



# ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

**November 24, 2024**

**Our Mission**

**Love God.**

**Serve Others. Grow Disciples.**

**You Matter! + You Belong!**

**20 Chestnut Street, Centereach, NY 11720 631-585-8760 [www.abvmcentereach.com](http://www.abvmcentereach.com)**

Rev. Joseph Alenchery, Pastor  
Deacon Michael Montelione  
Rectory Office: M - F 9:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.

Phone: 631-585-8760;  
Fax: 1-866-214-3365  
Faith Formation: 631-588-6408



**Sunday, November 24**

9:30 a.m. — Molly Drew Connolly (Connolly/LiCari Family)  
 Timothy F. Connolly (Connolly/Licari Family)  
 11:30 a.m.— George Lessler (Satalino)  
 People of the Parish

**Monday, November 25**

9:00 a.m.— Poor Souls (Phyllis Solimeno)  
 Fernando Goncalves (Pereira Family)

**Tuesday, November 26**

9:00 a.m.— William Capiliti (Sharon Safran)  
 Domenica Bellavia (Melissa Ferrara)

**Wednesday, November 27**

9:00 a.m.— Dorothy Rinaldi (Tom Donnelly & Friend)

**Thursday, November 28**

9:00 a.m.— People of the Parish

**Saturday, November 30**

5:30 p.m.— Fr. Gerard Smith  
 Lillyan Petrosky (Family)

**Sunday, December 1**

9:30 a.m.— Paul Nicastro (Ed & Lori Rivera)  
 11:30 a.m.— Carl Kloiber (Eugene Mone)  
 People of the Parish

**We celebrate EUCHARIST**

Saturdays: 5:30 PM  
 Sundays: 9:30, 11:30 AM  
 Weekdays: Mon—Thurs 9:00 AM

**We celebrate PENANCE**

Saturdays: 4:00 – 5:00 PM and by appointment.

**Faith Formation Office Hours**

Regular Office Hours: Monday and Tuesday 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and 4 p.m. to 7:30 pm; Wednesday 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

**RECTORY OFFICE HOURS**  
**Monday to Friday**  
**9:00 AM to 2:00 PM**

**Sacraments**

For more information on Baptism, Marriage and Anointing of the Sick, please visit our parish website [www.abvmcentereach.com](http://www.abvmcentereach.com) or call the office at 631-585-8760 during regular office hours.

**Catholic Daughters of the Americas (Court St. Gerard)**

First Thursday of the month: Sept - June at 7:30 PM in the Parish Library. Contact Alexandria McMahon at 631-585-3938.

**Catholic War Veterans**

Second Saturday of the month: Sept - June at 10 AM in the Parish Library. Contact Vincent Zecca, [papazecca@aol.com](mailto:papazecca@aol.com), or phone 631 588 3423.

**Holy Name Society**

Usually the second Monday of the month: Sept - May at 7:30 PM in the parish center. Contact Sal Stingo at [rtbhuntington@yahoo.com](mailto:rtbhuntington@yahoo.com) or Anita Wolf at [hwolf96@aol.com](mailto:hwolf96@aol.com).

**Rosary Altar Society**

A service-based women’s organization that cares for the Church and promotes the spiritual life of its members. Meetings are held on every first Tuesday of the month from September thru June.

**Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.**  
 Psalm 107:1

**STEWARDSHIP**  
**GIVING to our parish as an act of worship**

**Parish Sacrificial Giving Summary**  
 Last Week’s Collection: \$10,224  
 (includes *Faith Direct*)  
 Last Year’s Collection: \$10,400  
**Thank You!**

*Rest  
 in  
 Peace*



Michael J. Wise  
 Jack W. Becker  
 Nicholas V. Mirabile Jr.

## ***Good News Reflection***

### ***The King of Reality***

When the question of Christ's kingship comes up in the Gospel, Jesus redirects us to the true meaning of divine kingship. Without denying that he is king, he says: "The reason I was born into the world is to testify to the truth." He is not the king of a country or a world; he is the king of truth, the ruler of reality.

The perception of reality that we develop when Jesus is not our teacher and interpreter and revealer of truth is warped and blurred by the falsehoods and misunderstandings and counterfeits that float around in the kingdom of the world.

When we sin, it's because we don't fully understand the reality of the situation. Jesus is not yet fully the king of that part of our lives.

For example, think of a person who has asked you for something that you cannot afford to give. Perhaps it's the sick neighbor. Or the coworker who doesn't have the level of faith that you have. Or the aging parent who needs more and more assistance.



Do you feel like you don't have enough to satisfy their needs? Are you so tired from your own burdens that you cannot take on someone else's? Well, it's our flesh nature that says we cannot enjoy doing more for others than we're already doing. This is a warped view of reality; it looks like we'll be happier if we cater to our own desires instead of taking care of someone else's need.

In true reality, a joyful lifestyle develops when we listen to the voice of Jesus, even when he says, "go the extra mile" or "be like the Good Samaritan and take a detour to minister to others". We have to trust the truth that he teaches, regardless of how little we understand it.

Understanding grows in the doing of God's will more than in the thinking about it. Joy grows as we gain the understanding that comes from seeing some of the fruits of what we've done. When we sin, it's because we cannot envision the good fruits that will come from doing things the way Christ tells us to. Under his kingship and the Holy Spirit's wisdom, we gain freedom to overcome all of our sinful tendencies.

**Questions for Personal Reflection:** "FEAR" is "False Evidence Appearing Real." What is fear telling you about the ways of Christ? What will you do to give Jesus kingship in these areas?

**Questions for Community Faith Sharing:** Name a common misconception you've seen or experienced that keeps people away from Christ. Why do people believe this unreality? How can we help them feel safe in learning the truth and accepting the kingship of Christ?

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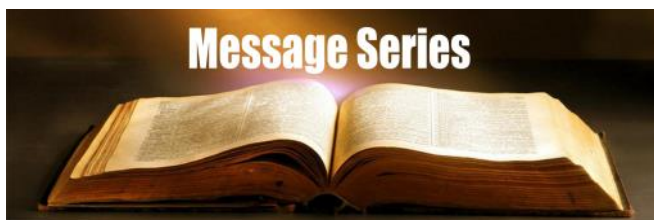




A promise fills us with anticipation. It offers hope for the future and gives us something to look forward to. For a promise to inspire hope, we need clarity on what is being offered and trust in its fulfillment.

The Christmas season is rich with promises. But what is the true promise of Christmas? What should we anticipate during this season and beyond? Without a clear understanding of what Christmas genuinely promises, we risk missing out on its true meaning and the expectations we can have of God throughout the year.

In this four-week, series we will look at the Promise of Christmas and the expectations we can have for it.



As you already know, at Assumption, we preach in message series. Over several weeks, we will examine a topic in depth. We select a topic based on the weekend's scripture readings.

God speaks to us at every moment, especially in a community setting, when His people come together on Sundays and listen to the Word of God as we celebrate, pray, praise, and thank God. Then the discussion continues in the Small Groups and goes deeper. Our message series usually runs from September to July. Our mission continues to Love God, Serve Others, and Grow Disciples.

### **Daily Practice**

“Daily Practice” is a daily devotional that is sent in an email weekly. It is a Scripture passage, and a reflection, for each day of the week. If you would like to subscribe to it, please sign up with an email. Please leave your name and email at the Welcome Desk or contact the Office at [rectory@abvmcentereach.com](mailto:rectory@abvmcentereach.com).



## Small Groups

**Small Groups** are where our large church gets small. Groups are 6-10 people who meet usually once a week to discuss faith, go deeper in the weekly message, and support one another in their relationship with Christ. This is the place to care for others and be cared for; Assumption small groups are open to accept more people anytime during the year to help your faith journey. If you

would like to join a small group, you can sign up by stopping by the Welcome Desk on Sunday or email us at [rectory@abvmcentereach.com](mailto:rectory@abvmcentereach.com).

# STEWARDSHIP WEEKEND

## November 23-24, 2024

### GIVING to our parish is an act of WORSHIP

In the gospel of Luke, we read the story of Jesus and the tax collector Zacchaeus (Luke 19). In response to his life changing encounter with the Lord, his heart is changed when it comes to giving. Previously he used people to serve money. Now he resolves to use money to serve people.

Zacchaeus' example reminds us that our heart follows our money. Giving and using money in a God honoring way moves us in God's direction.

Your giving to our parish matters because it is an investment in our community, an investment in the next generation and an investment in reaching people far from God with the message of Christ's love. But your giving to Assumption matters most because it can move your heart closer to the heart of the Lord. Thank you for your investment and thank you for your support. Also, remember this is the only time in the whole year we ask you to give to the parish.

This weekend is our Stewardship weekend. God has given us abundant gifts in our lives, including our financial resources. All that we are and everything that we have belongs to God. He has appointed us as stewards of His blessings. Giving to God by giving in our place of worship is an act of worship and giving to the poor is a sure and certain way to grow our faith right now and invest in our future by building up treasure in heaven.

I invite you to pray and reflect upon your financial support of our parish in the year ahead, As always, we encourage electronic giving – it is the most helpful way to give.

Parish financial report for the past year is available in the bulletin and Stewardship Faith Commitment card is also available at the doors if you haven't got one already in the mail.

Thank you very much for your commitment to our parish as we journey together rebuilding our parish by Loving God, Serving Others and Growing Disciples. -Fr. Joe



Children's Ministry for  
ages four to fifth grade on  
Sundays during 9:30 AM Mass

At the beginning of the Mass, children will be sent forth with catechists and assistants downstairs to the church basement to reflect and share the scriptures read at the Mass. A presentation is given, and then the children share in their small groups. This is an excellent opportunity for our youngest to engage during the Mass at their own level. We are ready to hear and be part of the stories of our parish's youngest disciples and invite them to the most incredible adventure of their lives, reminding them weekly, year after year, that our Father is madly after their hearts. For more information contact the Faith Formation Office.



Please prayerfully consider supporting our parish with electronic donations through *Faith Direct*. Signing up is easy! Visit [faithdirect.net/NY563](http://faithdirect.net/NY563) or scan the QR Code on your right. Please use **the parish code (NY563)**. Thank you for your continued support of our parish family!



**Thanksgiving Donations:** Thank you to all made our Thanksgiving Drive a huge success! Because of your donations, we were able to give Thanksgiving baskets to 45 families in need that are living in our Parish boundaries. The generosity of our Parishioners is inspiring!



**Christmas Donations:** With Christmas just around the corner, the Parish Social Ministry is getting ready to start our Christmas Drive to provide Christmas baskets for our clients. Gift cards for \$25 to local stores such as Walmart and Target are very helpful in providing those in need with the ability to purchase Christmas gifts for their children. We are also happy to accept food donations as well as \$25 gift cards from local supermarkets to help provide a great Christmas dinner for our clients, allowing them the dignity to choose their favorite holiday foods. If you choose to donate gift cards, please drop them off at the Welcome Desk or deliver them to the Parish Office.

**PANTRY NEEDS:** Tissues, Dishwashing Liquid, Household Cleaner, Cake Mix, Frosting, Oatmeal, Dry Soup Mix, Instant Potatoes, Canned Carrots, Canned Soup, Tuna Fish, Jelly.

**THANKSGIVING**  
**MASS 9:00 AM**  
 Followed by refreshments in the Parish Center  
 Sponsored by the Catholic Daughters of the Americas

**Good News Ahead**  
**Signs of Christmas**  
**Christmas Musical**  
 by Faith Formation Students

**Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>**  
 3:30 PM Christmas musical  
 4:30 PM Tree Lighting  
 5:00 PM Music, Food & Celebration  
 in the Parish center

All are invited

Christmas is coming. It is one of the beautiful, joyful, and wonderful time of the year. Our joy is expressed through presents, decorations, and celebrations. As we have mentioned before we are in our 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year. We are celebrating it all through the year until August 2025. The celebrations continue with the Christmas Musical presented by our Faith Formation Students on Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 pm in the church. They have begun their rehearsals and preparations. After the musical we will have a Christmas Tree lighting and a beautiful beginning of advent celebration in the parish center. All are invited.

## Financial Report: September 2023 through August 2024



It is my responsibility to make sure that the parish remains up to date on our financial situation so, below is our parish's financial report from our last fiscal year ended August 31, 2024. I've divided income and expenses into recognizable categories, to help give a clearer idea of where the money comes from and where it went. Income and expense items have been divided into 4 categories, Parish Office, Faith Formation, Church, and Rectory. Expenses that applied to all areas were proportionately distributed based upon a percentage of the total activity.

The goal, of course, is to have our operating income cover our operating expenses, without needing to use our savings. With the parish's help, we were blessed to accomplish this goal for this fiscal year. As you can see from the Income/Expense chart below, we were close to breakeven which was

due to a 4% increase in our collections, while our expenses in most areas either decreased or stayed consistent. To understand how much we spend just to keep the doors open, here are a couple of our total annual bills: Gas \$17,840; electric \$16,283; water \$2,030; insurance \$56,698; grounds \$43,537. Our biggest investment is in our children as we continue to expand our Faith Formation and Sprouts programs while growing our students and families..

For the parish to thrive, we must continue growing as disciples who embrace the STEPS of Discipleship: Serve, Tithe, Engage, Prayer and Sacraments, and Share. Thankfully, our online giving portion of collections has continued to increase over the past year since it is a great way of improving and stabilizing our financial situation. Getting more families to participate in Faith Direct, our parish's electronic giving program, is a great way to "take a step" toward a stewardship way of life. I use this for my own weekly parish offering.

Together we rely on God's abundance. I remain convinced that the Lord is much more prepared for us than we are receiving. Below is the Income/Expense chart that summarizes where we have been over the past fiscal year. If anyone wishes further information or explanation, do not hesitate to contact me at the rectory to set up an appointment. - Fr. Joe

<b>Income</b>		
Amount our parishioners contributed to the parish	532,161	Sunday, Christmas, Easter collections.
What the parish received from Catholic Ministries Appeal Rebate	11,320	This is the diocesan rebate the parish receives because of your support of the Catholic Ministries Appeal.
What the parish collected from program fees	54,436	Faith Formation and VBS
What the parish received from auxiliary sources	37,693	Baptisms, weddings, funerals, Outreach donations, bulletin income, candles, miscellaneous donations.
What the parish received for diocesan collections	8,220	All the monies collected are given directly to the diocese. None stays in the parish.
Capital Gain & Extraordinary Revenue	155,890	Non-operating revenue. This includes Capital Campaign, insurance claims, investment income/loss.
TOTAL operating income received by the parish to carry on its mission.	643,830	Does not include Diocesan collections, Capital gain and extraordinary revenue
<b>Expenses</b>		
What it costs to maintain our Rectory Office	\$154,353	Includes salaries, utilities, supplies, etc. Also includes Outreach.
What it costs to maintain our Faith Formation programs and other adult formation	159,120	Includes salaries, utilities, supplies, etc. used for the ongoing formation of our adults and children
What it costs to use our Church for liturgy	145,747	Includes salaries, utilities, supplies, etc.
What it costs to maintain our priests' residence	61,722	Includes food, utilities, maintenance
What our parish contributes to our Catholic Schools Subsidy	76,663	The diocese taxes all parishes 12% of a parish's collections to support Catholic schools.
What our parish paid the diocese for assessments/ collections	39,747	Diocesan assessment, - pay 8% of collections to diocese
Capital improvement	19,900	Not part of operating expense.
TOTAL Operating Expense:	\$645,572	Does not include Diocesan collections, and Capital improvements
<b>Total operating surplus/deficit</b>	<b>(\$1,742)</b>	<b>LOVE GOD SERVE OTHERS GROW DISCIPLES</b>