



QUEEN OF THE APOSTLES

Reina de los Apostoles
A Catholic Community
Comunidad Catolica de Belmont

503 North Main Street, Belmont, North Carolina 28012
Phone: 704.825.9600 . Fax: 704.825.1413
Office Hours: Monday through Friday
8:30am – 12:30pm and 1:30pm – 4:30pm
Website: www.queenoftheapostles.org



***Sunday morning Masses will be livestreamed for the foreseeable future
in accordance with government and diocesan directives***



March 29, 2020 Fifth Sunday of Lent

Weekday Eucharist Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 9:00am
in the St. Katharine Drexel Chapel
Weekend Eucharist Saturday: 5:00 pm, 7:00 p.m. (en Español))
Sunday: 9:15 & 11:00 am
Reconciliation: Saturday: 4:00 pm, and by appointment
Holy Day Celebrations: 12:15pm and 7:15 pm
Misa en Español: Todos los Sabados a 7:00 PM

Baptism: This important sign of initiation is celebrated in the community at any one of the weekend Masses. Parents must complete the preparation program (offered every other month). Please contact the church office at least two months prior to your anticipated date for Baptism.

Marriage: This sacrament provides an opportunity for a couple to stand as a sign of God's love in the community. To this end, a period of preparation is important and necessary. Contact the church office at least six months prior to your proposed marriage date to begin this process.

Anointing of the Sick: If you are preparing for surgery or hospitalization, this sacrament can be celebrated with you on any weekend at the church. In an emergency, contact the church so we can pray with you at home or in the hospital.

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Mission Statement

With the Blessed Virgin Mary, the first disciple of Jesus Christ, as our example and patron, the mission of Queen of the Apostles Catholic Church is to live and proclaim the Gospel entrusted to us. We strive in our rich diversity to be a community of welcome and hospitality: one with the Risen Christ, each other, and the whole Church. Through the Word of God and the life of the Sacraments, especially the Eucharist, we are empowered to engage in a variety of ministries of service to the parish family and the communities where we live.

Masses This Week

Sunday, March 29, 2020

LiveStream Only

9:15am James Ersing +
11:00am For the People
12:00-3:00pm Exposition of Blessed Sacrament

Tuesday, March 31, 2020

7:00pm Recitation of Rosary
LiveStream Only

Friday, April 3, 2020

7:15pm Stations of the Cross
LiveStream Only

Collections

Collection 03-22-2020: \$11,168.50

Thank you for your support of the parish!

You can help us
during the COVID-19 pandemic.

During this challenging time, we depend on online donations to continue our ministry. Use eGiving from your computer, smartphone or tablet to set up a recurring donation or make a one-time gift. Plus, sign up is easy.

How eGiving benefits you and our church:

- Consistency: Your support will allow us to continue our important ministries and continue to help the community.
- Convenience: Support the parish from the comfort and safety of your home with a smartphone or computer.
- Cost-Effective: Reduces our printing and mailing costs, so we can use that saved money to further our ministries in the community. Plus, it's better for the environment!

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LIVE Streaming

All Sunday Masses are live with new and improved streaming! Please go to our website at www.queenoftheapostles.org and click on the LiveStreaming tab to be connected to the site.



A New Experience of Church

As we move together through these weeks of being apart from each other, I want to assure you that we are working hard to be as present to the community as we can be personally and electronically. To that end, I wanted to invite you to keep the following in mind:



1. We are extending our platforms beyond just our livestream to participate in the two Sunday Masses at 9:15 and 11:00 AM to include the parish FACEBOOK page and our parish YouTube channel. Details are on the parish website (www.queenoftheapostles.org).
2. For the balance of Lent this will include the Stations of the Cross at 1:00 PM on Friday (but you can pray them privately in the daily Chapel, if you wish), the Parish Penance Service on March 29 as well as our sacramental preparation programs and potentially the celebration of these sacraments. We will always communicate with specific groups any changes that affect your schedule.
3. Additional spiritual programs will be offered by our livestream in the church beginning this week. Every Tuesday evening at 7:00 PM, we invite you to tune in for the recitation of the ROSARY. Every Friday through the remainder of Lent, also at 7:00 PM we invite you to tune in to pray the STATIONS OF THE CROSS.
4. On Sunday afternoon, March 29 from 12 Noon (after the 11AM Mass live feed) until 3:00 PM, the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed in the church and can be observed via the livestream camera. It gives a small opportunity to take a few moments of prayer from wherever you are and to "center" yourself in the nourishing reality of this great Mystery of God's presence among us. Tune in and pray for the each other!
5. On the parish website (www.queenoftheapostles.org) we have included a few past titles from our Lenten small group formation program that give you a chance to revisit themes and reflect on the topics that you find there. Maybe you can use them with the other members of your household?
6. The bulletin is available online where you will also find an option to have it emailed directly to you each week (look for the QR code). This will keep you up to date during these weeks.
7. The daily Chapel in Saint Katharine Drexel Hall is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM until 4:30 PM for private prayer if you are in the area and wish to stop in.
8. Unfortunately, nursing facilities and hospitals have severely limited visitors which include restrictions on clergy. We will try to be as responsive as we are permitted to be to meet their safety regulations as well as to protect our own safety. Please be patient and remember that God's Grace is bigger than both of us. We have temporarily suspended bringing Communion to homebound members of the parish for this reason as well. Only family members who have already been doing so and who reside in the same household with one of our homebound members may request to bring Communion during this current situation by contacting the church office.
9. Things are very fluid. Please be flexible: this could end in a short time or be extended for a longer period. We will try to respond to any and all circumstances we find ourselves in. Let's continue to pray for one another and, please, remember to support the parish financially by using Egive or by mailing/bringing your offering by the office. It is our only means of survival!

**St. Katharine Drexel
Day Chapel Open Daily
for Private Prayer
8:30am-12:30pm**

Saints & Special Observances

Sunday: Fifth Sunday of Lent

Wednesday: April Fool's Day

Thursday: St. Francis of Paola

Friday: First Friday; Abstinence

Saturday: St. Isidore; First Saturday

Readings for the Week

Monday: Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 [41c-62];

Ps 23:1-6; Jn 8:1-11

Tuesday: Nm 21:4-9;

Ps 102:2-3, 16-21; Jn 8:21-30

Wednesday: Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95;
Dn 3:52-56; Jn 8:31-42

Thursday: Gn 17:3-9; Ps 105:4-9;
Jn 8:51-59

Friday: Jer 20:10-13; Ps 18:2-7;
Jn 10:31-42

Saturday: Ez 37:21-28;
Jer 31:10, 11-13; Jn 11:45-56

Sunday: Mt 21:1-11 (procession);
Is 50:4-7; Ps 22:8-9, 17-20, 23-24;
Phil 2:6-11; Mt 26:14 — 27:66
[27:11-54]

Baptismal Preparation



Baptism is celebrated at weekend Masses at any time of the year except the Lenten season. Parents wishing to present a child (under six years of age) for Baptism must complete an Evening of Preparation here in the parish. These are offered six times a year. During pregnancy or after the birth of a child are appropriate times to attend. The next scheduled Prep Session has been scheduled for Tuesday, **May 12** beginning at 7:00pm in the McCauley Parlor in the Church. Please call the church office to make a reservation to attend this upcoming program. If Sponsors (Godparents) are also here in the area, we invite them to attend as well.



Sick and Homebound

Please keep all of our sick and homebound in your prayers especially those who have asked to be remembered:

Patrick Bragg (Meadow Wood Nursing Center, Gastonia), Ducky Huffstetler, Joy Cordek (Carillon-Lincolnton)



Tithing Partner Spotlight

Next weekend, our tithe will be sent to *With Friends*, a new tithing partner. They provide housing and support services for homeless teenagers in Gaston County. Our tithe helps pay for continued services after the government sponsored two week period expires.

Online Prayer Ministry

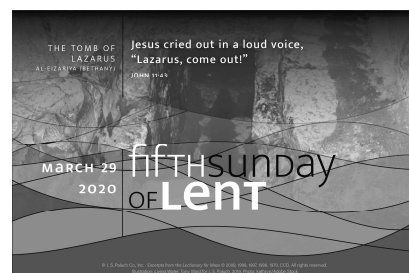
Prayer requests can be sent to prayforme@queenoftheapostles.org or phoned in to the church office at 704-825-9600. If you would like to join the prayer ministry and do not have access to a computer but have VOICE MAIL, please contact the church office. You will be called with the daily prayer requests.

Stewardship

If we give ourselves to God and let Him use our talents to serve others, we will be amazed by the results. Not only will our lives be changed but so will the lives of others.

Friends Helping Friends

Registered parishioners are invited to post requests for services needed or services they are able to provide on the bulletin board in the breezeway. Please use only the forms provided on the shelf beneath the board—no personal notices or resumes. Please copy the information from the board if you are making use of it and leave the posted slips so that others may also take advantage of the opportunities.



Please be generous to the DSA. Your contribution is a way to act with love for our sisters and brothers throughout the diocese and to continue the saving work begun by Jesus. You may complete a pledge by going to charlottediocese.org.dsa to make an online gift or pick up an envelope in the breezeway.

community happenings

From the Pastor's Desk . . .

QUEEN OF THE APOSTLES FAMILY: SEND ME A FAMILY SELFIE FOR EASTER!

Send a selfie to me

at pastor@queenoftheapostles.org. We will copy it and put it in the pews at church so I'll be able to see you for our Easter celebration! We're gonna decorate the church for Easter anyway, so you might as well be a part of it!

Let's fill the (new) church with our faces and find some sense of connection together.

Send it by Wednesday, April 8.

Here's an example of what a church in Grand Rapids, MI did....



Food Collection—Plan B!

Since we have indefinitely suspended weekend Masses, we need to adapt how we assist our local food banks. The CRO in Mount Holly is scheduled as our March recipient. They need peanut butter and jelly, soup, instant oatmeal, grits, spaghetti sauce, pasta, carrots, corn, pinto beans, navy and great northern beans, baby limas and they can't get enough saltine crackers. They have plenty of green beans and peas. Please bring your non-perishable items to the entry of St. Katherine Drexel Hall (the former Narthex) and place them in the provided baskets by Friday, **March 27**. The food banks need our help now more than ever. Please be generous!

Rice Bowls

Rice Bowls are still available in the entry to St. Katharine Drexel Hall. They can be dropped off in the same area the week of **April 5**. A bowl is provided for your offerings. Thank you for participating this year. 25% of the collection will be returned to our community to fight hunger.

Co-ed Softball

QoA plans to participate in the East Gaston Christian Sports League this spring. Co-Ed Softball is scheduled to begin the week of **April 13** with games played at George Poston Park, 1101 Lowell-Spencer Mountain Rd, Gastonia. Games will be played on Monday nights at 6:30, 7:30 and 8:30.

We will continue to signup interested players. To find out more, contact Jeff Meader at jeffmeader@gmail.com or Jon Hamilton at jon5872@aol.com.



Faith Formation Children's Classes & EDGE Move to Alternate Programs

Children enrolled in Sunday formation classes will be receiving their weekly activity sheets in the mail. Parents have a link to the Pflaum site for access to teaching guides to assist them with these. The EDGE program is being taught via PowerPoint lessons accessible through the EDGE link on our website. After completing the lessons, middle schoolers are asked to respond to a series of questions remotely. There is no youth meet this week but EDGE and LifeTeen will again meet remotely on Sunday, **April 5**.

First Eucharist Workshops Via Zoom

Workshops 2 and 3 of the First Eucharist Preparation Program have been reconstructed to happen via Zoom! The goal is to maintain interactivity with the kids, but from a healthy distance as advised. Workshop 2 will happen as scheduled on **April 4** at 12:00pm. Workshop 3 is still a work-in-progress and details are upcoming. Parents have been emailed instructions for establishing a free account to join a Zoom meeting. Please email Ms. Chrissy or Ms. Debbie with questions or if you need assistance.

Confirmation Preparation Completed Through Google

Our Confirmation candidates completed their third retreat remotely on Saturday, March 28 through two sessions on GoToMeeting that allowed them to meet with the Confirmation team. Packets with information to complement the meetings were mailed ahead of time.

Save the Dates!

Vacation Bible School will be Sunday, **June 28** through Thursday, **July 2**, 5:00-8:00pm! Please mark your calendars and be sure to join us for this year's exciting program, **Rocky Railway—Jesus' Power Pulls Us Through!** Adults volunteers are needed to help with decorating, stations, organizing materials and leading crews! If you have an interest in help, please contact Debbie at formation@queenoftheapostles.org or 704-825-9600, ext. 26.

Summer Faith Formation Program will be Sunday, **July 12** through Thursday, **July 16** and Sunday, **July 19** through Thursday, **July 23**, 5:00-8:00pm! This program is for students rising to first through fifth grades. It is a two week condensed religious education program which fulfills one year of credit. For more information about these summer programs, please contact Debbie at formation@queenoftheapostles.org or call 704-825-9600, ext 26.



Lenten Small Groups

Some of our Lenten small groups continue to meet in homes. Please check with your facilitator to see if yours is one of those. If you haven't had the opportunity to sign up for a group or your group is not meeting in response to Covid-19, the sessions have been posted on our website along with our past studies, *Salt and Light* and *Minds & Hearts to God: A Study on Prayer*.

Please refer to our site to stay connected with your parish family during this time.

Adult Faith Formation Programs Suspended

Until further notice our adult faith formation programs will also be suspended including ***Sunday Morning Bible Study, Just for Men, Just for Ladies, MOMS Group and Marriage Enrichment***. Please watch the bulletin and website for when these will resume or for alternative platforms that may allow them to continue.

noticias de nuestra comunidad hispana



La Campaña Diocesana de Apoyo ya lleva un mes. Necesitamos la ayuda de todos para poder llegar a nuestra meta de \$100,920.

Formación de nuestra fe en español

Recuerden nuestra invitación para seguir creciendo y aprendiendo juntos. Todos los jueves a las 7:00 pm, nos reunimos en el edificio del parqueadero de abajo, para que juntos crezcamos en el conocimiento de nuestra fe católica. Los esperamos no tiene límite de edad

Colecta de Comida

Como saben hemos suspendido las misas del fin de semana por lo ocurrido, estamos adaptando la forma de ayudar a nuestros bancos de alimentos locales en marzo el CRO en Mount Holly. Necesitan mantequilla de maní y gelatina, sopa, avena instantánea, sémola, salsa de espagueti, pasta, zanahorias, maíz, frijoles pintos, frijoles blancos. Por favor traiga sus artículos perecederos a la entrada de St. Katherine Dixel Hall y colocarlas cestas provistas antes del viernes 27 de marzo. Los bancos de alimentos necesitan nuestra ayuda ahora más que nunca. Por favor, se i generoso!

Oración

Señor, gracias por escuchar mis oraciones y por estar siempre atento a mis necesidades. Dame la gracia de sentirme verdaderamente hijo tuyo. Dios mío, aumenta mi fe para reconocerte y proclamarte como el único Señor de mi vida. Ayúdame a levantar la mirada al cielo para tener siempre presente que caminamos en esta vida como peregrinos a nuestra patria celestial. Amen



Reflexion

Llegamos al último domingo de Cuaresma. El evangelista Juan nos narra el último milagro de Jesús. Jesús recibe la llamada de las hermanas de Lázaro: «Jesús, tu amigo, está enfermo». Jesús dice: «Esta enfermedad no acabará en la muerte, sino que servirá para que el Hijo de Dios sea glorificado». Pasan dos días y Jesús se pone en camino, cuando llega, Lázaro lleva muerto cuatro días. Jesús ve la tristeza y el dolor de las hermanas de Lázaro y comparte con ellas el dolor, y también el llanto. La hermana que sale a recibirlo, sabe que todo lo que Jesús le pida a Dios le será concedido, tiene esa certeza. Jesús le dijo: «tu hermano resucitará». Jesús, como todos nosotros no quiere la muerte, quiere la vida, pero sabe que para vivir en plenitud de Dios todos debemos pasar por ella. Pero nadie, absolutamente nadie, quiere morir, nos angustia pensar en ella, incluso hay personas que a cierta edad o ante la enfermedad sufren ansiedad o depresión. Pero si realmente creemos, debemos tener la certeza de que Jesús nos trae la esperanza y la resurrección; sin embargo, dudamos, no nos dejamos acoger en los brazos misericordiosos de Dios. Durante estos cinco domingos se nos ha invitado a la conversión, a volver nuestra vida a Dios. Que nuestra fe sea firme, como fue la de las hermanas de Lázaro. Jesús nos dice que la muerte no es el final, sino el camino hacia la luz, hacia la vida. No se puede razonar, sólo podemos creer en ella desde la fe y ésta tenemos que cultivarla, cuidarla para que cada día aumente. «Señor, acrecienta y aumenta mi fe»

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