

QUEEN OF APOSTLES CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

Gaudete Sunday - December 13, 2020



CLERGY

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

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday: 8:00 am, 5:00 & 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-Friday: 6:30 & 9:00 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

OFFICE HOURS

Mon-Fri, 9:30 am-12 pm; 12:30 pm to 5 pm



QUEEN OF APOSTLES CATHOLIC SCHOOL

FAITH, EXCELLENCE, JOY

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

SCHOOL OFFICE HOURS:

Mon – Thurs, 8:00 am – 3:15 pm
Friday, 8:00 am – 2:15 pm

STAFF

Anne Arias, Principal
Maria Fox, Secretary
Fr. Joseph Rampino,
Chaplain

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

PASTOR'S LETTER

Dear Parishioners,

This Sunday is extraordinary in the Church because we celebrate "Gaudete Sunday," Gaudete is the Latin word meaning "rejoice." It is exceptional because the priest and deacon dress in a rose color and the third candle of the Advent wreath is also a similar color. It is beautiful because of the atmosphere of preparation and sacrifice of this time; an attentive attitude of waiting for the Savior's arrival. The liturgy pauses to invite us to remember that we have to look forward to it with joy. That is why it is called Sunday of Joy. The name dates back to when the celebration of the mass was in Latin; the priest in the opening antiphon invited people to rejoice, saying: "Gaudete in Domino semper: iterum dico, Gaudete. . . Dominus prope est." which means "Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I say, rejoice. . . The Lord is near" (Phil. 4, 4-5). May we rejoice this Sunday at all the goods and benefits that the Lord has given us. We must have a positive attitude towards all the good and the beautiful that He gives us. Let's wait for the Christmas celebration in joy and peace.

I want to remind you that on Thursday, the 17th of this month at 7:00 pm, we will have an Advent Penance Service in preparation for Christmas. The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed, we will do a short meditation, and priests will hear confessions. We will have some visiting priests so that there is more opportunity for many parishioners to be able to confess. I invite you to come and prepare yourself to celebrate the great Christmas feast. I know that some are afraid to go out, but do not worry; you have to have faith in God and seek His grace.

This week you have received an email with a survey about the Christmas Masses. The survey is not to register to attend Mass, but for us to get an idea of how many will come; that way, we can prepare the Church for social distancing. We have tried to adapt the Mass schedule so that many can attend. I also know that many like to participate. Do not forget that it is Christmas! For this reason, we have adapted an extra mass on the 24th at 11 pm. Please keep in mind that the capacity for each Mass is 250. I ask that you please respond as soon as you can.

Some of you have also expressed to me that you have not received the envelopes for Sunday offerings. If you have signed up for Faith Direct, the envelopes automatically stop being mailed. If you have not done so, let us know, and someone from the parish office will review your situation and have them mailed to you as soon as possible. I am very grateful that you worry about sending the weekly donation; thanks to your help, the parish continues its journey, and we can make more progress. God bless you for loving your parish and for your valuable gifts.

As you have already realized, the parish ceiling painting is almost complete. The sanctuary looks new; as for me, I am excited to see how illuminated and bright the altar is. I am aware that the ongoing work has brought discomfort to many, but this is a sacrifice that we make to improve our parish and give the proper maintenance it deserves. As we continue the work, we find more problems in the walls and other sanctuary areas that are damaged. We will repair them one at a time.

Finally, this week probably the Blessed Sacrament will not be in the sanctuary, but we will place it in the Adoration Chapel. Only four people can be inside of the chapel at the same time. You must wear a mask at all times and follow the social distancing guidelines. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

God Bless you,

Fr. Alex



Christmas at Queen of Apostles

December 24 - Christmas Eve
5 pm, 7 pm, 9 pm (Spanish), 11 pm

December 25 - Christmas Day
8 am, 10 am, 12 pm (Spanish)

† RELIGIOUS EDUCATION †

Religious Education Information

Religious Education students in grade 8-high school who are eligible for Confirmation are to submit his/her Patron saint report/poster to the catechist by **Dec 13, 2020**. QofA School students/families are to confirm due dates/projects with the school teacher, Miss Hang. Confirmation sponsors need to obtain a Certificate of Eligibility from his/her home parish. Generally, the sponsor makes an appointment to meet with his/her parish priest to obtain the Certificate. The Sponsor Certificate is due **Jan 10, 2021**. Students who did not attend the Nov 21 retreat will attend the **Jan 16, 2021** retreat at Queen of Apostles.

On **Sunday, Dec. 13**, Fr. Diaz will meet with Religious Education parents of students who are eligible for First Penance/ First Holy Communion this school year, English at 9am and Spanish at 9:30am. Baptized students, who are in grade 2 and above and have attended no less than two years of Religious Education and show evidence of desire for the sacraments, are eligible. Parents are to meet in Hannan Hall, wearing a face mask and abiding by social distancing/safety protocols.

*Religious Education classes will not meet **Dec 20, 27, 2020** and **Jan 3, 2021**.* At home work/projects may be assigned and due on **Jan 10** when classes resume.

Safety: We respectfully ask each family to consider quarantining (not being around those outside your immediate circle or visiting high risk areas as noted by the CDC) starting on the morning of Wednesday, **January 6, 2021** through the morning of Sunday, **January 10, 2021**. COVID-19 symptoms can start as early as 2 days and as long as 14 days after exposure. The average time that symptoms appear is around 4 - 5 days, hence, the rationale for quarantining with your child (ren) for at least 4 days before returning to Religious Education on **Jan. 10, 2021** to monitor for developing symptoms. If symptoms develop, please contact your primary Health Care Provider immediately, do not attend Religious Education class, and send a message to s.gray@queenofapostles.org. We greatly value your partnership in taking extra precautions to keep Queen of Apostles parish, school, and Religious Education communities safe and healthy.

QUEEN OF APOSTLES
**Confirmation
Retreat**
For Grade 8 - High school Students!
JAN 16, 2021
Registration form can be found on the Parish Website
<https://queenofapostles.org/religious-education/>

RCIA Adults who have not submitted birth, baptismal (dated in the last 6 months), and marriage certificates (if applicable) to the parish office are asked to do so by **Dec 15, 2020**.

Altar Servers—Serving our Lord in the Eucharist The Diocese has given us permission to have 2-3 altar servers present at each Sunday Mass (currently 8am, 10am, 12noon) and other Masses to assist with the sacred liturgy. Seasoned and new servers are invited. If your son is willing to serve at Holy Mass, please send a message to Susan Gray at s.gray@queenofapostles.org or talk with Fr. Rampino. The December Mass schedule has been sent to families. Boys are asked to arrive no less than 15 min before Mass, wear dress shoes, bring a face mask, use the upper sacristy and wait for the priest.



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.

Please notify the Parish Office of any family status changes or if you have moved outside the parish by contacting (703) 354-8711 ext. 10, or general@queenofapostles.org

✠ PARISH LIFE ✠

Masses This Week

Gaudete Sunday - Sunday, December 13:

8:00 am (L) Fr. Javier O'Connor
10:00 am Living and Deceased Parishioners
12:00 pm +Mercedes Henning
1:30 pm +Mercedes Merino

St. John of the Cross - Monday, December 14:

6:30 am (L) Fr. Jaime de Cendra
9:00 am (L) Fr. Javier O'Connor

Tuesday, December 15:

6:30 am (L) Fr. Javier O'Connor
9:00 am +Elsa Blank

Wednesday, December 16:

6:30 am +Paul Mickey Walker
9:00 am +Maria Villaseca

Thursday, December 17:

6:30 am (L) Fr. Jaime de Cendra, DCJM
9:00 am +Marcel Dupuy

Friday, December 18:

6:30 am (L) Fr. Javier O'Connor, DCJM
9:00 am +Presoilo B. Lapada, Sr.

Saturday, December 19:

8:00 am +Carol Cole
5:00 pm +Mary and Ethel Hetsko
7:00 pm +Santiago & Maria Isabel Contreras

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:



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Thank you for your support!



December 14 - St. John of the Cross

Cross Born in 1541, St. John of the Cross grew up in poverty and was drawn to the contemplative life. His soul longed for mystical union with God that his piety offended members of his order, including its head. The turning point of his life came in 1567 when he met Teresa of Avila, a kindred spirit who was looking for a partner in her Carmelite reform movement. She appointed him prior of the first community of discalced friars. Later, John of the Cross served as a spiritual director at her convent. John wrote: "Contemplation is nothing else but a secret, peaceful, and loving infusion of God, which if admitted, will set the soul on fire with the Spirit of love." In 1577, he was imprisoned for nine months during which he wrote about his "dark night of the soul."

Advent Penance Service

Prepare the way of the Lord

Thursday, December 17
7:00 pm

Advent Angel Tree is set up in the back of the Church. Unwrapped gifts need to be returned to the church the weekend of **Dec. 12/13**. We will be accepting clothing, books and educational toys only. No gift cards, please. Gifts returned earlier than Dec. 12 need to be brought directly to the parish office. Thank you for your generosity!



ACCA Food Pantry Collections Because of the increased need for emergency food supplies, we will continue to collect donations on **Saturday December 19** at the food pantry located at 7200 Columbia Pike (trailer separate from the day care center). Weekday food collections also will take place from 1 – 5 p.m. on Monday – Friday. Pantry volunteers are following social distancing guidelines while volunteering at the pantry and we encourage visitors to keep the health and safety of our volunteers in mind while donating. The Food Pantry needs volunteer food captains and delivery personnel. If you have a few hours to help on weekdays, contact pantry@accacares.org. For the latest list of most-needed items visit the ACCA website.

Give a Gift for Life Please give a Gift for Life this season to help Gabriel Project fund a mother's maternity care. An expectant mother wrote: "I give thanks for the prayers and intervention of the people who were outside the abortion clinic and I decided to call Gabriel Project. Now thanks to them I have my first medical appointment to see how my baby is doing and it really is a blessing for everything I have received." Tags can be found on our Advent Angel tree once the children's tags are all taken.

Gospel Commentary for the Third Sunday of Advent: The Cause of Our Joy

Fr. Joseph Rampino

“The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because He has anointed me. He has sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor.” This text from our first reading today reveals for us the cause of the joy we celebrate on this Third Sunday of Advent. The change in color, from the purple of waiting and penitence to the rosy pink of lightheartedness and rejoicing tells us that the time to Christmas is more than half past, and we are very much near the days of celebration, but it is the readings that remind us what the joy of that coming day is really about.

We look forward to the day of Christmas, rejoicing when it draws near, because we need a Savior. We may find ourselves, perhaps this year more than others, in those groups the prophet Isaiah mentions. We are in some ways poor and in need, perhaps brokenhearted, captive in sin, or feeling like prisoners in our homes, wondering if God will still show us His favor. Into such experiences of fear and discouragement, the Lord shouts this message through the prophet: “a year of favor from the Lord, and a day of vindication by our God!”

The heart of Advent and Christmas joy is that in the Christ child, God declares to us His favor, and brings an end to our spiritual poverty, healing to our sorrows, freedom from our sins, and an interior freedom that nothing can take from us. This joy, then, is not naïve or merely optimistic, not an opiate to calm our frayed nerves and keep us contented. The joy that comes from the announcement of the liberty that God brings is a force that confronts our fears and sufferings directly, meeting them with the reality of God’s love and presence. Far from keeping us calm and sedate, this joy fills us with hope and courage, both of which spur us on to act in love.

Even though Christmas might seem different this year, with our world still living in uncertainty and under new rules, the truth at the heart of everything has not changed. This Sunday calls us to rejoice in the liberating coming of our God, in that He has already conquered sin and sorrow forever, and to help spread knowledge of that victory to every heart. May the rose color we light and wear today help us to build up our hearts in hope, and run well the last few steps to the Christmas feast!



Have you committed to our Capital Campaign?

There is much to be done to maintain our Parish facilities, and you could help make it all possible. Please prayerfully consider either making a pledge or a one-time gift if you have not already done so. We have sent out letters to those families who have not yet pledged to provide more information on how their contributions will help with essential renovations and safety upgrades in our beautiful Church. Installments can be made through Faith Direct, PayPal, and other forms of electronic giving as well as by check. We sincerely thank you for your generosity.



Please pray for the sick members of our parish

Jin C. Navarro, Leo Monterroso, Etelvina León-Duarte, Ginny Cook, Olivia Castillo Asnis, Maria Reyes, Anna Anderson, Jean McDermott, Anne Kemble, 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, Mark Bush, Margaret Peiffer, Rita Sulit, Jason Banis, Emma Collins, Juana Mejia, Lisa Nyce, Monique Brooks, Debby Spraht, Consuelo Jocson, Cheryl McGlynn, Theresa Corcoran, Cordelia Carcamo, Russ and Jill Amerling, Richard Esterlund, Margaret Fiore, Michael Robertson, Mr. Cervantes, Jocelyn Reyes, Wilma Robles, Maryann McNutt

CARTA DEL PÁRROCO

Queridos Parroquianos

Este domingo es muy especial en la iglesia, porque celebremos el “Domingo de “Gaudete” y es muy especial porque el sacerdote y el diacono se visten de color rosa, como también la tercera vela de la corona de adviento es también rosa. Es particularmente bello porque dentro del ambiente de espera y austeridad de este tiempo, en atenta actitud de espera por la llegada del salvador la liturgia hace una pausa para invitarnos a recordar que tenemos que espéralo con alegría, por eso es llamado el domingo de la alegría, este nombre proviene de cuando se celebraba la misa en Latin el sacerdote en la antífona inicial invitaba a estar alegres cuando decía: “Gaudete in Domino Semper. Interum dico: Gaudete. Dominus prope est” que quiere decir “Alégrense siempre en el Señor. Repito: Alégrense, pues El, está cerca” (Fil.4, 4-5). Que este domingo nos alegremos ante todos los bienes y bondades que el Señor nos ha dado, debemos de tener una actitud positiva ante todo lo bueno y lo bello que nos da. Esperemos la celebración de navidad en alegría y en paz.

Quiero recordarles que el jueves 17 de este mes a las 7:00pm tendremos un acto penitencial como preparación a la navidad, se va a exponer el Santísimo y luego haremos una corta meditación, , luego los sacerdotes nos iremos a escuchar confesiones, tendremos algunos sacerdotes visitantes para que haya más oportunidad de hacerlo. Les invito a que vengan y se preparen así a celebrar la gran fiesta de la navidad, sé que algunos tienen miedo de salir, pero no se preocupen hay que tener fe en Dios y buscar su gracia.

Esta semana han recibido un email donde estamos haciendo una encuesta sobre cuantos y a que misas planean venir, esta encuesta no es para registrarse y poder entrar, sino para nosotros tener una idea de cuantos vendrán y a que misas van a participar, hemos intentado adaptar las misas para que muchos puedan asistir, no olviden que es navidad y sé que a muchos les gusta participar, por ello hemos adaptado una misa extra el 24 por la noche ya que solo pueden entrar 250 personas por cada misa. Les pido por favor que respondan lo más pronto que puedan.

También, algunos de ustedes me han expresado que no han recibido los sobres de las ofrendas dominicales, les hago saber que si ustedes usan Faith Direct, automáticamente los sobres dejan de llegarles, si no lo han hecho entonces hágnanos saber a la oficina parroquial para revisar que está pasando, y que puedan recibirlos lo más pronto posible. Les agradezco mucho el que estén pendientes de enviar la donación semanal, gracias a su ayuda la parroquia sigue su rumbo y vamos avanzando más. Dios les bendiga por amar su parroquia y sus valiosas donaciones.

Como ya se han dado cuenta, el cielo de la parroquia ya está casi finalizado, nuestro templo parece nuevo, me emociona ver lo iluminado que esta el altar y lo blanco que se ve, sé que ha habido incomodidades por los trabajos, pero todo esto es un sacrificio que hacemos para mejorarlo y darle el mantenimiento debido, sepan que en la medida que vamos trabajando vamos encontrando muchas partes de las paredes y otras áreas del templo que están dañadas, por tanto las iremos reparando poco a poco.

Finalmente, esta semana probablemente el Santísimo Sacramento no estará en el templo, sino que lo colocaremos en la Capilla de adoración, para más respeto, pueden pasar a orar a la capilla, solamente cuatro personas pueden estar dentro y con las mascarillas debidamente colocadas.

Que Dios les bendiga.

P. Alex

Navidad en la Reina de los Apóstoles

24 de Diciembre

5 pm, 7 pm, 9 pm (En Español), 11 pm

25 de Diciembre

8 am, 10 am, 12 pm (En Español)

Misas esta semana

Domingo 13 de diciembre:

8:00 am (L) Fr. Javier O'Connor
10:00 am Living and Deceased Parishioners
12:00 pm +Mercedes Henning
1:30 pm +Mercedes Merino

Lunes 14 de diciembre:

6:30 am (L) Fr. Jaime de Cendra
9:00 am (L) Fr. Javier O'Connor

Martes 15 de diciembre:

6:30 am (L) Fr. Javier O'Connor
9:00 am +Elsa Blank

Miércoles 16 de diciembre:

6:30 am +Paul Mickey Walker
9:00 am +Maria Villaseca

Jueves 17 de diciembre:

6:30 am (L) Fr. Jaime de Cendra, DCJM
9:00 am +Marcel Dupuy

Viernes 18 de diciembre:

6:30 am (L) Fr. Javier O'Connor, DCJM
9:00 am +Presoilo B. Lapada, Sr.

Sabado 19 de diciembre:

8:00 am +Carol Cole
5:00 pm +Mary and Ethel Hetsko
7:00 pm +Santiago & Maria Isabel Contreras

¿Te has suscrito a la donación electrónica de la Parroquia a través de Faith Direct? Para unirse a



Faith Direct, comience simplemente enfocando la cámara de su teléfono en este código QR! También puede visitar faithdirect.net e in-

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scribirse en línea utilizando nuestro código parroquial: **VA234**



14 de diciembre: San Juan de la Cruz

Nacido en 1541, San Juan de la Cruz creció en la pobreza y se sintió atraído por la vida contemplativa. Su alma anhelaba la unión mística con Dios que su piedad ofendió a los miembros de su orden, incluyendo su cabeza.

El punto de inflexión de su vida llegó en 1567 cuando conoció a Teresa de Avila, que buscaba pareja en su movimiento reformista carmelita. Ella lo nombró antes de la primera comunidad de frailes descalzas. Más tarde, Juan de la Cruz sirvió como director espiritual en su convento. En 1577, fue encarcelado durante nueve meses durante los cuales escribió sobre su "noche oscura del alma".

El "Advent Angel Tree" se instalará en la parte trasera de la iglesia a partir del fin de semana del 28 al 29 de noviembre. Los regalos sin envolver deben devolverse a la iglesia el fin de semana del 13 de diciembre. Este año aceptaremos ropa, libros y juguetes/juegos educativos solamente. No tarjetas de regalo, por favor. Los regalos devueltos antes del 12 de diciembre deben llevarse directamente a la oficina parroquial. ¡Gracias por tu generosidad!

Colecta para la despensa de alimentos de

ACCA Debido a la gran necesidad de suministros de alimentos de emergencia, continuaremos recolectando donaciones el sábado 19 de diciembre en la despensa de alimentos. Las colectas de alimentos entre semana también se llevarán a cabo de 1 a 5 p.m. de lunes a viernes. La despensa de alimentos necesita voluntarios que sirvan como capitanes y personal de entrega. Si tiene algunas horas para ayudar entre semana, comuníquese con pantry@accacares.org.

De un Regalo por la Vida Por favor, de un Regalo por la Vida esta temporada para ayudar al Proyecto Gabriel a financiar el cuidado de maternidad de una madre. Una futura madre escribió: "Doy gracias por las oraciones y la intervención de las personas que estaban fuera de la clínica de abortos y decidí llamar a Proyecto Gabriel. Ahora gracias a ellos tengo mi primera cita médica para ver cómo está mi bebé y realmente es una bendición todo lo que he recibido".

CELEBRACIÓN PENITENCIAL EN ADVIENTO
Preparen el camino del Señor

Jueves, 17 de diciembre
7:00 pm


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