



ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

January 5, 2025

Our Mission

Love God.

Serve Others. Grow Disciples.

You Matter! + You Belong!

Happy New Year

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



Sunday, January 5

9:30 a.m. — Geno Dellerose (Carlo Corriera)
 Peter & Marjorie Gochan (Gochan Family)
 11:30 a.m.— John Kuchinskas (Karen Kuchinskas)
 People of the Parish

Monday, January 6

9:00 a.m.—

Tuesday, January 7

9:00 a.m.— Living & Deceased Members of Rosary
 Altar Society
 Theresa Gargiulo (Rose Picariello)

Wednesday, January 8

9:00 a.m.—

Thursday, January 9

9:00 a.m.— Jay Holliday (Sharon Holliday)

Saturday, January 11

5:30 p.m.— Robert Scibelli (Family)
 Catherine Florio (Mrs. Theresa & Class)

Sunday, January 12

9:30 a.m.— Grace Colonico (Maureen Reilly)
 Eileen Pacula (Eileen Dorrian & Timothy Meyers)
 11:30 a.m.— Catherine T. Florio (Edward & Kathy Gutleber)
 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 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

Christmas Collection : \$27,485

Last Week’s Collection: \$7,393
(includes Faith Direct)

Last Year’s Collection: \$7,104

Thank You!

Rest
in
Peace



Deceased Brothers & Sister of Our Parish

January 5, 2025

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Epiphany of the Lord

Is 60:1-6 | Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6 | Mt 2:1-12

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

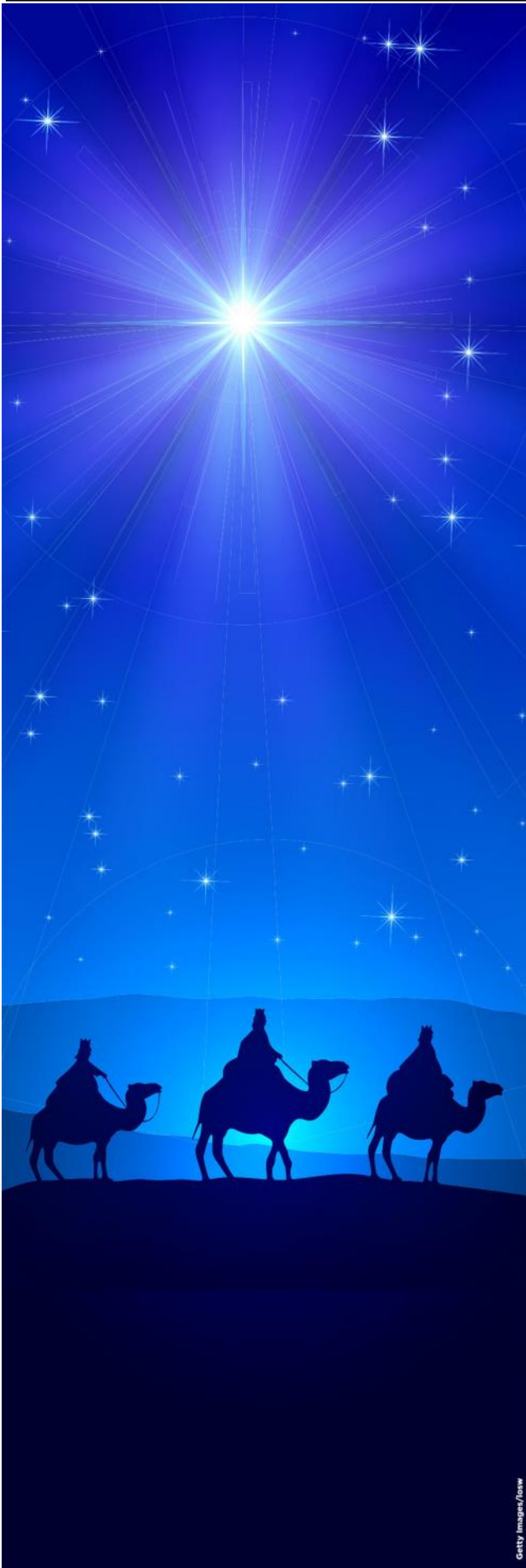
Deeply fatigued from their perilous journey, the three wise men must have been filled with doubt and hope in equal measure, wondering if the star would truly lead them to the promised King. “Is this really worth it?” they may have questioned. “Will we ever meet this child?” And then, in a single gaze, Christ broke into the world of humanity. In this perfect encounter with the Son of God, the wise men “prostrated themselves” and “opened their treasures” before him – in all his glory and all his innocence. We, on our earthly pilgrimage, may relate to feeling exhausted, full of both hope and heartache, as we wait and wonder where we will meet Jesus. Today, remember, he is here, among us. Waiting for our presence, waiting for our heart. Like today’s Scripture from Isaiah, the Magi must have experienced their hearts *throbbing* and *overflowing* with wonder and awe at the sight of their long-awaited King.

GO EVANGELIZE**PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT**

“Your light has come!” What thrilling words these must have been, proclaimed to a world that had been shrouded in darkness, eagerly – *desperately* – waiting for their God to save them. And not only has their light come; with it came a promise that this light would guide all nations. Yet this invitation to light, to *freedom*, also comes with a great responsibility. This light that came into the world isn’t just for us to follow; it is also for us to reflect to others. In today’s world, this may not involve leading flocks of sheep or strumming a 10-stringed lyre, but it does call us to live as radiant witnesses of Christ’s love, always singing his praise! Perhaps this means living joyfully despite our suffering. Maybe it looks like practicing generosity, when we feel like we have little left to give or remaining hopeful in a bleak situation. We are called to praise at all times, but it takes different forms in the different seasons of our life. Whatever season we find ourselves in, let us, like the Magi, seek the King, trusting in his promise and following his light.

REFLECT

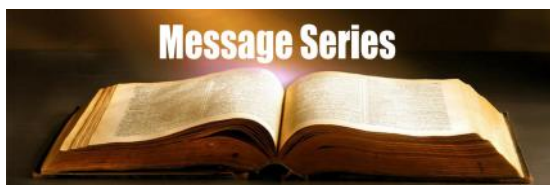
Consider areas in your life where the Child Jesus is waiting to break in. Where does he long to heal you, comfort you, and bring you peace? Like the wise men, we are on a pilgrimage filled with hope – and at times, fear and restlessness. On this great feast, let us offer Jesus our treasure – our hearts – and, in return, he will give us the greatest gift of all: himself.





In the story of the Magi, we see that they choose wisely. They wisely choose to follow the star in search of the newborn child. They wisely choose to worship and do homage to the Christ child. And then they wisely choose to heed the dream and go home by a different route.

At certain times in our lives, we go through events that will not leave us the same. As Christ-followers we are to keep our eyes open to these events and where God is leading us, what God is doing in those circumstances



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 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.

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

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





Pope Francis stated in his February 2022 letter announcing the Jubilee 2025: "We must fan the flame of hope that has been given us and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart and far-sighted vision. The forthcoming Jubilee can contribute greatly to restoring a climate of hope and trust as a prelude to the renewal and rebirth that we so urgently desire..."

THE JUBILEE PRAYER

Father in heaven, may the faith you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel. May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will

shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven. May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth. To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever. Amen.

As we enter into New Year 2025 as Pope Francis reminds us let us be Pilgrims of Hope. Hope that is given to us by our Lord Jesus Christ when he came into this world as a baby. In our own lives too, sometimes we lose hope because of the circumstances or events or people. But Our God is with us and let us worship him through our hopelessness and His grace. As the whole Church is moving forward as Pilgrims of Hope, let us also join as Assumption parish family as a people of hope in our 70th year. May God bless you and keep you in His hope and strength. Happy New Year 2025.



**ASSUMPTION FAITH FORMATION
CLASSES RESUME ON
MONDAY, JANUARY 13, 2025
after Christmas and New Year Recess**

Our parish subscribes to a revolutionary online platform which provides the best in Catholic audio talks, movies, ebooks, and video-based studies from trusted providers. This allows you, *free of charge*, to access online resources in bible study, apologetics, Christian entertainment, family catechesis, etc. at your convenience. It's available 24/7 thus allowing you to put time aside when it's best for you. To access please visit abvmcentereach.formed.org. Our parish code is P8DGQ8



Parish Social Ministry

The Outreach Food Pantry is available for individuals and families that are struggling to stretch their food budget. If you or someone you know can use our services, please call us at 631 585-8760 x2 or by email to outreach@abvmcentereach.com. The Outreach Office is open on Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday from 10AM to 1PM.

PANTRY NEEDS: Toilet Paper, Tissues, Household Cleaner, Bar Soap, Liquid Hand Soap, Toothbrushes, Cooking Oil, Mustard, Salad Dressing Coffee, Fruit Juice, Snacks, Canned Pasta, Canned Chili, Jelly, Canned Cat Food.



I invite you to continue 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.



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!



Sunday, Jan 05, 2025

Open your heart and home

There's something sweet about arrivals, whether our destination is an exotic vacation spot or the grateful landing at home in a familiar bed. Travel can be exciting or tedious, but in either case the end of the road has its merits in terms of creature comforts and just maybe the embrace of a friend. We can sympathize with the joy and relief of the Magi when their star-guide finally came to a halt over Bethlehem. In the spirit of Epiphany make your home a welcoming place and open your heart to receive each spiritual traveler.

SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6; Matthew 2:1-12 (20).

"The star . . . stopped over the place where the child was. They were overjoyed at seeing the star."

Monday, Jan 06, 2025

Let the healing begin

The revelation that comes with Epiphany is not only that God is with us but that his mission is to make us well. That is our mission also. Pope Francis expressed it this way in his first interview after being elected: "The thing the church needs most today is the ability to heal wounds and to warm the hearts of the faithful." Look around you. Notice the quiet anguish or distant sadness in the faces of others. Offer a smile, a listening ear, or a simple word of encouragement.

CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY

1 John 3:22-4:6; Matthew 4:12-17, 23-25 (212). *"They brought to him all who were sick . . . and he cured them."*

Tuesday, Jan 07, 2025

Open to interpretation

The miracle of the loaves and fishes is the only miracle story found in all four gospels, highlighting its profound impact. Some interpret it as the "miracle of sharing," emphasizing that the world's resources are abundant when we are willing to share. Others see it as a direct act of divine intervention: "Ask and you shall receive." Both interpretations are worth remembering as they remind us of the saving power of our faith.

CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY

1 John 4:7-10; Mark 6:34-44 (213). *"They all ate and were satisfied."*

Wednesday, Jan 08, 2025

Get ready for the big reveal

The First Letter of John tells us, "No one has ever seen God." So how can we know what God is like or understand what God desires from us? The answer is simple: God is love. Although we may not fully know God until our earthly pilgrimage ends, we can encounter God in the love that surrounds us—in the love we give and receive. Christmas and Epiphany are timeless revelations of God's love for humanity, moments when God's presence is made visible in the world. Now, it is our turn to return the favor and reveal God's love in our own lives.

CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY

1 John 4:11-18; Mark 6:45-52 (214). *"Whoever remains in love remains in God and God in him."*

Thursday, Jan 09, 2025

Listen up!

Paying attention is risky. Maybe that's why so many of us cocoon ourselves in noise. For Christians, the word of God invariably makes demands on us—sometimes as a new challenge to new action, sometimes asking that we let go of expectations or old resentments. These demands can be difficult, but as theologian Paul Tillich says, "The first duty of love is to listen." Take a moment each day to turn down the volume and let God's word enter your heart.

CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY

1 John 4:19-5:4; Luke 4:14-22 (215). *"Today this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing."*

Friday, Jan 10, 2025

Celebrate a radical moment

It is two weeks since Christmas. You remember Christmas—"May your days be merry and bright" and all that. Too often we think of "getting through the holidays" rather than, like fine wine, savoring the truth of "God with us." What Christmas celebrates is nothing less than the "most radical and elevating affirmation of the value of every human being," according to Saint John Paul II. It is the leap from the divine to the human, piercing the veil, God taking root in skin and bone and changing our destiny forever. The lights may be packed away, the gifts exchanged, but you can't really get over Christmas. Consider how you have been changed by God's appearance in the flesh.

CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY

1 John 5:5-13; Luke 5:12-16 (216). *"This is the one who came through water and Blood, Jesus Christ."*

Saturday, Jan 11, 2025

'Tis the season to acclimate to your new life

Why does the church extend the Christmas season so long? Two words: *new life*. Christmas is not only a time to remember the occasion of Jesus' birth; it is also a time to immerse ourselves in God's call to new life. As believers, Pope Benedict XVI said, we must become a "new creation," capable of "bearing witness to the Christian hope that inspires us." Throughout this season we have opportunities to experience and give witness to this new life filled with the Good News of God's love.

CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY

1 John 5:14-21; John 3:22-30 (217). *"We also know that the Son of God has come."*

Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time

