



ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

December 15, 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

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.

Sunday, December 15

9:30 a.m. — Alonzo Werner Sr. (Family)
Caroline Carone (Elizabeth Leverock)
11:30 a.m.— Giuseppa Carollo (Family)
People of the Parish

Monday, December 16

9:00 a.m.—

Tuesday, December 17

9:00 a.m.— John V. Zecca (CWV Post #1897)

Wednesday, December 18

9:00 a.m.—

Thursday, December 19

9:00 a.m.— Otto Wolz

Saturday, December 21

5:30 p.m.— Arnold Hoffmann (Sharon Hoffmann)
Marianne Gerace (Agnes LaRosa)

Sunday, December 22

9:30 a.m.— Kristie Cleary (Irene Zabbara)
Peter & Marjorie Gochan (Gochan Family)
11:30 a.m.— Henry LaGasca (Ed Uy & Family)
People of the Parish

*Show us, Lord, your love;
and grant us your salvation.*
Psalm 85:8

STEWARDSHIP
GIVING to our parish as an act of worship

Parish Sacrificial Giving Summary
Last Week’s Collection: \$13,430
(includes Faith Direct)
Last Year’s Collection: \$12,322
Thank You!

Rest
in
Peace

Deceased Brothers &
Sister of Our Parish

Good News Reflection***Experiencing Joy as a Ministry***

The Third Sunday of Advent focuses our attention on the spirit of joyfulness, because this is an essential mark of true faith. All the readings are full of joy and the thrill of happy expectation.

In the Gospel reading, John the Baptizer preaches good news to the people, and they are filled with joyful anticipation for whatever God is about to do.



Do you know that joy is a ministry? It's an important way to share the faith. We all have a calling to do this ministry wherever there is misery and hopelessness.

Let's look at how John fulfilled this ministry of joy. We might think he was anything but joyful in his robe of scratchy camels hair and his fiery sermons about repenting from sin. But look closer. His ministry prepared people's hearts to receive Jesus.

Having faith means trusting God which means resting in hope which produces joy. When you or someone you know is lacking joy, it's because Jesus has not yet been invited fully into the situation that's been stealing the joy. It might be too early in the grieving process, which is healthy and normal, or it might a lack of faith, which needs nurturing.

The ability to experience the joy of faith comes from turning to the love of God and receiving his comfort in the midst of hardships. It also arises from getting to know the joyful side of Jesus and the joyful purposes behind all of his teachings.

Jesus preached going the extra mile, loving our enemies, and doing good to those who cause us hardships, none of which is fun. What we need to discover and then share with others is that holy living, although not always fun, is what unites us to the joyful love of Jesus and the joyful purposes of everything he preached.

Remember, even going to the cross produces joyful results.

The good news is: Jesus didn't just tell us how to be holy, he gave us the power to be holy: He gave us his Holy Spirit.

And when others see the Holy Spirit's activity in us, if they know that Jesus is the reason for our joy, they are evangelized by our faith!

Questions for Personal Reflection: Think of a recent sin you've committed. How did it prevent you from experiencing joy? The next time, how will you rely on the Holy Spirit to help you turn temptation into joy?

Questions for Community Faith Sharing: Name some of the special joys you experience during Advent and Christmas; how do they help you grow stronger in holiness? Describe a time when you helped someone else become joyful; how did Jesus reveal himself in that?



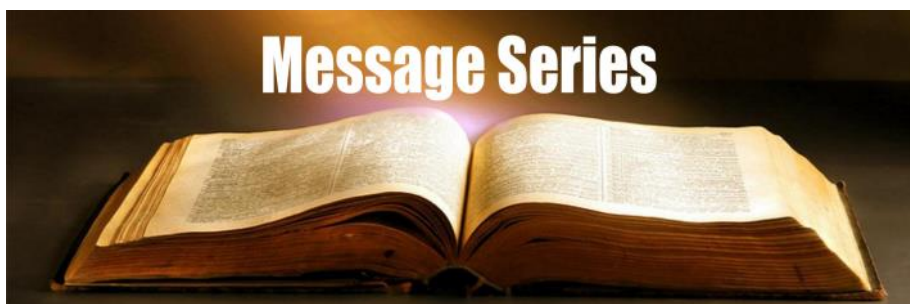
WEEK THREE – The Promise of Joy Scripture: Zephaniah 3:14-18a

The promise of Christmas is the joy we can experience when we recognize God’s presence in our lives. The Lord, our mighty savior, is among us. This week’s message focuses on the joy that comes from acknowledging God’s nearness and the strength He provides. We may also explore how singing is a powerful way to experience and express this joy.

Joy comes from recognizing God’s presence in our midst, especially through worship and song.

Embrace and express joy by actively recognizing God’s presence, particularly through singing and worship.

Uplifted, joyful, and strengthened by the knowledge that God is near and mighty to save.



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

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.

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



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



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!



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





Coffee
in the
Courtyard
in the Parish Center Hall

Coffee
Conversations
Community

After
9:30 AM
& 11:30 AM
Masses



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.

Christmas Donations: With Christmas just around the corner, the Parish Social Ministry is running 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 to help provide a great Christmas dinner for our clients. If you choose to donate gift cards, please drop them off at the Welcome Desk or deliver them to the Parish Office.



PANTRY NEEDS: Canned Dog, Cat Food, Paper Towels, Toilet Paper, Kleenex, Toothpaste, Conditioner, Deodorant, Household Cleaner, Cooking Oil, Tuna Fish, Jelly, Toothbrushes.

Christmas at Assumption

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church
Crown Acres Rd. Centereach

Christmas Eve:
3:30 PM, 5:30 PM & Midnight

Christmas Day:
9:30 AM & 11:30 AM

You Matter + You Belong
Come as you are!
Our Mission:
Love God. Serve Others. Grow Disciples.

Friday, December 20, 2024 - 7:30 - 8:30 PM

in the church & LIVE Streaming

PRAISE AND WORSHIP * SILENT ADORATION * BENEDICTION

Assumption Prayer Team

We pray for every request in the prayer Petition Books, from Adoremus and those given to us in person. 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



Invest time each week to expand your vocabulary and deepen your faith.

15 December 2024

WORD OF THE WEEK

O Antiphons lō 'an-tə-fəns\

From Greek meaning “sounding against,” seven short scripture verses, sung or chanted at Vespers, often in divided choirs, during the week before Christmas, December 17 to 23. Each Antiphon invokes Christ by means of an Old Testament symbol: O Wisdom, O Sacred Lord, O Flower of Jesse's Stem, O Key of David, O Radiant Dawn, O King of All Nations, and O Emmanuel.

Pronunciation: <https://tinyurl.com/Take5-o-antiphons>

CONTEXT

If we rest each evening with the **O Antiphons**, . . . Advent will be for us once again a time of God's great love and hope.
—*Madeleine L'Engle*

The **O Antiphons** proclaim the coming Christ as the fulfillment not only of Old Testament hopes, but our present desires as well.
—*Grace Hetzel*

WHY IT MATTERS

It's tempting to treat the two Testaments of our Bible as the “before” and “after” of religious understanding for Christianity. In the contemplation of the great **O Antiphons**, we discover that the divine revelation we recognize as Jesus has been within the story of God's people from the beginning.

From *Learning from the O Antiphons* by C.C. Pecknold: The **O Antiphons** were certainly in regular use by the time of Charlemagne in the eighth century. “They prepare us for the great Vigil of Christmas, uniting Israel's hopes and the desire of nations as a kind of prophetic *summa* in praise of divine providence. In the heart of winter's darkness, the **O Antiphons** call us to worship Jesus Christ as the center of salvation history.”

RELATED WORDS

Antiphon | Liturgy of the Hours | Magnificat | Vespers

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What are the O Antiphons?

The **O Antiphons** (also known as the Great Advent Antiphons or Great Os) are sung verses used in evening prayer during

the last seven days of Advent (December 17-23) at the beginning and end of the Magnificat, a hymn of praise spoken by Mary. Rendered in order, in Latin and English, the **O Antiphons** are: *O Sapientia* (O Wisdom), *O Adonai* (O Lord), *O Radix Jesse* (O Root of Jesse), *O Clavis Davidica* (O Key of David), *O Oriens* (O Radiant Dawn), *O Rex Gentium* (O King of Nations), and *O Emmanuel* (O God-with-us). As an acrostic, the Latin version reads SARCORE, reversed as *ero cras* (“I will be tomorrow”). Since the Antiphons are traditionally chanted December 17-23, Jesus is literally born “tomorrow” at the chant's conclusion. The **O Antiphons** have been around at least since the eighth century, when monks would sing them. Even if you don't pray the Liturgy of the Hours, these Antiphons may sound familiar. This is because they were incorporated into one of the best-known hymns of the Advent season: “O Come, O Come Emmanuel.”

—*Alice Camille, from Questions Catholics Ask* <http://tinyurl.com/QCA-O-antiphons>

REFLECTION OF THE WEEK

TUESDAY OF THE THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT (DECEMBER 17)

Grow in wisdom

Today the church begins to sing the **O Antiphons** to accompany the Advent evening prayer of Mary's Magnificat. These short, sung phrases remind us of our need for salvation and our desire to embody the divine characteristics of our Savior.

READINGS: Genesis 49:2, 8-10; Matthew 1:1-17 (193 <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/121724.cfm>). “O Wisdom of our God Most High, guiding creation with power and love: come to teach us the path of knowledge!”

FAITH IN ACTION

Today we pray for knowledge. This is not the knowledge that wins arguments around the dinner table, but the knowledge that shines a light on who we are, where we came from, and what we are called to do as followers of Christ.