

# QUEEN OF APOSTLES CATHOLIC CHURCH

4401 Sano Street, Alexandria, VA 22312 (703) 354-8711 [www.queenofapostles.org](http://www.queenofapostles.org)

**Second Sunday of Advent - December 6, 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](http://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:

We have started the season of Advent, a time of grace and preparation to receive Jesus in the manger of our hearts. It is one of the most beautiful seasons of the year for me because, together with Christmas, they make me enter an atmosphere of peace and meditation about the great mystery of the incarnation.

With Advent, we have started a new liturgical year; in this New Year, we will read the Gospel of Saint Mark, a short but profound Gospel, as are the other three. The word Advent comes from the Latin "adventus", which means arrival. Therefore, Advent invites us to prepare ourselves, to set us in our way to celebrate the great festivals of Christmas.

We have also started a new month, the last month of this year, a year that has been full of significant challenges and that one way or another has changed the world, and society itself, locked us up and distanced us, but at the same time, I believe that everything experienced this year should help us to renew hope, and above all to look at ourselves, our failures and weaknesses. We should be grateful to God that we are still alive and healthy.

December is a month that brings many celebrations, including two great feasts dedicated to our Blessed Mother, the Virgin Mary. Please celebrate them with a lot of love and enthusiasm. The first is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, that day I want to ask you to make your best effort to attend mass or at least pray the holy rosary for our country; remember that the Immaculate Conception is the patroness saint of the United States. Let us ask that she protect us against the challenges that lie ahead, then on December 12 is the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, we have begun this celebration with a novena, the rosary is being prayed at 7:00 pm in Spanish and English in the morning after the 9:00 am mass, we ask that Our Lady guide us and keep us.

In preparation for the Christmas celebration, we will have a penance service on Thursday, December 17. Please mark it on your calendar. We will be listening to confessions starting at 7:00 pm; we will invite other priests to help us and thus enter prepared to celebrate the Christmas holidays.

Finally, this week we will send an email with a survey that will help us know how many parishioners we expect to attend our Christmas masses. It will not be to reserve space, but to see if the scheduled masses will be enough. If they are not, we will see what solution we can give you. Please, I ask that you generously respond to help us get an idea and prepare the temple for those special days. The survey will not ask for any other information. Remember that prayer and the encounter with Jesus in the Eucharist give us the grace and strength to move forward. Do not forget either that we can celebrate the holidays in peace if we follow the security protocols.

I hope you are having a blessed Advent. I have you in my prayers.

Fr. Alex



### Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Please join us in celebrating the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a Holy Day of Obligation, on **Tuesday, December 8**. We will have a **5 pm** Mass and a **7 pm** Mass in Spanish, along with our regular daily Masses.

# ✝ RELIGIOUS EDUCATION ✝

## Religious Education Information

Happy Advent to our Religious Education families and catechists!

Grade 8-high school students (QofA School, Religious Education, Ghana Catholic Community or those who are home-schooled) who are eligible for the Sacrament of Confirmation can access the packet at [http://queenofapostles.org/wp-content/uploads/ConfirmationPacket\\_website.pdf](http://queenofapostles.org/wp-content/uploads/ConfirmationPacket_website.pdf). Saint reports are due 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 Certificate is due **Jan 10, 2021**.

On **Sunday, Dec. 13** starting at 9am, Fr. Diaz will meet with Religious Education parents of students who are eligible for First Penance/First Holy Communion this school year. 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. 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, 2020**. 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 and do not attend Religious Education class. We would greatly value your partnership in taking extra precautions to keep Queen of Apostles parish, school, and Religious Education communities safe and healthy.

For in-person Religious Education classes, school building doors open on Sundays at 8:30am and students are asked to arrive no later than 8:45am for the 9am class. Remember to perform a self-screening of symptoms before arriving on campus. Do not attend class if the student or a family member has symptoms. On-site, temperatures will be checked and questions about coronavirus symptoms will be asked. Students must bring the text, his/her own pen/pencil, paper, folder, bottled water, hand sanitizer, completed homework, etc. to class each week. Please, no sharing of supplies.

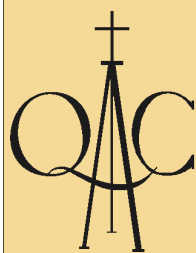


## Altar Servers—Serving our Lord in the Eucharist

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](mailto: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.

## Rite of Welcoming/Rite of Acceptance, Dec 6, 12 Noon Mass

RCIA-English and Spanish catechumens and candidates and RE students who are catechumens (not baptized), along with his/her godparents/sponsors are to attend the Rite of Welcoming/Rite of Acceptance on **Sun, Dec 6, 12 Noon Mass**. RCIA, students and godparents/sponsors will sit together in the pews closest to the Presider's Chair.



## 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](http://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](mailto:general@queenofapostles.org)

# ✝ PARISH LIFE ✝

## Masses This Week

### **Second Sunday of Advent - Sunday, December 6:**

8:00 am +Katherine Barnoski  
10:00 am Living and Deceased Parishioners  
12:00 pm +Carmen Solis  
1:30 pm +Maria Luisa Maehura

### **St. Ambrose - Monday, December 7:**

6:30 am (L) Rosemary Mayer and Thi Loom  
9:00 am (L) Fr. Ignacio de Ribera

### **Immaculate Conception - Tuesday, December 8:**

6:30 am +Francis M. McManus, Jr.  
9:00 am +Enrique Espino  
5:00 pm Living and Deceased Parishioners  
7:00 pm +Nathaniel Jacobeen

### **St. Juan Diego - Wednesday, December 9:**

6:30 am +Victoria Perea  
9:00 am +Joseph Barnoski

### **Thursday, December 10:**

6:30 am +Carlos Perez  
9:00 am (L) Fr. Jaime de Cendra

### **St. Damasus - Friday, December 11:**

6:30 am +Catalino Aquino  
9:00 am (L) Fr. Leopoldo Vives

### **Our Lady of Guadalupe - Saturday, December 12:**

8:00 am +Marvin and Joyce Godbey  
5:00 pm (L) Amy DeLuca  
7:00 pm (L) Kevin O'Meara

*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](http://faithdirect.net) and enroll online using our Parish code:



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## December 8—Immaculate Conception

In 1846, the bishops of the United States asked Mary to watch over our country and its people in a special way. They also chose one particular title and feast of Mary—her Immaculate Conception. The title of the Immaculate Conception recognizes Mary's privilege of coming into the world free from sin. Through the power of Jesus' Death and Resurrection, every human being can be freed from sin at Baptism. Through that same power, Mary was always free from sin, even from that very first moment of life. On December 8, the Church celebrates this special privilege given to Mary. At the liturgy we thank God for all his blessings he has given to the people of our country. And we can thank Mary for watching over and protecting our people.

**QoA Young Adults** We hope you can join Frassati Annandale and Queen of Apostles Young Adults for our Christmas themed Faith, Film and Food night! We were so happy to welcome many new friends to our online Young Adult community during our last Faith, Film and Food night! We'll be eating Christmas Dinner together, pray, discuss and watch the Chosen and praise the Lord with some virtual Praise and Worship/Adoration time! Join us on **Saturday, December 12th at 6pm**. Email [frassatiannandale@gmail.com](mailto:frassatiannandale@gmail.com) for the zoom link!

**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](mailto:pantry@accacares.org). For the latest list of most-needed items visit the ACCA website.

**Gift Drive at Mother of Light Center** The Mother of Light Center is a Catholic organization which provides food, clothing, and spiritual support to the needy in Northern Virginia. We hope to buy gifts for 500 children this Christmas and needs your help. To donate a gift either shop on our Amazon Charity Wish List at <https://bit.ly/christmasgiftlistMOLC> or mail gift cards for Wal-Mart or Target to MOLC, 421 Clifford Ave, Alexandria VA 22305.

**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!



**Women's Group** The next meeting will be held on **Wednesday, December 9th at 10:00 am**. We will meet in Hannan Hall for our Christmas Celebration. We hope to see you there!

# Gospel Commentary for the Second Sunday of Advent: John the Baptist

*Fr. Joseph Rampino*

This second week of Advent draws up before our eyes the vision of John the Baptist, mighty in word and deed, the great Forerunner of the Messiah. Mark's Gospel paints for us an evocative picture of this desert dwelling man, dressed in camel hair, living on locusts and honey, and proclaiming repentance. What do these details tell us about John the Baptist, and why is he so important for us, even today?

First, those details of Mark's Gospel, as well as what we come to learn from other scriptural depictions of John, show us his incredible asceticism and consecration to God. This figure, the last of the ancient prophets, is entirely set aside for God. Nothing else matters except knowing and loving the will of the Father. He does not focus his mind or heart on anything worldly, but pours his entire being into the mission of proclaiming God's Messiah. The fact that he has no home, no extra clothing, no extra food, no other interests or distractions shows us this perfect and total focus of love. John is a person distilled into one single feature: "a voice...crying out in the desert."

This single-minded devotion of John tells us something important about the one whose coming he preaches. We know from how intensely John pours his life into loving and proclaiming the Messiah that this coming figure is outside the normal expectations of humanity. We would be rightly suspicious of such perfect devotion if it were directed towards a mere human, a great teacher, a social activist, a politician, or another preacher. If a person were to give up everything to draw others towards one of these worldly figures, we would likely consider that person to be unreasonable and in need of help. Far from power, such a would-be prophet's words might bring pity from us, or maybe even flat dismissal. Yet when John cries out that "one mightier than [him] is coming," people flock to him and treasure everything he says. Clearly, the one whom he proclaims with such perfect and total consecration is greater than any mere human. Of course we now know the truth, that John as the voice proclaiming the eternal Word, God Himself come in the flesh.

So why do John's sermons in the desert still have meaning for us today? We can answer that by looking at what John commands the crowds: "prepare the way of the Lord!" He calls us today, just as he called the crowds in his own time, to make their hearts and lives ready to receive the promised Savior, whom we know is the Son of God, indeed, God Himself. As we saw earlier, John has already made these preparations in his own life. He has cleared his heart of everything except desire for God, and so he is uniquely capable of receiving Jesus when He arrives.

We must do the same. Though God may not be asking us to give away all but one set of clothes, survive on the barest diet, or live far away from all other people, He is always asking us to let go of our attachments to material possessions, to worldly business, to selfish concerns, and above all, to sin. During this season of Advent, if we respond to the Baptist's call, clearing space for the Lord in our hearts through good confessions, deeper prayer, acts of charity and of penance, we too can become ready to receive Christ when He comes to us, at Christmas, at the end of time, and indeed every day of our lives. Then, with our greatest desire fulfilled, we can join John, along with all the angels and saints, in giving glory to the Almighty God, who gives such great gifts to those who love Him.



## Knights of Columbus Council Pope John Paul II 4522

**Coats for Kids** Putting our faith into action, we will be collecting donations for the annual Coats for Kids drive this weekend! As little as \$20 will provide a child with a new winter coat, but all donations will be greatly appreciated. Thank you in advance!

**Keep Christ in Christmas** with beautiful, religious, Christmas cards. This is your last chance! These Christmas messages will be available at our table this weekend. All proceeds from the sale of these Christmas cards go to support Diocesan seminarians! Please contact Grand Knight, Patrick Okoronkwo at pokor22@gmail.com or (734) 431-1275 for more information.



## 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 Sprah, 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:

Hemos iniciado el tiempo del adviento, un tiempo de gracia y de preparación para recibir al Jesús en el pesebre de nuestros corazones, para mí es uno de los tiempos más bonitos, porque unidos a la navidad me hacen entrar en un ambiente de paz y meditación sobre el gran misterio de la encarnación.

Con el adviento hemos iniciado un nuevo año litúrgico, en este nuevo año vamos a leer el evangelio de San Marcos, un evangelio corto pero profundo, como lo son los otros tres. La palabra adviento, viene del Latin adventus que significa venida, llegada. Por tanto el adviento nos invita a prepararnos de una manera propia para celebrar las grandes fiestas de la navidad.

También hemos iniciado un nuevo mes, el último mes de este año, un año que ha estado cargado de grandes retos y que una manera u otra ha cambiado el mundo, y la sociedad misma, nos encerró y nos distancio, pero al mismo tiempo, pienso que todo lo traído en este año debe de ayudarnos a renovar la esperanza, y sobre todo a mirarnos a nosotros mismos en nuestras propias fallas y debilidades. Debemos de estar agradecidos con Dios porque aún seguimos con vida y en parte con salud.

Diciembre es un mes que trae muchas celebraciones, entre ellas dos grandes fiestas dedicadas a la Virgen María y que desde quiero pedirles que las celebremos con mucho amor y entusiasmo, la primera es la solemnidad de la Inmaculada Concepción, ese día quiero pedirles que hagamos un gran esfuerzo por asistir a la misa o al menos rezar el santo rosario por nuestro país, recuerden que la Inmaculada Concepción, es la patrona de USA, Pidamos que ella nos proteja ante los retos que se acercan, luego el doce de diciembre es la fiesta de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, iniciaremos esta celebración con una novena, se rezara el rosario a las 7:00pm en español y en ingles por la mañana después de la misa de 9:00am, pidamos que nuestra Señora nos guie y nos guarde.

En preparación para la celebración de Navidad, tendremos servicio penitencial el día jueves 17 de diciembre, póngalo por favor en su calendario, estaremos escuchando confesiones desde las 7:00pm, invitaremos a otros sacerdotes para que nos ayuden y así entrar preparados a celebrar las fiestas de la navidad.

Finalmente, esta semana enviaremos un email haciendo una pequeña encuesta de cuantos vendrían a nuestras misas en navidad, esto no será para reservar espacio, sino para ver si las misas serán suficientes, y si no lo son ver que solución podemos darle, por favor les pido que generosamente respondan y así nosotros hacernos una idea y preparar el templo para esos días especiales, la encuesta no pedirá ninguna información. Recuerden que la oración y el encuentro con Jesús en la Eucaristía nos dan la gracia y fuerza para seguir adelante. No olviden tampoco que si seguimos los protocolos de seguridad podemos celebrar las fiestas en paz y tranquilidad.

Espero que tengan un buen adviento. Les tengo en mis oraciones.

*P. Alex*



### Solemnidad de la Inmaculada Concepción de la Santísima Virgen María

Por favor, únense a nosotros para celebrar la solemnidad de la Inmaculada Concepción de la Santísima Virgen María, día santo de la obligación, el martes 8 de diciembre. Tendremos una misa de 5 pm y una misa de 7 pm en español, junto con

## Misas esta semana

### Domingo 6 de diciembre:

8:00 am	+Katherine Barnoski
10:00 am	Living and Deceased Parishioners
12:00 pm	+Carmen Solis
1:30 pm	+Maria Luisa Maehura

### Lunes 7 de diciembre:

6:30 am	(L) Rosemary Mayer and Thi Loom
9:00 am	(L) Fr. Ignacio de Ribera

### Martes 8 de diciembre:

6:30 am	+Francis M. McManus, Jr.
9:00 am	+Enrique Espino
5:00 pm	Living and Deceased Parishioners
7:00 pm	+Nathaniel Jacobeen

### Miércoles 9 de diciembre:

6:30 am	+Victoria Perea
9:00 am	+Joseph Barnoski

### Jueves 10 de diciembre:

6:30 am	+Carlos Perez
9:00 am	(L) Fr. Jaime de Cendra

### Viernes 11 de diciembre:

6:30 am	+Catalino Aquino
9:00 am	(L) Fr. Leopoldo Vives

### Sabado 12 de diciembre:

8:00 am	+Marvin and Joyce Godbey
5:00 pm	(L) Amy DeLuca
7:00 pm	(L) Kevin O'Meara

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



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## 8 de diciembre: Inmaculada

**Concepción** El título de la Inmaculada Concepción reconoce el privilegio de María de venir al mundo libre de pecado. Mediante el poder de la muerte y resurrección de Jesús, todo ser humano puede ser liberado del pecado a través del bautismo. A través de ese mismo poder, María siempre estuvo libre de pecado, incluso desde ese primer momento de vida. El 8 de diciembre, la Iglesia celebra este privilegio especial otorgado a María. En la liturgia damos gracias a Dios por todas sus bendiciones que ha dado a la gente de nuestro país. Y podemos agradecerle a María por velar y proteger a nuestra gente.

**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 de regalos en el Centro “Mother of Light”** El Centro Mother of Light es una organización católica que proporciona alimentos, ropa y apoyo espiritual a los necesitados en el norte de Virginia. Esperamos comprar regalos para 500 niños esta Navidad y necesitamos su ayuda. Para donar un regalo, compre en nuestra lista de deseos de beneficencia de Amazon o envíe tarjetas de regalo para Wal-Mart o Target a MOLC

**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](mailto:pantry@accacares.org).

## Oración de Anticipación de Navidad

Alabada y bendita sea la hora y el momento en el que el Hijo de Dios nació de la más pura virgen María, a medianoche, en Belén, en el frío penetrante. En esa hora, dínate, Dios mío, de escuchar mi oración y conceder mis deseos, por los méritos de Nuestro Salvador Jesucristo y de su Santísima Madre. Amén