

# QUEEN OF APOSTLES CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

**First Sunday of Lent - February 21, 2021**



## 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

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We have started the season of Lent, a wonderful time within the liturgical calendar that invites us to meditate on our conversion through sacrifice and mortification, prayer and the most direct and profound contact with God, and almsgiving, a sign of detachment from the material, sharing what little we have with those most in need. Each Lent is different because each year, the Lord invites us to enter the desert differently, with other challenges and purposes. For this reason, each one must take this time seriously and personally and thus achieve more spiritual fruits, which lead us to live the celebration of the Paschal Mysteries in grace and holiness as it should be.

Being already in this extraordinary time, I want to invite those who have been absent from participating in Masses and the parish life for a while now. It is time to return, do not be afraid of contagion (as I have already explained in previous letters), in our parish we follow the safety protocols very strictly and I think there is no reason to be afraid, return home, your house, the house of the Lord. He awaits you to be your food; there is nothing more extraordinary than to receive His body and His blood and above all receive His grace through the sacraments. I invite you to meditate and keep it in your prayers. We hope you decide to come back soon.

I remind you that every Friday, we will have the prayer of the Stations of the Cross in English at 5:30 pm and in Spanish at 7:30 pm and the days of confessions that everyone already knows, and during Lent, we will hear confessions on Wednesdays at 6:30pm, I invite you to take the opportunity and make a good confession.

We have already started with the remodeling of the confessionals. I hope that by mid-March they will be ready and we can use them. I know that it is a bit uncomfortable for both you and us due to the limited space, but this will be solved soon. Thank you very much to those who are collaborating with our Capital Campaign because thanks to you these projects are being carried out gradually, and the sanctuary is taking on more life.

Finally, we are almost complete with the projects that the diocese asked us to do in the office and the parking lot. In the office, there is a wall of protection for the staff's safety; thank God this week it will be finished. I thank you for your support and understanding, and in the parking lot the installation of security cameras, this to control what happens in the parking lot, both in the hours when the children are at school and night, at least now we will have a little more control, and we will know if something happens.

I hope that you live this Lent with faith and with great intensity, putting into practice prayer, fasting, and almsgiving and that we can prepare the celebration of Easter.

United in prayer,

Fr. Alex



**Encourage**  
**ONE ANOTHER**  
BY *Word AND Deed*

TO DONATE TO BLA, SCAN QR CODE OR  
TEXT "BLA" TO 703-260-9800







## Religious Education Information

Classes resume **February 21** with doors opening at 8:30am. Students in all grades were sent homework to complete for the February 21 class.

*We follow Fairfax County Public Schools on closures related to snowy weather.*

Desiring and prepared Confirmation students in grade 8-high school and his/her sponsor are to attend the *mandatory* rehearsal - **rescheduled for Sunday, February 21 at 6pm in the church**. After the rehearsal, the white garment will be distributed to the students. The Confirmation Liturgy is on **Monday, February 22, 2021 at 7pm in Queen of Apostles Church** with Bishop Burbidge. Students and sponsors are to arrive by 6:15pm in Hannan Hall. Students are to wear his/her Confirmation garment over dress clothes. To comply with safety protocols, everyone must wear face masks and observe physical distancing. We ask that immediate family members only attend the Confirmation liturgy. Students continue to attend RE classes through the end of the school year.

Please pray for our 35 students that they may sincerely and intentionally receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

First Penance for School students is scheduled for **February 25 at 10am**. School families should confirm the information with the school teacher. First Penance for RE students is scheduled for **Saturday, February 27, 2021 at 9:30am in the church**. Let us pray for our parish's young people as they prepare for this lifelong Sacrament of Healing.

Students desiring and preparing for the Sacraments of Initiation are to attend The Rite of Election with his/her sponsor on **Sunday, February 21, 2021, 3pm at the Cathedral of St. Thomas More**. Please arrive no later than 2:30pm. This is not a Mass. *Only catechumens and sponsors may attend*. Scrutinies are scheduled for March 7, 14, 21 during the 12 noon Mass.

Sacraments packets are posted to the QofA website: <https://queenofapostles.org/religious-education/>

## Safety Guidelines

We continue to be vigilant and intentional as we strive to stay healthy. Before coming to RE on Sunday mornings, please monitor for coronavirus and flu 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](mailto:s.gray@queenofapostles.org). Thank you for your partnership in taking extra precautions to keep Queen of Apostles parish, school, and Religious Education communities safe and healthy.

*St. Joseph, pray for us!*

## RCIA

The candidate registration form and fee was due **Jan 19/20, 2021** (page 4 of the RCIA candidate packet). Late forms/fees may be dropped off at the parish office during the week. The Rite of Election (unbaptized/catechumens) will be held on **Sunday, Feb 21, 2021, 3pm** at the Cathedral of St. Thomas More. Only catechumens and sponsors may attend. The Rite of Continuing Conversion (baptized/candidates) will be held at Queen of Apostles on **Sunday, Feb 28, 2021** during the 12noon and 1:30pm Masses. Adults are asked to come to the parish office during the day if he/she has questions or needs to drop off paperwork.

## Prayer for Confirmation Students

*Lord, You send out Your Spirit to touch the hearts of all people, so that they may believe in You and in Jesus whom You sent. Look kindly on all candidates for Confirmation as they listen to Your voice. Open their hearts to Your Spirit and bring to fulfillment the good work that You have begun in them. As we prepare these children for Confirmation, make each of us an instrument of Your love. Teach us to appreciate what is holy in others, and to be patient with what we do not understand. Deepen our faith in the Gospel and help us to pass it on by our example. We pray that You will continue to guide us and sustain us. Through Christ our Lord, Amen.*

## 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

### First Sunday of Lent - Sunday, February 21:

8:00 am +Esther M. Graff  
10:00 am Living and Deceased Parishioners  
12:00 pm (L) Josephine Gambera  
1:30 pm +Rosa Rivera

### Chair of St. Peter the Apostle - Monday, February 22:

6:30 am +Lena Siriwardane  
9:00 am +Leo Weston

### Tuesday, February 23:

6:30 am (L) James and Grace Lee  
9:00 am +Leo Weston

### Wednesday, February 24:

6:30 am +Ed Constantino  
9:00 am +Kathy Ippolito

### Thursday, February 25:

6:30 am (L) Tyron and Sandra Tucker  
9:00 am +Leo Weston

### Friday, February 26:

6:30 am +Cecil Perera  
9:00 am (L) Moira Leite

### Saturday, February 27:

8:00 am +Rev. John W. Rea  
5:00 pm +Alice McGann  
7:00 pm +Victoria Perea



## February 22 - The Chair of St. Peter the Apostle

The feast of the Chair of Saint Peter at Rome has been celebrated from the early days of the Christian era on 18 January, in commemoration of the day when Saint Peter held his first service in

Rome. The feast of the Chair of Saint Peter at Antioch, commemorating his foundation of the See of Antioch, has also been long celebrated at Rome, on 22 February. At each place a chair (cathedra) was venerated which the Apostle had used while presiding at Mass. One of the chairs is referred to about 600 by an Abbot Johannes who had been commissioned by Pope Gregory the Great to collect in oil from the lamps which burned at the graves of the Roman martyrs.

## MARIH Center Volunteers needed

The MARIH Center is a pro-life crisis pregnancy center operating in Alexandria since 1974. We are seeking volunteers! Spanish language skills are especially desirable but not required. The MARIH Center is open Monday-Thursday from 10AM-3PM and Saturdays from 10AM-1PM. MARIH is entirely volunteer-run and donation-based. Please call (703) 370-4774 or e-mail [marihcenter@gmail.com](mailto:marihcenter@gmail.com) for additional information and a tour. We look forward to volunteering with you!

*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: **VA234**



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*Thank you for your support!*



## Why are you not already a Knight? It's FREE!

We Catholics are called to continual conversion in our Catholic Faith, our Christian beliefs and life, and our support and commitment to our Holy Father, our Bishops and Priests. The Knights of Columbus' founder, the Blessed Fr. McGivney, summed up this calling in his vision, which was to: 1) Change a man's life; 2) Deepen and enrich his faith; 3) Strengthen his family and 4) Build better lives for those who so desperately need help. The Knights of Queen of Apostles parish's Pope John Paul II Council 4522 strive to live Fr. McGivney's vision each day—we pray to have more Catholic gentlemen share that vision with us in the Knights of Columbus! Please visit our table during after masses this weekend OR visit <http://kofc.org/un/newjoin/en/index.html> to join online today! Join the Knights today...for FREE!

## 40 Cans for 40 Days Challenge Returns!

Sponsored by Knights of Columbus in cooperation with Queen of Apostles Catholic School. Attention school students! Each school day bring ONE can of food to school, then take it with you to morning prayers in the gymnasium and place it in your class box. You can win "Dress Down Day" OR a Pizza Lunch! The challenge started Ash **Wednesday, February 17th** and ends **Holy Thursday, April 1st**.

**Wednesday Adoration** Need ideas for Lent? Come visit the Blessed Sacrament in the Church on Wednesdays any time after the 9 am and before 8 pm! This is a wonderful opportunity to spend time with our Lord, especially during this penitential season.

**Lenten Schedule** As part of the "Light is on For You" program, we will add Confessions **every Wednesday at 6:30 pm** in the Adoration Chapel. The Holy Way of the Cross will take place in the Church every **Friday at 5:30 pm** in English and **7:30 pm in Spanish**. More Lenten activities will be announced soon.

## Gospel Commentary by Fr. Joseph Rampino for First Sunday of Lent:

### *True Repentance*

As this holy season of Lent begins, Jesus calls each of us to true repentance, repenting with our whole heart. It is, of course, important for us to understand as we seek to live up to His call, just what it is he means by repentance, as well as what He does not mean. Sometimes it can be easier to understand our goal by making clear what answers miss the mark.

Repentance is, first and foremost, not simply an act of guilt or self-hatred for our sins before God. While we should recall our sins as part of repentance, God is not asking us just to feel awful about the things that we've done and seek self-punishment or condemnation. Christ has already undergone the sacrifice that heals the wounds of sin once for all on the Cross, and does not need us to subject ourselves to grief in order to pay for our sins a second time. We do not repent in order to beat ourselves up for sin.

Repentance is also not a grand self-improvement project in the name of our holy Faith. We do not turn away from our sins and failings out of a mere desire to be better, to improve in personal discipline, to become the sort of person we would rather be, so that we can face ourselves and God with greater calm and self-confidence. While it is, of course, a good thing to grow in self-control and to build virtue on a natural level, no amount of personal perfection could ever gain for us the right to speak with God at all, much less as a friend, much less forever in heaven. We do not repent to make ourselves better by our own efforts.

These two forms of false or incomplete repentance miss the mark because they are focused on us, ourselves. Whether based on servile fear and self-condemnation, or on pride and a desire for self-confidence, both find root in the self. True repentance, on the other hand, is a response of love to God's love for us. We repent because we understand that we have been loved, and we wish to love more and more in return. The word "repent" itself means to turn back, and so implies that we have someone to whom we are turning back. That someone is the God who created us, loved us enough to rescue us from ourselves, and who desires to bring us into His own inner life in heaven. We turn away from our sins so that we are free of obstacles in loving Him back. We take on disciplines so that we can more and more clearly see Him, and desire with greater fervor to be with Him. Everything that we do in the process of repentance comes from this desire to be close to the God whose love goes before us, at whatever cost.

Indeed, repentance, far from a purely painful or sacrificial process, is a moment of tremendous joy in the Christian life. The gift of holy tears that often accompanies deep repentance comes not only from sorrow over sin, but rather from the realization of how overwhelmingly we have been loved, in the midst of, and despite our sinfulness. This year, as we carry so much trouble and fear from the past months to the feet of our God, I hope we will see that in each of our trials as well, we have been loved totally, and never abandoned. While we may very well be moved to weep over our sins, we do so out of joy and hope. While we may fast and discipline our bodies and minds, we do so with love for Him who made and saved us. The purpose of all our repentance is not anything in us, in ourselves, but rather is Christ Jesus and the glory He offers in calling us out of darkness into His marvelous light.

With these things in mind, we can more easily and with greater fervor dedicate ourselves this Lent to the great work of repentance. If we open our souls in this way to the love of God, surely we will find whatever strengthening, encouragement, and healing we need in Christ who willingly suffers for us, and who out of love will rise to new, glorious, and unconquerable life.



### 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. Those who were sent letters in November/December who have not yet pledged will be receiving a phone call from our Continuation Committee 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 Sprah, Consuelo Jocson, Cheryl McGlynn, Theresa Corcoran, Cordelia Carcamo, Russ and Jill Amerling, Richard Esterlund, Margaret Fiore, Michael Robertson, Jocelyn Reyes, Wilma Robles, Maryann McNutt, Yolanda Arzadon



## CARTA DEL PÁRROCO

Hermanos y hermanas en Cristo,

Hemos iniciado el tiempo de la Cuaresma, un maravilloso tiempo dentro del calendario litúrgico que nos invita a meditar en nuestra propia conversión, a través del sacrificio y la mortificación, la oración y el contacto más directo y profundo con Dios, y la limosna, un signo de desprendimiento de lo material compartiendo de lo poco que tenemos con los más necesitados. Cada cuaresma es diferente porque cada año el Señor nos invita a entrar en el desierto de manera diferente, con diferentes retos y propósitos, por esta razón cada uno debe tomar este tiempo en serio y de manera personal y lograr así tener más frutos espirituales que nos lleven a vivir la celebración de los misterios pascuales en gracia y santidad como tiene que ser.

Estando ya en este tiempo tan especial quiero invitar a aquellos que hace un tiempo se ausentaron de participar en las misas y la vida parroquial, a que ya es tiempo de volver, no tengan miedo de contagio, (como ya les he explicado en cartas anteriores), en nuestra parroquia seguimos los protocolos de seguridad de manera muy estricta y pienso que no hay porque tener miedo, regresen a casa, su casa, la casa del Señor, Él les espera para ser su alimento, no hay nada más grande que recibir su cuerpo y su sangre y sobretodo recibir su gracia a través de los sacramentos. Les invito a que mediten y lo lleven a la oración y comiencen a regresar.

Les recuerdo que todos los viernes tendremos el rezo del Vía Crucis, en inglés a las 5:30pm y en español a las 7:30pm, y los días de confesiones que ya todos conocen, y hoy por cuaresma escucharemos confesiones los miércoles a las 6:30pm, les invito a hacer una buena confesión.

Ya hemos iniciado con la reparación de los confesionarios, espero que para mediados de marzo ya estarán listos y podremos utilizarlos, sé que es un poco incómodo tanto para nosotros como para ustedes, pero ya pronto estará solucionado este pequeño problema, les agradezco mucho a los que están colaborando con la campaña de recaudación de fondos (Capital Campaign) porque gracias a ustedes estos proyectos se van realizando poco a poco y el santuario va cobrando más vida.

Finalmente, ya casi hemos terminado con los proyectos que la diócesis nos pidió hacer en la oficina y en el parqueo. En la oficina una pared de protección y seguridad para el Staff, gracias a Dios esta semana queda ya finalizado, les agradezco su apoyo y comprensión, y en el parqueo la instalación de cámaras de seguridad, esto con el fin de controlar lo que sucede en el parqueo, tanto en las horas en que los niños están en la escuela como por las noches, al menos ahora tendremos un poco más de control y sabremos si algo sucede.

Deseo que vivan esta cuaresma con fe y con mucha intensidad poniendo en práctica la oración, el ayuno y la limosna y podamos preparar la celebración de la pascua.

Unidos en la oración.

P. Alex



**Animémonos**  
**UNOS A OTROS**  
**DE Palabra y Obra**

PARA HACER UNA DONACIÓN ESCANEE  
AQUÍ, O ENVÍE UN MENSAJE DE TEXTO  
CON "BLA" A 703-260-9800



## Misas esta semana

### **Domingo 21 de febrero:**

8:00 am +Esther M. Graff  
10:00 am Living and Deceased Parishioners  
12:00 pm (L) Josephine Gambera  
1:30 pm +Rosa Rivera

### **Lunes 22 de febrero:**

6:30 am +Lena Siriwardane  
9:00 am +Leo Weston

### **Martes 23 de febrero:**

6:30 am (L) James and Grace Lee  
9:00 am +Leo Weston

### **Miércoles 24 de febrero:**

6:30 am +Ed Constantino  
9:00 am +Kathy Ippolito

### **Jueves 25 de febrero:**

6:30 am (L) Tyron and Sandra Tucker  
9:00 am +Leo Weston

### **Viernes 26 de febrero:**

6:30 am +Cecil Perera  
9:00 am (L) Moira Leite

### **Sabado 27 de febrero:**

8:00 am +Rev. John W. Rea  
5:00 pm +Alice McGann  
7:00 pm +Victoria Perea

*¿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!**



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**¡Gracias por su apoyo!**



**¿Por qué no eres ya un caballero?**

**¡Es GRATIS!**

Los católicos estamos llamados a la conversión continua en nuestra fe católica, nuestras creencias cristianas y nuestra vida, y nuestro apoyo y compromiso con nuestro Santo Padre, nuestros obispos y sacerdotes. El fundador de Caballeros de Colón, el Beato P. McGivney, resumió este llamamiento en su visión, que era: 1) Cambiar la vida de un hombre; 2) Profundizar y enriquecer su fe; 3) Fortalecer a su familia y 4) Construir mejores vidas para aquellos que tan desesperadamente necesitan ayuda. El Consejo 4522 de la parroquia de caballeros de la Reina de los Apóstoles se esfuerza por vivir la visión del P. McGivney cada día, ¡rezamos para que más caballeros católicos compartan esa visión con nosotros en Caballeros de Colón! Por favor, visite nuestra mesa durante después de misas este fin de semana O visite <http://kofc.org/un/newjoin/en/index.html> para unirse en línea hoy!

**40 latas para el desafío de 40 días** Patrocinado por Caballeros de Colón, el Consejo 4522 del Papa Juan Pablo II en cooperación con la Escuela Católica Reina de los Apóstoles. ¡Atención a los estudiantes de la escuela! Cada día escolar lleva UNA lata de comida a la escuela, luego llévala contigo a las oraciones de la mañana en el gimnasio y colócala en tu caja de clases. Usted puede ganar "Dress Down Day" O un almuerzo de pizza! El desafío comienza el Miércoles de Ceniza, **17 de febrero** y termina el Jueves Santo, **1 de abril**.

**Trabajo en Santuario** Debido a su continuo apoyo a nuestra Parroquia, podemos continuar con mejoras y renovaciones esenciales en la Iglesia. Dicho esto, habrá construcción durante las próximas semanas en el Santuario. Agradecemos su cooperación y paciencia durante este tiempo, y continuaremos manteniéndole al día sobre el progreso.

**Horario de Cuaresma** Como parte del programa "the light is on for you", añadiremos Confesiones todos los **miércoles a las 6:30 pm** en la Capilla de adoración. El Santo Camino de la Cruz tendrá lugar en la Iglesia todos **los viernes a las 5 pm en inglés y a las 7 pm en español**. Pronto se anunciarán más actividades de Cuaresma.

# GENACULO DE ORACIÓN MDJ

*"Tén Fe" en el Señor Jesús y te salvarás tú y tu casa.*

HECHOS 16.31

**Todos los Sábados  
5:00pm**

**4401 SANO ST. ALEXANDRIA VA 22312  
EN EL HANNAN HALL DE LA PARROQUIA  
REINA DE LOS APÓSTOLES**

**INTERESADOS CONTACTAR CON  
LOS HERMANOS:  
ALEX ORELLANA (571) 309 8207  
VÍCTOR POSADA (703) 585 3876**

*Te invitamos:*



**COMUNIDAD MISIONEROS DE JESÚS PARROQUIA REINA DE LOS APÓSTOLES**