

QUEEN OF APOSTLES CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time - September 6, 2020



CLERGY

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

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:
Monday - Thursday, 8:00 am - 3:15 pm
Friday, 8:00 am - 2:15 pm

STAFF

Anne Arias, Principal
Maria Fox, Secretary
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

Greetings, dear brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus!

This Sunday, the liturgy of the word has a common theme: fraternal correction and communal prayer. This is to save those who fall because of disobedience to the will and commandments that God has given us. I consider that it is an issue that touches us all, especially in our relationship with God and with our brothers and sisters. Jesus invites us today to break from individualism and indifference to our neighbor and show interest in change and conversion. Usually, we believe that each one must make their own decisions, even if they are incorrect, and that is why we decide to separate ourselves. However, the reality is entirely different because Jesus reminds us today that we must worry about correcting others with charity and love so that they straighten their path and turn back to grace. I do not think correcting others is difficult because it is enough to tell them what we believe. The challenging thing is when they correct us, which is difficult because nobody likes to be corrected, but out of love and humility, we must accept when we fail. For this reason, we must pray as a community, asking God for the grace to accept those corrections and, at the same time, to have the wisdom to change ourselves. Everything is for the sanctification of ourselves and others.



After reflecting a bit on the Gospel, I would like to share some observations from our parish life. First, I want to acknowledge all the tremendous and hard work that our principal Anne Arias has done all this time and continues to do for our parish school. She and all the teachers and staff are doing everything possible so that the school has a regular rhythm and that students be given proper attention and protection in this time of pandemic because every day becomes a heavier challenge. God bless our teachers and our children and keep them healthy. As many of you know, school is a tough challenge every day in all aspects. Mainly financially, because funds are more limited every day. So I ask those parents who have their children studying in our school to be generous and punctual with their payments and help us in other areas that serve to increase our school's life. Similarly, parishioners that are registered, please not forget to contribute to our weekly offertory because from what you contribute, some funds also go for our school's care and development. Blessed be God because we can still count on our school, but we have to work harder to maintain it, and I, as your pastor, am willing to do everything in my capacity so that we can have a more viable school with more children in the future.

I also want to invite those who have children not to be afraid to send them to our religious education program. We will start on Sunday the 13th of this month, and the program is open to students in kindergarten (age 5) through high school. Religious Education classes, taught in English, are on Sundays, 9-10:15 am in the school. If you have difficulties paying tuition, please talk with Susan Gray (s.gray@queenofapostles.org or 703-354-8711 ext. 16) because a financial hardship should not impede your child's faith formation. On Sept 13, doors open at 8 am. We are planning for in-person Religious Education classes with an on-line option available. To comply with safety protocols, class size is limited, masks/face shields are to be worn, physical distancing will be practiced, hand sanitizer will be used upon entering the school building, students will report directly to class, only catechists, aides, and volunteers may enter the school, and, disinfection will occur before and after classes.

The on-line learning option (through MyCatholicFaithDelivered.com plus a monthly Sunday morning class via video with the catechist and in-person class) is available to students who are not in a sacramental year. Please understand that our planning may change as conditions change. Together with our catechists and aides, we welcome this opportunity to assist your children in living the Catholic life: learn to pray, know the Bible and learn Scripture, and prepare for and live the sacraments.

I was happy to see that last Sunday Mass attendance increased by 15%; this guides us to start thinking about reopening the 5:00 pm Mass on Saturdays. For now, we cannot return to the regular schedule as a precaution, but I hope that by the end of this month, we can begin to celebrate Mass at the regular times.

I hope you have a happy and blessed Labor Day, and that you help me on this day to pray so that those who do not have a job can have one, and especially so that we return to our everyday parish life as before. I have you in my prayers.

God is great,

Fr. Alex

Masses This Week

Twenty-Second Third in Ordinary Time - September 6:

8:00 am +Dolores Perez
 10:00 am Living & Deceased Parishioners
 12:00 pm +Carmen Solis
 1:30 pm +Mr. & Mrs. Jose Dorado

Monday, September 7:

8:00 am +Daniel O'Donohue

Nativity of Mary - Tuesday, September 8:

8:00 am +Jairo E. Gonzalez Hernandez

St. Peter Claver - Wednesday, September 9:

8:00 am (L) Peter Nguyen-Van

St. Gregory the Great - September 10:

8:00 am +Ramonet Aquino

Friday, September 11:

8:00 am +Tracy Jean Quinn

Most Holy Name of Mary - Saturday, September 12

8:00 am (L) Rebecca G. Yoo
 7:00 pm +Enrique Espino

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

Respect Life Conference The Diocese of Arlington Respect Life conference will be **September 12, 2020** from **8am-12:30pm** at **Holy Spirit Parish** in Annandale. Come for an assessment of current and potential threats to human life and dignity, as well as suggestions for effective practical grassroots response. Bishop Burbidge will offer opening comments before the program. Speakers include Victoria Cobb, President of the Family Foundation, Olivia Gans Turner, President of the Virginia Society for Human Life, and Jeff Caruso, Executive Director of VA Catholic Conference. Visit arlingtondiocese.org/rlc to register. The registration cost is \$10.



Parish Office Closed The parish office will be closed **Sept. 7** for Labor Day. St. Joseph the Worker, pray for us!



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.

Wednesday Adoration Every Wednesday, from **8:45am-8pm**, we will have Eucharistic Adoration in the main sanctuary. Please make an effort to spend 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.



Nativity of Mary: September 8

We celebrate the birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary because our Lady's birth introduced to the world the one who had been graced by a singular honor and vocation, the preservation from the slightest taint of original sin from the first moment of her conception. In celebrating her birthday, we celebrate the beginning of a life of total and yet ever-deepening union with God—a union that allowed Mary to become God's own Mother. Thus we "see with what sentiments of tender devotion the Lord would have us honor Mary, in whom he has placed the plenitude of all good" (St. Bernard of Clairvaux)



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®

† RELIGIOUS EDUCATION †

Upcoming Sacraments

Families who delayed their student from receiving sacraments in June are invited to attend a **12 Noon Mass** on **Sept 12 (English)** or **Sept 19 (Spanish)** at Queen of Apostles Church. Please arrive by **11:30am**, dressed and ready to celebrate Mass and the sacraments. If attending one of the Masses, please email s.gray@queenofapostles.org or call 703-354-8711 ext. 16 by **Sept 8**.

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**. **RCIA in Spanish** will be held on **Wednesday, 7-8:30pm** beginning **Sept 23**. 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 Registration

Dates: Registration for the **Sept 13, 2020-May 30, 2021** Religious Education school year at Queen of Apostles is open to students in kindergarten (age 5) - high school. Thank you to the families who have registered already. Religious Education classes, taught in English, are on **Sundays, 9-10:15am** in the school. On Sept 13, doors open at 8am. **Advance registration is required.** We are planning for in-person Religious Education classes with an on-line option available. Please note that our **3rd and 8th grade classes are full.**

Safety: Families choosing in-person learning have been sent an **Awareness of Risk/Liability Waiver** (English and Spanish) to read, sign, and return to the parish office by **Sept 8**. Each Sunday before RE class, participants are to perform a health screening for symptoms of COVID-19. 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, 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. The on-line/at-home learning option (through MyCatholicFaithDelivered.com + a monthly Sunday morning class via video with the catechist and in-person class) is available to students who are not in a sacramental year and who have a computer and internet access. Please understand that our planning may change as conditions change. We are working with the Diocesan Office of Faith Formation on balancing safety protocols with student learning and faith formation.

Registration fees: **\$75** for 1 child, **\$125** for 2 children, **\$155** for 3 children in the same family + **\$20 late fee**. New students are to provide birth and baptismal (dated in the last 6 months) certificates with the registration form and tuition. Visit queenofapostles.org (Faith Formation > Religious Education) or go to <https://rb.gy/baixkk> to register. Please complete a registration form for each child and read the updated policies. If you have difficulties paying tuition, please talk with Susan Gray (s.gray@queenofapostles.org or 703-354-8711 ext. 16) because a financial hardship should not impede your child's faith formation.

Requirements: Each RE school year builds on the next year of faith formation, therefore, students must attend **at least 2 consecutive years** of Religious Education 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/First Holy Communion in grade 2 and higher and Confirmation is received in grade 8 and higher. Families with unbaptized children under 7 years old are asked to call the parish office at 703-354-8711 ext. 10. Together with our catechists and aides, we welcome this opportunity to assist your children in living the Catholic life: learn to pray, know the Bible and learn Scripture, and prepare for and live the sacraments.

GOSPEL REFLECTION

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time: Life in Common

Fr. Joseph Rampino



Whenever the Lord speaks, He challenges our earthly ways of thinking, indeed, He challenges the thinking of every age. In the Gospel passage the Church gives us this weekend, He does so twice, directing us away from our tendency towards distanced and individualistic living, and towards the common life of the Church.

The Lord first corrects the way we go about correcting one another. Whereas our tendency is often either to publically correct someone, or to speak about their faults to others first in gossip, the Lord calls us to show love even to an erring person. He commands that we both confront them directly and honestly, and that we preserve their reputation as much as possible. This requires us to love the sinner in practice and not only in theory, and means that we must not look at the wrong behavior of anyone as either an abstract problem to be fixed or an offense to be publicly shamed. The only time we are to bring someone's wrongdoing before others is if they will not change, and then this must not be done with passion or revenge, but peacefully, in the heart of the community. This form of loving correction is a difficult one, no doubt. It demands a great deal of our charity and forbearance, and it also requires that we trust in God's own eternal justice. Yet the Lord commands it. He replaces all human forms of taking offense with an act of love for the sinner in the heart of the Church.

Second, the Lord redirects the way that we as humans are often inclined to pray. He urges us that we are to agree on the object of our prayers, and we are to ask God for what we need together, as a group. So often, particularly in modern Christianity, prayer becomes a tremendously private affair. We pray silently and alone, almost always for the things that we feel we need in the present moment. Yet the Lord does not call us merely to have a personal relationship with Him, but rather to come to Him as one family, in a community of love. It is, of course, certainly not wrong to pray in private, nor to present our own needs and difficulties to God, but we should ask ourselves how often we really pray together with others for the needs of the Church and the world. This is why it is important for us as well that we see Holy Mass not simply as the place we receive communion and have a moment of closeness with Christ, but as the common prayer of the whole Church, the moment when we as a people stand before God and give Him honor.

The Lord created us to live a common life together, from the very first moment of the human race. We are not monads, individual spiritual seekers chasing after God on our own in a closed personal relationship, seeing others as either opportunities for correction, objects for our charity, or disturbances for our peace. We are made in the image of the God who is both one and three, who Himself is a unity in a community of love. Only by following that example, honestly meeting and facing our brethren, praying together in truth, loving the difficult, supporting the weak, and welcoming the inconvenient for their own sake, do we become what we were made to be, and become capable of the union with God we so desire.

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 (next to the church). Please notify the Parish Office of any family status changes or if you have moved outside the parish by calling (703) 354-8711 ext. 10, or emailing general@queenofapostles.org

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, Kathleen Donohoe, Mark Bush, Margaret Peiffer, 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, Richard Esterlund, Margaret Fiore, Michael Robertson, Mr. Cervantes, Jocelyn Reyes, Wilma Robles, Maryann McNutt

Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Where two or three are gathered in My name..." The community that gathers in Christ needs leadership. Are you being called to discipleship as a priest, deacon or in the consecrated life? Call Father Michael Isenberg (703) 841-2514, or write: michael.isenberg@arlingtondiocese.org



Women's Group The first gathering for the Women's Group will be on Wednesday, **September 9th**. We will meet for the **8am Mass** followed by adoration and a rosary. Father Diaz will meet us in Hannan Hall at 9:30am. All are invited. We hope to see you there!

