



ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

December 1, 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

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



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

Sunday, December 1

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

Monday, December 2

9:00 a.m.— Bruce R. Jagenburg

Tuesday, December 3

9:00 a.m.— Living & Deceased Members of the Rosary Altar Society

Wednesday, December 4

9:00 a.m.— Marie Castrova (Nora & Steve Gerli)

Thursday, December 5

9:00 a.m.— Charles Salvietti (Family)

Saturday, December 7

5:30 p.m.— Alicia Cuervos (Family)
Peter Avalos (Family)

Sunday, December 8

9:30 a.m.— Caroline Carone (Maureen Reilly)
Abelardo & Norma Angeles (Gochan Family)
11:30 a.m.— Dyan Dar (Ward Family)
People of the Parish

Sacraments

For more information on Baptism, Marriage and Anointing of the Sick, please visit our parish website 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

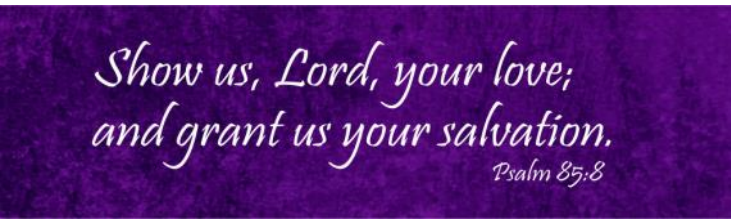
Second Saturday of the month: Sept - June at 10 AM in the Parish Library. Contact Vincent Zecca, papazecca@aol.com, or phone 631 588 3423.

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 or Anita Wolf at 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.



Parish Sacrificial Giving Summary
Last Week’s Collection: \$9,308
(includes Faith Direct)
Last Year’s Collection: \$9,257
Thank You!

Rest
in
Peace

Deceased Brothers & Sister of Our Parish

Good News Reflection**Faith that Gives Hope and Victory**

Today's world needs Christians who truly understand that faith gives us hope and victory in the midst of any and all difficulties.



Taking this even further, today's world needs Catholics who truly understand that going to Mass means having faith in miracles – especially the miraculous transformation of bread and wine into the body and blood of Christ. Are you changed by the presence of Christ in the Eucharist? If so, then after you exit the church, others see evidence of this faith – right?

There's a difference between "knowing" the truths of our faith and authentically living these truths.

What prayer requests have you made in which you're still waiting for God to provide his help? When you offer them to Jesus during the prayers of Mass, do you feel the hopefulness that comes from faith?

During the consecration of the Eucharist, if we do not have faith in God's ability to change bread and wine into Christ – an ability that does not rely on how holy the priest is – we won't have faith to recognize that Jesus is ministering to us in the Eucharist.

In today's Gospel reading, Jesus speaks of his Second Coming, but we can also relate it to our daily lives today. We all have new tribulations looming in the future, unknown and unpredictable. That's life on earth! And Jesus wants to help us through them. Faith in this gives us hope and victory.

However, when our focus is on our troubles instead of on Christ, we are not living in faith. Jesus warned us about our hearts becoming spiritually drowsy. This is when we lose faith. We forget to remain centered in Christ. We neglect to listen for the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

But when we ask Jesus to restore us to a life of faith, we become vigilant, expectant, and aware that we can rely on God to help us in whatever comes our way.

Our tribulations makes us fearful. Faith gives us reasons to hope in Jesus and to live in joy instead of fear. It's not easy! It takes conscious effort. But spiritual drowsiness is a miserable way to live.

Questions for Personal Reflection: What are you waiting for from Jesus? How will you use the Season of Advent to grow in faith by noticing the loving, generous, merciful activities of God?

Questions for Community Faith Sharing: What are your favorite ways to prepare for Christmas? How do you make Advent a season of hope and a time of growing in faith?

Pray: Lord Jesus, awaken our hearts to Your presence in the Eucharist. Strengthen our faith to embrace hope and victory over life's trials. As we journey through Advent, help us to live joyfully, trusting in Your love and guidance, and sharing Your light with others. Amen.



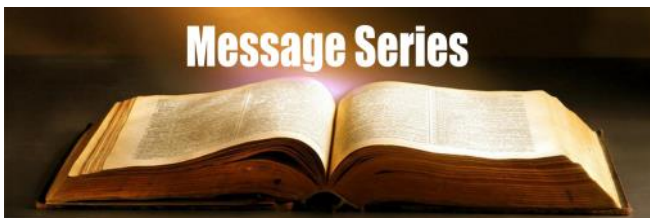
WEEK ONE – Introduction – Promise of a Ruler Scripture: Jeremiah 33:14-16

In this week we will introduce the concept of the series. Christmas is a time of promise and high expectations for gifts and family time and fond memories for the future. Not every Christmas fulfills those expectations. Beyond the promises our world offers for Christmas, God offers us a promise as well. He offers the promise of a ruler who will bring stability and strength to the land.

God promises to send his Son into our lives to bring stability to our hearts when we enthrone Jesus in our hearts, we can weather any storm that comes our way. Christmas is about God's promise of Jesus, a ruler who brings stability and peace to our hearts, not just worldly expectations.

We want to feel hope, peace, and reassurance, knowing that Jesus provides strength through life's challenges.

Entrust your hearts to Jesus, to deepen your faith, and focus on the true spiritual meaning of Christmas.



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.

Small Groups

Small Groups are where our large church gets small. Groups are 6-10 people who meet usually once a week for 90 minutes 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 or contact the leaders who are listed below.

Small groups help us grow in faith with others. They make the parish community alive and a place we belong.

Testimonies:

“I feel like I am part of something again.” “I am glad to have found this.” “We are friends in faith.”

Nick Gigante 516-659-4010, Dan Callahan 631-681-2559 Andres & Sandra (Spanish) 631-704-4606

STEWARDSHIP WEEKEND

Thank you
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.

Last weekend we celebrated 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 my place of worship is an act of worship and giving to the poor is a sure and certain way to grow my faith right now and invest in my 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. If you haven't made the commitment already please do so as soon as possible.

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

FAITH DIRECT[®]
inspiring secure giving[®]

Please prayerfully consider supporting our parish with electronic donations through *Faith Direct*. Signing up is easy! Visit **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!



Coffee
in the
Courtyard

in the Parish Center Hall

Coffee
Conversations
Community

After
9:30 AM
& 11:30 AM
Masses

SPROUTS

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.

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.

Good News Ahead

Signs of Christmas

Christmas Musical

by Faith Formation Students

Sunday, December 8th

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 70th 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 8th 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.

Assumption Prayer Team

We pray for every request in the prayer Petition Books, from Adoremus and those given to us in person. What are your prayer needs? Prayer Petition Books are in the back of the church. When others pray for you, it can be very powerful and effective. That's why we ask you to write down your prayers in our prayer Petition books.

Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Hebrews 4:16



PRAYER TEAM

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

| Income | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 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 |
| Expenses | | |
| 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 |
| Total operating surplus/deficit | (\$1,742) | LOVE GOD SERVE OTHERS GROW DISCIPLES |