

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 18, 2016



QUEEN OF APOSTLES CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

CLERGY

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

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

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

WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE

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

HOLY HOUR SCHEDULE

Thursday: 7:30-8:30 pm

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

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

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Monday 7 am through Saturday 7:45 am

QUEEN OF APOSTLES CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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



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. Registration will also be needed to receive a certificate of eligibility to be a Godparent for Baptism; to be a Sponsor for Confirmation; to enroll your child in Religious Education; to begin Baptismal preparation for your child (unless permission is received from your parish); and to prepare for Marriage. Parish registration forms are available in the Church vestibule and at the Parish Office, located at 4329 Sano St. (next door 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-mail general@queenofapostles.org.

Mary, Queen of Apostles, pray for us.

Please Note: Parish Office Closed

The Parish Office will close on **Dec. 23** and **26** in observance of Christmas.
The Parish Office will also close on **Jan. 2, 2017** for the New Years holiday.

Thank You

Thank you for your generous contribution to the Poor Box.
This weekend's collection will go toward **Christ House**.
Next weekend's collection will go toward the **Poor Sisters of St. Joseph**.

Altar Servers The new schedule is in effect. With the Christmas season approaching, we understand families travel, however, if you cannot serve, please find a substitute. Thank you for your service to the parish!

The Vocations Crucifix needs host families for **February - June**. Please choose a week that your family can specifically pray for vocations. Visit: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0544aca928a0fe3-vocations>

Emmaus will not meet on **Dec. 23** and **30**. Thank you for sharing your time and talents with the Nativity scene!

Confirmation Sponsor/Baptismal Godparent Certificate of Eligibility Sponsor Certificates are statements to the fact that you are a practicing Catholic and a member of the parish. If you have been asked to serve as a sponsor/godparent, please call the parish office to make an appointment to meet with a priest. Please call for an appointment several weeks before the Certificate is due. If you are eligible to serve, the priest will sign and seal the Certificate of Eligibility. If Queen of Apostles is not your registered parish, please call your home parish for a Certificate of Eligibility.

For Confirmation students, the signed and sealed Sponsor Certificate is due on **Jan. 22, 2017**.

For the Three Sacraments of Initiation students, the signed and sealed Sponsor Certificate is due on **Jan. 29, 2017**.

Early Deadlines for Dec. 25, Jan. 1 and Jan. 8 Bulletins The deadline for submitting announcements for the **Dec. 25** and **Jan. 1** bulletins was **Dec. 16**. The deadline for submitting announcements for the **Jan. 8** bulletin is **Dec. 28** by 9 am.

Subscribe to Our Weekly Parish E-Newsletter

To sign up please visit <https://queenofapostles.org/news/>

Religious Education For students desiring Confirmation, the registration form and sacramental fee were due **Nov. 6**. The saint reports for RE students were due **Dec. 4**.

For students desiring First Penance and First Holy Communion, the registration form and sacramental fee were due **Dec. 11**.

For Religious Education students desiring the three Sacraments of Initiation, Baptism, Confirmation and First Eucharist, the sacraments registration and fee are due **Jan. 22, 2017**. Fr. Juan will lead a meeting with parents/godparents on **Jan. 22** at 9 am.

We are grateful to our catechists and aides who volunteer their time to teach your children about the Catholic faith. We are thankful to our volunteers who ensure the Religious Education Program run smooth by setting up, supporting the catechists, and helping parents.

Religious Education classes will not meet **Dec. 25** and **Jan. 1**. Classes resume on **Jan. 8, 2017**.



Learn about the Catholic faith The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is the process through which adults join or complete their initiation into the Roman Catholic Church. Led by Fr. Javier O'Connor, DCJM, Queen of Apostles is offering RCIA classes in English and Spanish. The RCIA class in English meets on Mondays, 7:30-9:00 pm. The RCIA class in Spanish meets on Wednesdays 7:30-9:00 pm. Classes will be held at Notre Dame Graduate School (4407 Sano Street).

RCIA is for three groups of people:

1. Adults who are not baptized.
 2. Adults who were baptized into another Christian denomination and wish to enter into full communion with the Catholic Church.
 3. Baptized Catholics who were not fully formed in the Catholic faith, have not completed their initiation and have not received the sacraments of Confirmation and/or Eucharist.
- RCIA will not meet on **Dec. 26** and **Dec. 28**.



Pastor's Letter

With Mary at the School of Prayer

During this last Sunday in Advent the Liturgy invites us to make the journey to Bethlehem with the Holy Family. The Child has to be born there, and Mary and Joseph have to leave behind their home, where everything was ready to fulfill the prophecy.

Advent is an invitation to put into deep waters and embrace God's plans which are always greater and higher than ours. That's conversion: taking the compass and checking if God is the North directing us or whether we are sailing on a deviated course. Reconnecting with God and letting him be in the center of my life and the life of my family.

To navigate this sea of life we need: the maps (Sacred Scripture), the compass (Prayer), a boat (the Church) and an experienced sailor to train us in the art of seafaring: Mary. She made Scripture the words of her prayer; no one better than her to set sail under the Holy Spirit's breath; no more experienced teacher in fine tuning her course heading intently towards God.

Maybe my navigation during Advent has not been so successful. Maybe I have been rowing all the time. A lot of work, and moving very little. Let's call Mary to come on board, lay out the sails, turn the ship and sail us to Jesus.

To be A Family Fully Alive we are proposing some spiritual practices throughout the year. December is prayer, and four steps have been proposed. In which step of the spiritual staircase am I? On which step of this ladder do I want to set my prayer life?

Next Sunday is Christmas. We have a week to think about and make a resolution and make a prayer commitment. And as a reminder of this commitment as individual or/and as a family, you can arrange a Prayer Corner at home. A Bible, a Candle, the Crucifix and the blessed Mother. Maybe during this time the Stable with Joseph, Mary and the Child Jesus.

That's your priority in the unending task list of Christmas preparations. In doing so many things would be missing to celebrate Christmas, but not Jesus. Have a great Advent!



Rule of Life Devotion for the Month of December: Prayer

Christian prayer is the personal and living relationship of the children of God with their Father who is infinitely good, with his Son Jesus Christ, and with the Holy Spirit who dwells in their hearts. It is always the gift of God who comes to encounter man. There is no holiness nor spiritual life without a deep experience of prayer.

Step 1: Pray a Morning Offering and Bedtime Prayer each day.

Step 2: Devote 15 minutes of mental prayer once per week.

Step 3: Commit to 5-10 minutes of mental prayer daily.

Other Resources: Ignatius Press' video "PRAYER: A Surge of the Heart" available on FORMED.ORG (Use code **Z37RTW**)

This Week In Our Parish

Fourth Sunday of Advent - December 18:

School 9:00-10:15 am Religious Education
Hannan Hall 2:00-5:30 pm Ghana Group

Monday, December 19:

Cupertino Room 7:00-9:00 pm Hispanic Legion of Mary
Notre Dame Graduate School 7:30-9:00 pm RCIA in English

Tuesday, December 20:

Hannan Hall 6:30-9:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

St. Peter Canisius - Wednesday, December 21:

Hannan Hall 7:00-9:00 pm Ghana Prayer Group
Notre Dame Graduate School 7:30-9:00 pm RCIA in Spanish

Thursday, December 22:

Parish Office 6:30-8:00 pm Legion of Mary
Hannan Hall 6:30-9:30 pm Choir Practice
Church 7:30-8:30 pm Holy Hour

St. John of Kanty - Friday, December 23:

Parish Office Closed
Adoration Chapel 11:00 am-12 noon Children's Adoration Hour
Adoration Chapel 3:00-4:00 pm Divine Mercy Chaplet
Hannan Hall 9:00 pm-12 am Ghana Catholic Community Reception

Saturday, December 24:

School 4:00-6:30 pm Spanish Prayer Group
School 7:00-9:00 pm Ghana Choir

The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) - December 25:

Hannan Hall 2:00-5:30 pm Ghana Group

Mass Schedule for the Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

Saturday, December 24, 2016 - Christmas Eve

5:00 pm
7:00 pm
12 midnight

Sunday, December 25, 2016 - Christmas Day

7:30 am
9:00 am
10:30 am
12 noon

Extended Confession Schedule for Christmas

Saturday, December 24, 2016 - Christmas Eve

3:00-5:00 pm
6:00-7:00 pm

Sunday, December 25, 2016 - Christmas Day

30 minutes before the 9:00 am Mass
30 minutes before the 10:30 am Mass
30 minutes before the 12 noon Mass

Please anticipate lines and arrive early.

There will be no Confessions at the parish Dec. 27-30.

Vocations



“When Joseph awoke he did as the angel of the Lord directed him.” Are

you prayerfully vigilant about discovering your vocation in Christ? Might He be inviting you to the priesthood or consecrated life? Contact Fr.

Juan at general@queenofapostles.org or Fr. J.D. Jaffe at (703) 841-2514, or j.jaffe@arlingtondiocese.org.

Fourth Sunday of Advent For a deeper trust and docility to the Holy Spirit among persons discerning a call to serve Christ as a priest deacon or in the consecrated life, we pray to the Lord.



Prayer for the Advent Wreath

Daily prayer for the Advent Wreath:

Fourth Sunday of Advent O God, by whose word all things are sanctified, pour forth Your blessing upon this wreath, and grant that all who use it may prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ and may receive from You abundant graces, Who lives and reigns forever. Amen.

Then, every day for the fourth week of Advent, as you light the fourth candle pray:

Stir up Thy might, we pray Thee, O Lord, and come; rescue us through Thy great strength so that salvation, which has been hindered by our sins, may be hastened by the grace of Thy gentle mercy. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

Nourishing Our Souls with Holy Scripture

Readings for Next Week:

The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas Day)

Is 7:10-14 Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6
Heb 1:1-6 Jn 1:1-18



Adult Bible Study Program Registration is now open for the Winter and Spring Semesters of the parish **Adult Bible Study** program.

The inspiring **“Walking Toward Eternity”** series is designed to develop and nurture characteristics that are essential to Christian life. In two consecutive eight-week semesters, you will learn how a habit of short sessions of daily prayer and meditation with Scripture (*lectio divina*) will help you hear the subtle ways God is speaking to you.

Part I, Daring to Walk the Walk, begins **Jan. 17** by introducing seven key virtues and practical steps for living them out. **Part II, Engaging the Struggles of Your Heart**, continues **Mar. 14** through Lent by showing us how to identify and overcome obstacles that aggravate us, discourage us, and can even hinder our relationship with Christ.

Classes meet Tuesdays in both morning and evening sessions, featuring acclaimed speaker and master theologian Jeff Cavins on DVD, and are made available to homebound and those with periodic travel absences through online streaming. Grab a flyer in church and register in-person at the Parish Office, or go to www.QofAbiblestudy.com for more information, a preview clip, and online registration.



Angel Trees As our parish does every Advent, we are working with partner organizations to benefit local children and families in need through our Angel Trees. The Poor Sisters of St. Joseph, Catholic Charities and the Gabriel Project are our three partners this year. Please take an angel from one of

the trees in the back of the church, and take notice of the directions and deadlines posted on the angels, which will vary depending on which angel you take. Thank you for your support of this program and for making Christmas a special time for many families in need.



CCDA's Pregnancy and Adoption Support program

is able to assist pregnant women in crisis, including those who elect to make an adoption plan. Additionally, Pregnancy and Adoption Support is able to facilitate local, interstate and intercountry adoptions for families wanting to grow their family through adoption. For information, please call (703) 425-0100 or go to <http://www.centerforadoptionsservices.org/>.

Catholic Charities Counseling Queen of Apostles has partnered with Catholic Charities to have a counselor come to the parish to provide counseling services. Carly Rouston, our new Catholic Charities counselor, has a Masters in Marriage and Family Therapy from the University of St Mary's in San Antonio. She works with children, adults, and couples – providing therapy in both English and Spanish. Carly will be available for appointments at the parish office on Thursdays between 2 pm and 8 pm. Catholic Charities is able to offer sessions on a sliding scale fee, in order to provide services to all those seeking assistance. For more information, or to schedule an appointment, please call our intake coordinator Hannah Navarro at (703) 224-1630.

Towards a Family Fully Alive

Making a Family Prayer Corner

Praying together as a family is a great way to experience the presence of God in the midst of our everyday lives. While there are many ways to pray, using the Bible as the center of family prayer time can be fruitful and instructive for everyone.

- ◆ Place a Bible in your family prayer corner.
- ◆ Gather as a family and begin with a prayer to the Holy Spirit, asking for understanding of God's Word.
- ◆ Read the Gospel aloud, and discuss the passage.
- ◆ End with a prayer of thanksgiving for the gift of God's Living Word.

Sons and Daughters *December 2016*

Fourth Sunday of Advent **Masses this Week**

Monday, December 19:

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

Tuesday, December 20:

6:30 am + Jocelyn Walter Graham
9:00 am + Constance Alfrend

St. Peter Canisius - Wednesday, December 21:

6:30 am + John Bartholme
9:00 am + Anne Camp

Thursday, December 22:

6:30 am + George R. Nash, Sr.
9:00 am + Peter Kim

St. John of Kanty - Friday, December 23:

6:30 am + Maria Kim
9:00 am + Purificación and Ray Floren

Saturday, December 24:

8:00 am + Dennis D. Getz
5:00 pm + Evanski Family
7:00 pm + Clarissa Trono De Guzman
12:00 am + Lucia and José Antonio Venero

The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) - December 25:

7:30 am + Inocencio Monillas
9:00 am + Dolores Perez
10:30 am Living and Deceased Parishioners
12:00 noon + Christina Lynem

"Green Tips" from your Parish Sustainability

Committee Food Savings: The average family throws out \$2,200 worth of food every year. Americans throw out the equivalent of \$165 billion of food each year. Uneaten food in landfills is the single largest component of U.S. municipal solid waste, where it accounts for a large portion of U.S. methane emissions. Reducing food losses by just 15% would be enough food to feed more than 25 million Americans every year at a time when one in six Americans lack a secure supply of food to their tables. So be more aware of how you shop, and freeze your leftovers.



Please pray for the members of our parish who are ill

Reyes Duran, Luong Bui, Nick Tullier, Anna Jeffrey, Rose Maalouf, Ronald Redman, Nicole Pack, Barbara J. Banis, Stephen Aldrich, Jessica Acot, Numa Osuna, Jr., Timmy Burnway, Etelvina and Carolina G. León-Duarte, J. Saunders, Catherine Hanniff, Kristi Burns, Francis Walter, Eduardo Vega, Deborah

DuBrul, Kathleen Donohoe, Lyda Tanco, Mark Bush, Joseph Covas, Margaret Peiffer, David Stemcosky, Rita Sulit, Jason Banis, Emma Collins, Teresa Sabina Piecyk, Juana Mejia, Lisa Nyce, Monique Brooks, Debby Sprah, Consuelo Jocson, Cheryl McGlynn, Teresa Subalusky, Theresa Corcoran, Cordelia Carcamo, Donna Smith