

QUEEN OF APOSTLES CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time - September 20, 2020



CLERGY

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

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday: 8:00 am, 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-Saturday: 8:00 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



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



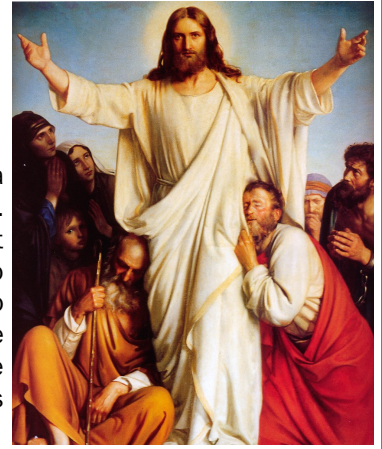
With Mary, “the first disciple of her son” (Redemptoris Mater, 20), Queen of Apostles Catholic School is rooted in faith, excellence, and joy. We flourish by embracing our call to holiness, advancing in virtue and academics, and cultivating the many talents God has given us.

Est. 1966

PASTOR'S LETTER

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Jesus and Mary,

This Sunday, Jesus appears to us as the owner of a vineyard looking for workers throughout a hard day, looking for them at different times, without telling them that the pay is the same. God always looks for us and is still ready to receive us in His arms no matter what time it is. It is Jesus who makes a personal call to each one of us, making life in us what He affirms to His disciples: "You have not chosen me, but I have chosen you" (Jn 15:16). He continues to call us to commit ourselves to live a life of holiness, regardless of age or time. That God is the cornerstone of our life seeking to lead us to work in grace and peace that only through the church can we acquire. Hopefully, we hear the call early to give more, not late, where there is not much to offer.



Like every week, I mention some topics that interest our community life. First of all, I want to share with everyone that last Sunday, Fr. Rampino and I welcomed the children from our religious education program who, as workers in the vineyard, came to start a path of knowledge of Jesus. It was a pleasure to see them all with the intention of learning.

I want to thank Susan Gray for her dedication to this ministry and creating a fantastic team with her catechists and volunteers. We have started this new year following all prevention and safety measures, disinfecting each space in the school classrooms, taking the temperature at the building entrance, and using the mask properly. I want the children to be safe and free from any contagion. Thank you, dear catechists and volunteers, for your love for this ministry and your commitment to helping children and youth. I reiterate my support for you. For me, catechesis is the heart of the parish because future Christians are being formed there. This Sunday, the 20th, the catechists will receive a blessing and be officially sent to work in this parish vineyard.

I do not know if you have realized it. However, we have already placed back the tabernacle's door, we removed it for a few weeks to repair it and clean it, and we discovered that it was in very bad conditions, but thank God it has been thoroughly cleaned and repaired with gold plating. The original lock has been repaired. The cost was a little more than four thousand dollars. The idea is to make the entire interior of the tabernacle from the same material because dust enters, and it does not have much security. I hope in a second project to completely renew the tabernacle for our Lord. I ask those who wish to collaborate with this project to do so.

Last week we changed the tape in the pews; I know that some have found it strange that we have a yellow tape. It seems that they feel bad about it, I apologize for it. We realized that many are not following the norms of social distancing, and they ignored the previous tape, and every Monday, the tape had to be replaced. I thought that maybe because it was not very visible, so I decided to investigate what type of tape is used in other parishes, and I decided to use the same one. I ask for your understanding and tolerance, these are challenging times for everyone, and I want you to know that as a spiritual father, I would like to please you in everything. However, sometimes it is not easy to do so. I ask that together we offer these small sacrifices with faith because this is temporary. Sometimes it will seem repetitive, but it is necessary to talk about it.

If we follow the appropriate security measures, we will not have to live in fear, and we will learn to have an almost normal co-existence, which will help us carry out pastoral activities. I want to inform you well in advance that I have already started the preparations for the autumn and Christmas activities; I mention here three of them in order of celebration. On October 3rd, we will have the blessing of the animals in honor of the Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi. We will have two sessions, at noon and 5 pm, you can bring your animals to be blessed. On October 10th, we will carry out a procession through the neighborhood in honor of Our Lady of Fatima. I want us to do this activity to pray for the end of the pandemic. We will call it the "Candlelight Procession" because I invite everyone to bring a candle. Lastly, to end the year, we will have a Christmas Festival where we will put a living manger, with real animals, where the children can witness something out of the ordinary and forget what the pandemic has brought us this year. I'll be giving you more information on how we will do it later on.

I ask that we continue to pray and not lose hope. God is great and never abandons us.

I have you in my prayers, have a happy week.

Fr. Alex

Masses This Week

Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time - September 20:

8:00 am +Rafael Agtarap
 10:00 am Living & Deceased
 +Maria Hoi Ha and Peter Nguyen
 1:30 pm +Guillermo Tejada and Antonio
 Jesus Salazar

St. Matthew the Apostle - Monday, September 21:

8:00 am (L) Julia Balanay Lapada

Tuesday, September 22:

8:00 am (L) Daniel Stangel

St. Padre Pio - Wednesday, September 23:

8:00 am (L) Findley Alexander Leite

Thursday, September 24:

8:00 am +Mercedes Henning

Friday, September 25:

8:00 am (L) Margaret Quinn Gross

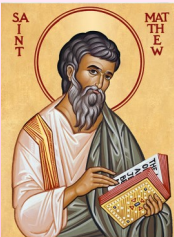
Sts. Cosmas and Damian - Saturday, September 26:

8:00 am +Philip Delota
 7:00 pm +Renia Pizarroso

Please note that since we currently have a modified Mass schedule due to COVID, Mass intentions not listed will be said at private Masses said by our priests. We are sorry for any inconvenience this may have caused. Please call the parish office at (703) 354-8711 ext. 10 with any questions

St. Matthew the Apostle: September 21

St. Matthew is known to us principally as an Evangelist, with his Gospel being the first in the New Testament. His Gospel was written in Aramaic, the language that our Lord Himself spoke and was written to convince the Jews that their anticipated Messiah had come in the person of Jesus. Not much else is known about Matthew. According to tradition, he preached in Egypt and Ethiopia and further places East. Some legends say he lived until his nineties, dying a peaceful death, others say he died a martyr's death.



Men's Silent Retreat

Register for the annual **Men's Silent Retreat weekend!** It includes daily Mass, conferences, time for private prayer, confession and spiritual direction.

MEN'S SILENT RETREAT

**THE WAY FORWARD:
 PERFECTION, COURAGE, &
 HOPE**

OCTOBER 16 AT 6:30PM -
 OCTOBER 18 AT 12PM



Register at

Arlingtondiocese.org/retreatformen

San Damiano Spiritual Center, White Post, VA
 \$325 before Sept. 10; \$360 afterwards

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: **VA234**
Thank you for your support!



SCAN ME

FAITH DIRECT®
 inspiring secure giving™

St. Ann's Homeschool Group

New to homeschooling? Queen of Apostles' St. Ann's Homeschool Group is here for you! For more information about our group and events, please contact Genevieve Erkens at 703-719-7955. We look forward to hearing from you!



Rosary Rally for our Police

Saturday, September 26, 2020

Join us in praying the Rosary for police officers! We will be praying the Rosary directly after 8am Mass, around 9:15am at the Mason District Government Center on Columbia Pike.



Please pray for the sick members of our parish

Jin C. Navarro, Leo Monteroso, 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, Kathy Ippolito, Richard Esterlund, Margaret Fiore, Michael Robertson, Mr. Cervantes, Jocelyn Reyes, Wilma Robles, Maryann McNutt

† RELIGIOUS EDUCATION †

Thank you Catechists!

We are blessed to have dedicated catechists, aides, and volunteers who assist parents in the important task of bringing children closer to Christ and His Church: **Magdalena, Lorynie, Lourdes, Natalie, Kene, Chris, Benedict, Gladys, Sister Eneyda, Vincent, Blanca, Maria, Jessica.** I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you is the theme for Catechetical Sunday, now scheduled for **Sept. 20, 2020.** Catechists will be recognized for their vocation to the ministry of catechesis.



RCIA

Were you baptized Catholic but missing Confirmation, Eucharist? Are you interested in Learning about the Catholic Faith? Are you in a Sacramental Marriage?

If you answered “Yes” to any of these questions, you should register for RCIA! The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is the process through which adults join or complete their initiation into the Catholic Church. RCIA is for 3 groups of adults:

- * Those who are not baptized.
- * Those who were baptized into another Christian denomination and wish to enter into full communion with the Catholic Church.
- * Baptized Catholics who were not fully formed in the Catholic faith and have not completed their initiation: those who have not received the Sacraments of Confirmation and/or Eucharist.



If you are missing Sacraments, not in a Church marriage, or thinking about becoming Catholic, please join our weekly English or Spanish adult faith formation classes. **RCIA in English** will be held on **Tuesdays, 7-8:30pm** beginning **Sept 22** with Fr. Rampino. **RCIA in Spanish** will be held on **Wednesday, 7-8:30pm** beginning **Sept 23** with Mr. Mercado. Both classes will be held in the parish office (4329 Sano Street).

Please stop by the parish office (4329 Sano Street) to register for the next school year (Sept 2020-June 2021) or email s.gray@queenofapostles.org. Please provide your birth certificate, and, if applicable, your baptismal certificate dated in the last 6 months.

For couples married outside of the Church, our priests are willing to help you prepare for Holy Matrimony. Please contact the office and set an appointment to meet with a priest.

Religious Education Information

Dates: We had a great start to the Religious Education school year on **Sept 13!** Thank you to our families, students, catechists, aides, and volunteers for working together to comply with health and safety protocols. On **Sunday, Sept 20,** doors will open at **8:30am** and students are asked to arrive no later than **8:45am** for the **9am** class. Please park close to the school and escort your child to the check-in. Students will enter the school and find his/her classroom. Current Sunday Mass times are **8am, 10am, and 12noon in English and 1:30pm in Spanish** and the parking lot may be busy. Please observe safety when entering and exiting the parking lot.

Parents of students using the on-line/at-home learning option (for students in grades 1-8, through MyCatholicFaithDelivered.com (MCFD) + a monthly Sunday morning class via video with the catechist and in-person class) have been sent MCFD log-in information. Each week, a message will be sent to the student's parent about the lesson the student is to complete.

Safety: Remember to perform a self-screening of symptoms before arriving on campus. On-site, temperatures will be checked and questions about coronavirus symptoms will be asked. Family members displaying any symptoms are not to attend RE class. To comply with safety protocols, class size is limited, 6' distance between families/students, masks/face shields are to be worn by everyone, hand sanitizer will be used upon entering the school building, students will report directly to class, only catechists, aides, and registration volunteers may enter the school, and disinfection will occur before and after classes. Students must bring his/her own pen/pencil, paper, folder, bottled water, hand sanitizer, etc. to class each week. Please understand that our faith formation planning may change as conditions change.

Requirements: Each RE school year builds on the next year of faith formation, therefore, students must attend **at least 2 consecutive years** of Religious Ed before a Sacrament is administered. A student is to show **evidence of desire** and preparation for a Sacrament and **not have more than 3 absences** during the school year. Generally, baptized children receive First Penance/Holy Communion in grade 2 and up and Confirmation is received in grade 8 and up. Families with unbaptized children under 7 years old or homeschool families with children preparing for Sacraments this upcoming school year are asked to call the parish office at 703-354-8711 ext. 10



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

Gospel Reflection for the 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time: The Vineyard's True Reward

Fr. Joseph Rampino

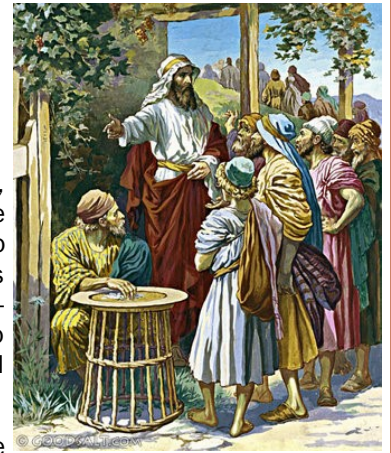
In the parable from this week, Christ challenges our notion of fairness and equality, as well as our inclination towards practicality. As we read this account of the workers in the vineyard, we may immediately relate to the reaction of those who worked a full day. We too might feel that those who had worked more were being cheated in receiving the same as those who had not worked. We are, for the most part, raised to believe that work corresponds to reward, actions to consequences, and this belief is not wrong when it comes to human affairs. We this vineyard a workplace like any workplace, there would be some real injustice in the distribution of wages.

Of course, the vineyard of the Lord is not in fact a workplace like any other. The vineyard in this parable is an image of the Church, God's kingdom, and the payment at the end is eternal life. The work day can be considered the human lifetime, or the ages of world history, and so long as one enters before the end of the day, at Christ's invitation, they can receive the reward that is entrance into heaven. It is perhaps an incomplete point of view to wonder if the payment is fair when we should rejoice at every person who receives it, and be filled with gladness when someone enters the vineyard, no matter how late in the day. We do well to remember that human life is ordered towards eternity with God, not towards earning the most, working harder for its own sake, distinguishing ourselves in the world, or getting ahead of our neighbors.

So if everyone receives the same eternal life, no matter when in their life they enter the vineyard that is the Church, why is there any advantage to being in the Church earlier in life at all? Would it not be easier simply to live our own lives until the end, and just before the close of the day, respond to the Lord's invitation? Is there any real reason to start work early in the day?

Of course there is. Aside from the fact that we cannot be sure that after a life lived away from God, we will all of a sudden want to come back to Him at the end, there really is an advantage to bearing the day's heat in the lord's vineyard, even for the same payment of those who enter later. The truth is that time spent in the vineyard is time spent close to the Lord. Time spent in friendship with Him is itself a reward. The tragedy of those workers who feel slighted when they are not paid more, is that they do not recognize the great gift they have already received. In their focus on being repaid for their labors, in their practical concern for results, they miss the friendship that was offered to them from the beginning.

So we might ask ourselves this week: how do I see life in the Church? I am a Christian just to get results, either in this world or the next? I am here just to get the rewards God gives? Or am I in the Church out of love for Christ Himself, reward or not? The truth is that only when we seek to stay close to the Lord in His vineyard no matter what the heat of the day brings, and no matter what we receive at the end, will we know peace of heart and the joy of the Christian life.



Queen of Apostles Young Adults Our mission is to inspire single and married young adults, ages 18-39, to answer the universal call to sainthood through fellowship and formation. On **Saturday, October 10 at 6:00 p.m.**, we'll be joining the Frassati Annandale YA group for a virtual event. We'll be watching "The Chosen", which is a great series based on the life of our Lord. For more information or to get added to our list, contact John Cosgayon at 571-265-9208 or jncos95@outlook.com or text QOFA to 84576

Blessing of the Animals in Honor of St. Francis of Assisi There will be a Blessing of Animals on the eve of the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi on **Saturday, October 3rd, at noon and 5 PM** in the church parking lot. Parishioners are encouraged to bring their pets; dogs should be on leashes, and other pets should be in appropriate carriers. Please contact the parish office for further information.



Procession and Rosary for Our

Lady of Fatima A Rosary procession will be held at Queen of Apostles on **Sun., Oct. 10th, at 5:30 p.m.** in honor of Our Lady of Fatima, followed by Mass. It will be led by the parish priests, followed by bearers carrying a statue of Our Lady of Fatima. We will pray the Rosary in different languages. The procession will begin at St. Gabriel's Convent. Please contact the Parish Office for further information



Wednesday Adoration Every Wednesday, from **8:45am-8pm**, we will have Eucharistic Adoration in the main sanctuary. Please make an effort to spent time with our Lord in prayer! Confessions are available outside immediately following Exposition. Call the parish office at (703)-354-8711 ext. 10 if there is no one else in the church and you need to leave.