Anne Arias, Principal
Maria Fox, Secretary
Phone: (703) 354-0714



With Mary, “the first disciple of her son” (Redemptoris Mater, 20), Queen of Apostles Catholic School is rooted in faith, excellence, and joy. We flourish by embracing our call to holiness, advancing in virtue and academics, and cultivating the many talents God has given us.

Est. 1966



Queen of Apostles Vision Statement

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

Joining Our Parish Family

Welcome to Queen of Apostles! We warmly invite you to join our parish family. So that you might receive all of our parish communications, and so that our clergy and staff may respond appropriately to your various sacramental needs, we encourage you to register at Queen of Apostles through the Parish Office or on our website queenofapostles.org. Parish registration forms are available in the Church vestibule and at the Parish Office, located at 4329 Sano Street (next to the church). Please notify the Parish Office of any family status changes or if you have moved outside the parish by calling (703) 354-8711 ext. 10, or e-mailing general@queenofapostles.org

PASTOR'S LETTER

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Today, Jesus challenges us because the question He asks today is obvious and direct: "But who do you say that I am?" At first glance, this question seems very easy to answer but is more than a question, because it involves all our spiritual being and everything we believe in. The answer we give will determine our behavior and our way of living; therefore, the answer must be sincere and transparent. As a Christian, one must ask oneself who is Jesus for me and what I recognize in Him; because from a faith received and transmitted by witnesses (parents, catechists, priests, teachers, friends), we have passed to a personalized faith in Jesus Christ. Through this, we have also become witnesses, since that is the essential core of the Christian faith. If we never come up with a clear answer, we will never grow in our following as disciples. May this Sunday's Gospel lead us to a deep and mature reflection on our faith in Jesus and on our relationship with Him.

I thank all of you, who, as parishioners, manifest your faith in the Lord, overcome fear every Sunday and come to meet Him in the Eucharist. We have seen an increase in attendance every weekend. I continue to pray for you, and that soon all this is over, and we can meet as a community; Many have asked me when we will have the regular times of the Eucharists again, and I want you to know that I wish it to be soon. Still, everything will depend on what our bishop decides, but now I hope that by the end of this month, we can begin to celebrate the Mass at 5:00 PM on Saturdays, thus giving a new opportunity to attend with more peace of mind. In the same way, I want to remind you of the confession times: Wednesday after the 8:00 AM Mass, Thursday at 7:00 PM during the holy hour, on Fridays at 6:30 PM and Saturdays at 3:30 PM, we usually confess in the parking lot in front of the parish office, only if it is raining then we confess inside the church, but if anyone wants to confess at another time, do not hesitate to call us. We will be happy to receive you at the office.

I also want to inform you that we will now celebrate baptisms on Saturdays at 10:30 AM, this to have more time to perform the ceremony, and that parents and godparents can later have time to celebrate as a family. The change was made thanks to some of your requests, and because many of our parishioners were going to baptize their children in other parishes because the days and times did not favor them, I hope that now everyone can celebrate their sacraments here in our parish. Many thanks to those who had the confidence to suggest the change and what your needs are.

I also want to take this opportunity to share with you that we started a new Mass in Spanish last Sunday at 1:30 PM. It was a success as more than 200 people attended. I was happy to see so many of our parishioners, I certainly did not expect so many of you, I hope you persevere, coming every Sunday and so we can keep this Mass. It is a blessing to be able to have another Mass for our parishioners.

Finally, I welcome all our teachers who returned to work last Monday and have begun preparations to welcome the students. With the celebration of Holy Mass, we have started asking God for His blessing to overcome the challenges that we might encounter this year due to the pandemic. It will not be easy! Still, with our trust in God, we can do a good job. I ask everyone to pray for our teachers that I am more than sure they will do everything to teach and protect our children.

I entrust myself to your prayers, and I ask you to feel free to contact me either by phone or by email. I am here to serve you and help you with any spiritual need you may have, and I desire that together we will walk, grow and get closer to the Lord, as your pastor, I ask you to have confidence and reach out when you need me.

I have you in my prayers, and may Our Lady, Queen of Apostles, intercede for us and lead us to her son.

Fr. Alex



Masses This Week

Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time - August 23:

8:00 am +Francisco Javier Alvarez
10:00 am Living & Deceased Parishioners
12:00 pm +Maria Villaseca
1:30 pm (L) Fr. Juan Espino

St. Bartholomew - August 24:

8:00 am +Anale Thi Sen

St. Louis IX - Tuesday, August 25:

8:00 am +Michael Mahsetky

Wednesday, August 26:

8:00 am +Vivencio Antonio Valdez

St. Monica - Thursday, August 27:

8:00 am +Vivencio Antonio Valdez

St. Augustine - Friday, August 28:

8:00 am +Ruth Flachsmann

Passion of St. John the Baptist - Saturday, August 29

8:00 am (L) Doreen Ahakuelo
7:00 pm +Holy Souls in Purgatory

Please note that since we currently have a modified Mass schedule due to COVID, Mass intentions not listed will be said at private Masses said by our priests. We are sorry for any inconvenience this may have caused. Please call the parish office at (703) 354-8711 ext. 10 with any questions

COVER SAINT: ROSE OF LIMA

Feast Day: August 23

St. Rose of Lima, born Isabel de Flores y del Oliva, in 1586, was called Rose by her mother because of her red cheeks. To support her family, she grew flowers and did embroidery and needlework. She took a vow of virginity at a young age, and at age 20 she joined a Dominican Tertiary. St.



Rose practiced extreme mortification, following in the footsteps of St. Catherine of Siena. She spent her life serving the poor, Indians, and slaves. She died in 1617 at the age of 31. She is the patroness of Peru, South America, gardeners, and florists.

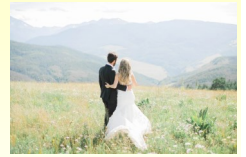
DOA MISSIONS APPEAL

AUG 22-23: This weekend's second collection, part of the 2020 Diocesan Mission Appeal, will be for the **Diocese of Kumbo!** The Diocese of Kumbo is in the West Central African country of **Cameroon**. Due to the current socio-political crisis in Cameroon which has left many dead and thousands more homeless, orphaned and vulnerable, the diocese appeals for your support to help them provide healing and rehabilitation for these children. This will be done by constructing a **women empowerment center** where the young girls and women can be provided with counselling services and the training that will help them to avoid falling into the unfortunate ills of prostitution and human trafficking as a means of survival. Donate at arlingtonmissions.org/donate-to-diocese-of-kumbo/



Celebrating A Silver or Golden Wedding Anniversary This Year?

Were you married in 1970 or 1995? Then join Bishop Michael F. Burbidge for the 2020 Mass for Jubilarians to be celebrated on **Sunday, October 4th at 2:30 p.m.** at the Cathedral of St. Thomas More in Arlington, VA. Space is limited. Contact the parish office (703-354-8711 ext. 10) to register no later than **September 18th.**



"You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you."

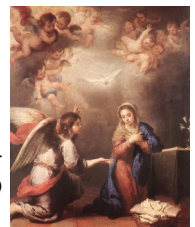
-St. Augustine of Hippo

2020 Respect Life Conference The Diocese of Arlington Respect Life conference will be **September 12, 2020** from **8am-12:30pm** at **Holy Spirit Parish** in Annandale. Come for an assessment of current and potential threats to human life and dignity, as well as suggestions for effective practical grassroots response. Bishop Burbidge will offer opening comments before the program. Speakers include Victoria Cobb, President of the Family Foundation, Olivia Gans Turner, President of the Virginia Society for Human Life, and Jeff Caruso, Executive Director of VA Catholic Conference. Visit arlingtondiocese.org/rlc to register. The registration cost is \$10.


The Diocese of Arlington
Respect Life Conference

Get involved with Queen of Apostles Young Adults!

Our mission is to inspire single and married young adults, ages 18-39, to answer the universal call to sainthood through fellowship and formation.



We are starting our first Zoom Bible Study! The topic is **The Bible and the Virgin Mary** with Dr. Scott Hahn. We will hold the Bible Study every Tuesday at 6pm. For more information or to get added to our list, contact John Cosgayon at 571-265-9208 or jncos95@outlook.com or text QOFA to 84576

Have you signed up for Parish electronic giving through Faith Direct? To join **Faith Direct**, start by **simply focusing your phone camera on this QR code!** You can also visit faithdirect.net and enroll online using our Parish code: **VA234** **Thank you for your support!**



FAITH DIRECT
inspiring secure giving®

† RELIGIOUS EDUCATION †

Called to be a Catechist, Aide, or Volunteer?

Thank you to those who responded to our call for catechists/aides. We have **2 more openings** and invite you to consider teaching the Catholic faith to our parish youth. The Religious Education school year begins on **Sept 13**. Don't be afraid that you don't know every detail of the faith—part of being a catechist involves an openness to learning as you teach. As a catechist, you make a Sunday morning commitment to guide a class. Our Religious Education Program uses the **Faith and Life series** which provides calendars, lesson plans, and activities. We provide you with materials, support, and faith/professional development opportunities. Attendance at a **Virtus seminar** and completion of **Virginia Background Check** paperwork are required. If interested, please contact Susan Gray at s.gray@queenofapostles.org

A **Second Collection** for our RE/RCIA Programs will be held **Sept. 12-13**. Your generosity helps fund materials and activities for Religious Education and RCIA students.

"Those who instruct many in virtue will shine like stars for all eternity." - St. Joseph Calasanz (feast day August 25)

RCIA

Were you baptized Catholic but missing Confirmation, Eucharist? Are you interested in Learning about the Catholic Faith? Are you in a Sacramental Marriage?

If you answered **"Yes"** to any of these questions, you should **register for RCIA!** The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is the process through which adults join or complete their initiation into the Catholic Church. RCIA is for 3 groups of adults:

- * Those who are not baptized.
- * Those who were baptized into another Christian denomination and wish to enter into full communion with the Catholic Church.
- * Baptized Catholics who were not fully formed in the Catholic faith and have not completed their initiation: those who have not received the Sacraments of Confirmation and/or Eucharist.



If you are missing Sacraments, not in a Church marriage, or thinking about becoming Catholic, please join our weekly English or Spanish adult faith formation classes. **RCIA in English** will be held on **Tuesdays, 7-8:30pm** beginning **Sept 22**.

Please stop by the parish office (4329 Sano Street) to register for the next school year (**Sept 2020-June 2021**) or email s.gray@queenofapostles.org. Please provide your birth certificate, and, if applicable, your baptismal certificate dated in the last 6 months.

For couples married outside of the Church, our priests are willing to help you prepare for the Sacrament of Matrimony, an important step to receiving the other Sacraments and living the Catholic faith as a family. Please contact the office and set an appointment to meet with a priest.

Religious Education Registration

Dates: Registration for the **Sept 13, 2020-May 30, 2021** Religious Education school year at Queen of Apostles is open to students in **kindergarten (age 5) - high school**. Thank you to the families who have registered already. Our volunteer catechists and aides are preparing to help teach the Catholic faith to your child. Religious Education classes, taught in English, are on Sundays, **9-10:15am** in the school. On **Sept 13**, doors open at **8am**. **Advance registration is required**. We are planning for in-person Religious Education classes with an on-line option available. **Please note that there are only a few spaces left in our 3rd and 8th grade classes!**

Safety: To comply with safety protocols, class size is limited, masks/face shields are to be worn, hand sanitizer will be used upon entering the school building, students will report directly to class, only catechists, aides, and registration volunteers may enter the school, and disinfection will occur before and after classes. The on-line/at-home learning option (through **MyCatholicFaithDelivered.com** + a monthly Sunday morning class via video with the catechist and in-person class) is available to students who are not in a sacramental year and who have a computer and internet access. Please understand that our planning may change as conditions change. We are working with the Diocesan Office of Faith Formation on balancing safety protocols with student learning and faith formation.

Registration fees: After Aug 1: **\$75** for 1 child, **\$125** for 2 children, **\$155** for 3 children in the same family + **\$20 late fee**. New students are to provide birth and baptismal (dated in the last 6 months) certificates with the registration form and tuition. Visit queenofapostles.org (Faith Formation > Religious Education) or go to <https://rb.gy/baixkk> to register. Please complete a registration form for each child and read the updated policies. If you have difficulties paying tuition, please talk with Susan Gray (s.gray@queenofapostles.org or 703-354-8711 ext. 16) because a financial hardship should not impede your child's faith formation.

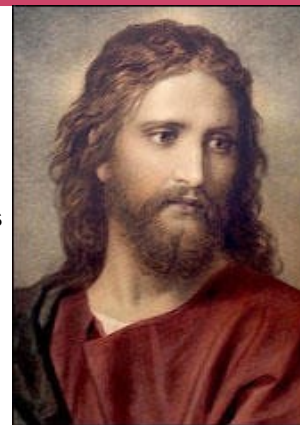
Requirements: Each RE school year builds on the next year of faith formation, therefore, students **must attend at least 2 consecutive years of Religious Education** before a Sacrament is administered. A student is to show evidence of desire and preparation for a Sacrament and **not have more than 3 absences** during the school year. Generally, baptized children receive First Penance/First Holy Communion in grade 2 and higher and Confirmation is received in grade 8 and higher. Families with unbaptized children under 7 years old are asked to call the parish office at 703-354-8711 ext. 10. Together with our catechists and aides, 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. **Homeschool families** with children preparing for Sacraments this upcoming school year should call 703-354-8711 ext. 16 or email s.gray@queenofapostles.org

GOSPEL REFLECTION

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time: Who is He?

Fr. Joseph Rampino

"Who do people say that I am?" The fact that this is the question we hear Christ ask His apostles today tells us a great deal about who He is and the truth of His mission. As much as this is a familiar passage for us, the question is a strange one for an itinerant rabbi. We might expect a travelling teacher to ask questions of His students, but we would expect his questions to focus on his teaching. Have the disciples understood the lessons? Have the teachings been getting through to the crowds? Are there points that need further clarification, or questions that still remain? We would certainly not expect someone entirely committed to the purpose of conveying a message to make a big deal about what people think of him personally. It seems vain perhaps, or at least off topic. Yet Christ stops His disciples along the road in order to ask them this exact question: who do people say that I am? The nature of His mission is such that this question is in fact incredibly important. Christ did not come just to bring a message or to do and encourage good works. He came so that people might meet Him and believe in Him, and so find eternal life. His identity as the true Son of the Father is His mission.



"Who do you say that I am?" Since the purpose of Christ's mission is that we should meet Him and so find salvation, we each must answer this question for ourselves. Who do I say that Jesus Christ is? Do I, along with the world, say that He is a political activist, religious reformer, wandering preacher, wonder worker, healer, philosopher, or simply the nicest of guys? Do I say that He is something respectable, but ultimately merely human, merely inspirational? Do I, along with Peter, say that He is the Christ, the Son of the living God? Do I say, along with the Church, that He is God Himself among us in the flesh, true God and true man, the only-begotten Son of the Father, the Word through whom all things were made, the King of Kings, the Lord of all, the Lamb slain for my soul, the Way, the Truth, and the Life of my own heart? The answer to this question determines everything for my soul, both in time and in eternity. To be Christian is to stake our life on the identity of Jesus of Nazareth. May God grant us the grace to do so with boldness, joy, and the gratitude that gives invincible courage.



Wednesday Adoration Every Wednesday, from **8:45am-8pm**, we will have Eucharistic Adoration in the main sanctuary. Please make an effort to spent time with our Lord in prayer-He is waiting for you! Confessions are available outside immediately following Exposition. Call the parish office at (703)-354-8711 ext. 10 if there is no one else in the church and you need to leave.

"St. Joseph, as a model of quiet prayer and closeness to Jesus, also invites us to think about the time we devote to prayer each day." - Pope Francis

Vocations

"Thou art Christ, the Son of the living God." Is God calling you to serve His Son in the priesthood? If so, call Fr. Michael Isenberg at (703) 841-2514



Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Or who has given the Lord anything that he may be repaid?" - ROMANS 11:35

St. Paul reminds us of a central fact of stewardship. We cannot give the Lord anything - God already owns it all. God made everything. All we can do is return a portion of God's many gifts back to Him. Sincere gratitude for our gifts opens our hearts to joyful generosity! Through your generous sharing, you just may be the answer to someone's prayer.

"To fall in love with God is the greatest romance, to seek Him the greatest adventure, to find him the greatest human achievement."

-St. Augustine of Hippo, Bishop, Theologian, and Doctor of the Church (feast day August 28)

Please pray for the members of our parish who are ill

Jin C. Navarro, Leo Monterroso, Etelvina León-Duarte, Ginny Cook, Olivia Castillo Asnis, Maria Reyes, Anna Anderson, Michelle Jacobeen, Jean McDermott, Anne Kemble, Tesfa Haile, Virginia Shea, Joseph Lipari, Rosa María Santos, Carmelita Mate, Leonor Cabrestane, Roger Trozado, Jeanie Miller, Maddie Respicio-Cabatic, Helen Brooks, Charles Ferris, Dominic Blansett, Linda Intihar, Melencio Morales, Reyes Duran, Luong Bui, Nick Tullier, Rose Maalouf, Nicole Pack, Barbara J. Banis, Numa Osuna, Jr., Timmy Burnway, Kathleen Donohoe, Mark Bush, Margaret Peiffer, Rita Sulit, Jason Banis, Emma Collins, Juana Mejia, Lisa Nyce, Monique Brooks, Debby Spracht, Consuelo Jocson, Cheryl McGlynn, Theresa Corcoran, Cordelia Carcamo, Russ and Jill Amerling, Dorothy Norpel, Kathy Ippolito, Richard Esterlund, Margaret Fiore, Michael Robertson, Mr. Cervantes, Jocelyn Reyes, Wilma Robles, Maryann McNutt

