

QUEEN OF APOSTLES CATHOLIC CHURCH

O God, who see how your people faithfully await the feast of the Lord's Nativity, enable us, we pray, to attain the joys of so great a salvation and to celebrate them always with solemn worship and glad rejoicing. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

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

CLERGY

Fr. Juan Espino, DCJM, Pastor
Fr. Javier O'Connor, DCJM, Parochial Vicar
Fr. Jaime de Cendra, DCJM, Parochial Vicar
Fr. Ignacio de Ribera, DCJM, In Residence
Deacon Richard C. Caporiccio

SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Vigil Masses on Saturday: 5:00 pm, 7:00 pm (in Spanish)
Sunday: 7:30 am, 9:00 am, 10:30 am,
12 Noon, 2:00 pm (Ghana Community)

WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Monday-Friday: 6:30 am and 9:00 am
No 6:30 am Mass on Federal Holidays
Saturday: 8:00 am

HOLY HOUR SCHEDULE

Thursday: 7:30-8:30 pm

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

Monday-Friday: 7:00-7:30 am
Wednesday: 6:30 pm until last penitent
Thursday: 7:30-8:30 pm during Holy Hour
Saturday: 4:00-5:00 pm and 6:00-7:00 pm
Sunday: 8:30-9:00 am and 10:00-10:30 am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Monday 7:00 am through Saturday 7:45 am

QUEEN OF APOSTLES CATHOLIC SCHOOL

4409 Sano Street,
Alexandria, VA 22312
Mrs. Anne Arias, Principal
Mrs. Maria Fox, Secretary
(703) 354-0714
www.queenofapostlesschool.org

Religious Education We wish our Religious Education families a prayerful Advent and a blessed Christmas season! Thank you to our 20 catechists and aides who volunteer their time to help teach the faith to our 172 Religious Education students.

RE classes will not meet on **Dec 22** and **29**, 2019. Classes resume on **Jan 5, 2020** with doors opening at 8:30 am.

Students in grade 8-high school who desire the Sacrament of Confirmation have these upcoming deadlines. **Jan 19:** Sponsor Certificate of Eligibility signed and sealed by the priest; **Feb 2:** Service hours and typed report; **Feb 22:** Retreat.

RCIA RCIA classes will not meet on **Dec 23** and **30, 2019**. Classes resume on **Jan 6, 2020**.

During Advent, we pray for our 20+ catechumens and candidates as they continue learning about and living the Catholic faith:



For our catechumens and candidates desiring union with the Catholic faith; that we support them as we reform our own lives and prepare the way of the Lord by making time for prayer and reflection on the Gospel. We pray, Come, Lord Jesus.

Simbang Gabi On **Dec 20 at 7:00 pm**, Queen of Apostles Catholic Church will host Simbang Gabi (pronounced seem-bang gab-bee), a 9 day novena Mass to the Blessed Mother which begins on **Dec. 15** and ends on **Dec. 23**. All are invited to attend. Light refreshments will follow in Hannan Hall after the Mass. We are seeking donors for food and in kind and also for volunteers. Please contact Nenita de Guzman at n_deguzman@queenofapostles.org of the Parish office or Cheryl Madlansacay (703)333-2809 or Lorynie Altejar at lattejar@gmail.com

Bulletin Deadlines The deadline for submitting announcements for the **Dec. 22** bulletin was **Dec.12**. The deadline for the **Dec. 29** bulletin is **Dec. 19**. Please email announcements to general@queenofapostles.org

Lectors Needed! Our parish had a successful Ministry Fair in September — however, we're still in need of volunteers to serve as Lectors/Readers at the 7:30 Sunday Masses. If you're interested, please see the Lector after Mass, or please contact the parish office.

Penance Service There will be a Penance service with the regular Holy Hour on **Dec. 19** from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. This is a great opportunity to receive the graces of the Sacrament just in time for Christmas.



Altar Servers Thank you to our altar servers for serving the Lord, the priest, and parishioners during the busy Advent and Christmas seasons. Remember to arrive at least 15 minutes before the start of Mass and to sign in. Sts. John Berchmans and Tarcisius, pray for us.

Mary's "yes" changed the world.

What's your "yes"?

This Advent, find out how your *yes* can transform your family, your community, and the world. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, one *yes* to God will transform the world by turning darkness to light, division to unity, and chaos to peace.

Join the movement:
www.arlingtondiocese.org/JustOneYes

#JUSTONEYES

To Progress in Love: Ignatian Spiritual Exercises in Spanish Queen of Apostles invites you to a weekend of Spiritual Exercises led by Fr. Javier O'Connor, DCJM that seeks to foster spiritual growth and an intimate encounter with God through reflections and contemplation in the silence of prayers. It is a three day retreat held in Spanish at the San Damiano Spiritual Life Center from **Feb. 13 - Feb.16, 2020**. Registration is now open. Please consider signing up early as spots fill up quickly by calling the Parish office at 703-354-8711.



Peace in the Womb: Pro-Life Christmas Caroling Please join us for Christmas caroling at the local Abortion mill, 5999 Stevenson Ave in Alexandria right across from the old location in the LANDMARK Towers. It's part of a National effort: <https://prolifeaction.org/action/caroling/> **Sat., Dec. 21** immediately following the 8 AM Mass at Queen of Apostles. We will have Hot Chocolate, Coffee and Donuts. Remember: One baby changed everything!



Christmas Decorations Thank you to our parishioners who will be decorating the church and vestibule for Christmas on **Dec. 23**. We are grateful to all who will be beautifying our sacred space for the Nativity of Our Lord.



Thank You for your generous contribution to the Poor Box. This weekend's collection will go toward the **School Fund**. Next weekend's collection will go toward the **Campaign for Human Development**.

Pastor's Letter

Gaudete Sunday

Gaudete. During the Third Sunday of Advent we are called to *Rejoice!* The people of Israel, according to Isaiah, were called to rejoice with the whole creation because the Lord is coming. We, too, have reason to rejoice. The splendor of God, the splendor of Truth, is made manifest in Christ who came to save us. We rejoice because Christ came and because He is coming again. "He comes to save you."



The Christian joy is different than the joy that the world promotes. The Christian joy comes from a friendship with Christ and a heart filled with gratitude for the gifts granted by the Creator. Moreover, it is borne from the knowledge that Christ has come and that He will come again. The world, on the other hand, proposes a "joy" that is different. It is a passing emotion and it is linked many times to what we possess. This 'joy' never lasts because we are too concerned and anxious about losing what we think we have.

Rejoice because the Lord God come to give us sight, to set us free from that thing that enslaves us. The Christian joy is rooted in the hope of what God can do, awaiting the precious fruit that will come. We need not look for another; Jesus, in whom our joy is rooted, is coming to save us. With joy in our hearts, we continue our Advent journey. As we pray "Come, Lord Jesus," may our desire for Christ's coming continue to grow.

A note of thanks to all of you who made a commitment to the Toward a Family of Families Capital Campaign this past weekend. Because of your generous contribution we reached 90% of our goal, which is 2.5 million. The funds that come in related to the capital campaign will be used exclusively toward the capital projects. If you were not ready to make your pledge last week, hopefully this week you will submit your pledge to help us get closer or perhaps surpass our goal. Again, thanks to all of you who were able to begin your contributions, making it possible to replace our HVAC units.

I am very pleased with all of the great things happening at our school. Please continue to follow our column in the bulletin. Beginning this week, we will introduce you to our amazing team of teachers at the school. This week, learn more about Fr. James, our school chaplain. It was announced that Bishop Burbidge will visit the school on January 28, 2020. We will keep you posted.

God bless you,

Fr. Juan

Christmas 2019

At Queen of Apostles Catholic Church

December 24, 2019 - Vigil of Christmas

Mass Times: 5 pm, 7pm (*Spanish*), 12 midnight

Confessions: 4-5 pm, 6-7 pm

December 25, 2019 - The Nativity of Our Lord

Mass Times: 8 am, 10 am, and 12 noon

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

December 31, 2019: 5 pm, 7pm (*Spanish*)

January 1, 2020: 8 am, 10 am, 12 noon

Epiphany Concert

January 3, 2020: 6-8:30 pm in the Church

Featuring our Parish Choir and Instrumentalists

Daily Mass will be offered at 9 am on Dec. 24 and 31, 2019

This Week In Our Parish

Third Sunday of Advent - December 15:

School 9:00-10:15 am Religious Education
School Gym 11:30 am-7pm CYO Basketball
Hannan Hall 2:00-5:30pm Ghana Group

Monday, December 16:

Hannan Hall 3:30-6:00 pm Nazareth
Parish Center & Notre Dame 7:30-9:00 pm RCIA

Tuesday, December 17:

Hannan Hall 3:00-5:00 pm Children's Choir Practice
Hannan Hall 7:00-9:00 pm Choir Practice

Wednesday, December 18:

Hannan Hall 7:00-9:00 pm Ghana Prayer Group
Parish Center 7:30-8:45pm Spanish Baptism Class

Thursday, December 19:

Parish Office 6:30-8:00 pm Legion of Mary
Church 6:30-8:30 pm Penance Service with Holy Hour

Friday, December 20:

Parish Office 12-5:00 pm Parish Office Closed
Adoration Chapel 3:00-4:00 pm Divine Mercy Chaplet

Saturday, December 21:

School 4:00-6:30 pm Spanish Prayer Group
School 7:00-9:00 pm Ghana Choir Practice
Notre Dame 8:00-10:00 pm Emmaus

Visit the Adoration Chapel during our hours of need! Our Chapel is open 24 hours a day, Monday 7 am through Saturday 8 am (midnight hours require a passcode for entry). Greatest hours of need include:



- **Tues., 4-5am, Wed. 12 midnight-1 am, 7-8 am *Critical need for permanent adorers*** Contact Alexa Urban at (703) 241-1096 or moleski47@gmail.com for these hours of need
- **Tues 3-4 pm; Wed 1-5 pm; Thurs 3-4 pm; Fri 2-3 pm *Critical need for a permanent adorer** Contact Rosalie Mainey at (703) 256-5765 or rosalieam@msn.com for these hours of need



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. 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 of the parish by calling (703) 354-8711, or e-mailing general@queenofapostles.org

Mary, Queen of Apostles, Pray for us!

Nourishing Our Souls With Holy Scripture

Readings for Next Week

Fourth Sunday of Advent

IS 7: 10-16
ROM 1: 1-7

PS 80: 1-7, 17-19
MT 1: 18-25



Vocations

Do you rejoice in the Lord? Is He asking you to consider a vocation as a priest, deacon or in the consecrated life? Call Father Michael Isenberg (703) 841-2514, or write: michael.isenberg@arlingtondiocese.org.

Third Sunday of Advent That the Lord will call members from our flock to "bring glad tidings to the poor and heal the brokenhearted" as a priest, deacon, religious brother or sister, we pray to the Lord.

Be an Angel, Help a Child Unwrapped gifts for the Angel Tree need to be returned to the church this weekend, **Dec. 14 & 15**. This year we will be accepting clothing, books and educational toys/games only. No gift cards, please. Thank you for your generosity in bringing the joy of Christmas to a child in need this year.

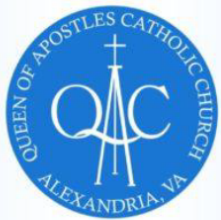


Novena for Advent Wreath



*Hail and blessed be the hour and the moment
in which the Son of God was born of the most pure
Virgin Mary at midnight in Bethlehem in the piercing cold
At that hour vouchsafe, O my God, to hear my
prayers and grant my desires (state your intentions
here) through the merits of our Savior Jesus Christ and
of His Most Blessed Mother.*

Amen.



Queen of Apostles Achieves \$2,250,000!

Last week during our first Commitment Weekend, 161 additional families made commitments totaling over \$400,000 bringing us to over 90% of our target.

Today's 2nd in-pew Commitment Weekend will undoubtedly have a significant impact on our efforts to successfully wrap up our campaign. Again, not knowing in advance who and how much was committed this weekend, we still wanted to say **Thank You!**

To those parishioners who made their commitment

– **Thank You**, your commitments brought us to where we are.

To those parishioners who are praying about their potential commitment

– **Thank you**, your commitment will help us exceed our target.

Please continue to pray for the success of our campaign!

Please use this chart to prayerfully consider your decision

Daily Commitment	Monthly Commitment	Yearly Commitment	Total Commitment	My Sacrifice Equals
\$13	\$400	\$4,800	\$24,000	Dinner & Movie WEEKLY
\$7	\$200	\$2,400	\$12,000	Dining out WEEKLY
\$5	\$150	\$1,800	\$9,000	Value meal DAILY
\$4	\$100	\$1,200	\$6,000	Cable Bill MONTHLY
\$2	\$50	\$600	\$3,000	Small Coffee DAILY
\$1	\$30	\$360	\$1,800	Lottery Ticket DAILY

Text and Email Scams Please be vigilant about fraudulent solicitation texts and emails appearing to come from our priests and staff. Authentic requests for donations from the parish will always direct parishioners to FaithDirect, PayPal, or other legitimate websites with secure online forms. Never will the parish ask for gift cards or for money to be transferred directly to an account. If you have received a fraudulent text or email, it is important that you report the email to the local police by calling the non-emergency hotline and requesting the financial crimes department.

Parish Office and Adoration Chapel Closures The Parish Office will close at 12 pm on **Fri, Dec. 20**. The Office will also be closed **Dec. 23-26** in observance of Christmas. The Adoration Chapel will close on **Dec. 21** and reopen on **Jan. 6, 2020**. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.



Baby Items for Gabriel Project The National Junior Honor Society along with the QoA Student Council are collecting neutral baby items for the Gabriel project. The drop off is either at the Parish or School office. Thank you very much for your cooperation and generosity.

QUEEN OF APOSTLES CATHOLIC SCHOOL
FAITH EXCELLENCE JOY

Teacher Spotlight

**Fr. Jaime de Cendra, DCJM
Chaplain**

Favorite book and reason: "Only one?! The Lord of the Rings by J. R. R. Tolkien. It has pretty much everything: a great adventure; the battle between good and evil; the value of friendship, hope, and love; the fact that plain people get to be heroes. It is the work of a lifetime and it is an allegory of Catholic faith."

Favorite pastime: "Reading and trout fly fishing... oh... I love fly fishing. I spent three years in Colorado --the fly fishing paradise-- and I have fished here once, with nice results as well."

Reason I love Q of A: "Because it is a family full of life and enthusiasm. I can feel the faith and the commitment of His teachers and the school's beautiful relationship with families. Most of all, because it is my home!"

**Third Sunday of Advent
Masses this Week**

Third Sunday of Advent, December 15:

7:30 am +Mercedes Henning
9:00 am +Alice Jean Christman
10:30 am Living and Deceased Parishioners
12:00 pm +Betty Quinn

Monday, December 16:

6:30 am (L) Sabine and Bernard Rigaud Wedding Anniversary
9:00 am (L) Grace and Charles Battaglia

Tuesday, December 17:

6:30 am +Marcel Dupuy
9:00 am +Angelita Acuña

Wednesday, December 18:

6:30 am +Dr. and Mrs. Buenaventura & Purificacion Realica
9:00 am +Presoilo B. Lapada, Sr.

Thursday, December 19:

6:30 am +Michelle Lowery
9:00 am +Mary and Ethel Hetsko

Friday, December 20:

6:30 am +Jocelyn Walter Graham
9:00 am +Robert Crittendon

St. Peter Canisius- Saturday, December 21:

8:00 am +Mercedes Henning
5:00 pm +Carol Cole
7:00 pm +Eleanora Navas

Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 22:

7:30 am +Ricardo Pagsibigan
9:00 am +Alice Jean Christman, Mother of Jerry
10:30 am Living and Deceased Parishioners
12:00 pm +Bishop William Curlin

"Christmas Day is nothing if not a day of universal joy."

-St. Peter Canisius



Please pray for the members of our parish who are ill

Jin C. Navarro, Leo Monteroso, Etelvina León-Duarte, George and Ginny Cook, Olivia Castillo Asnis, Maria Reyes, Anna Anderson, Michelle Jacobeen, Pedro Baiza, 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, David Stemcosky, 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, Michael Black, Delaney Liskey, Dean Richardson, Margaret Fiore, Michael Robertson, Mr. and Mrs. Cervantes