



ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

December 8, 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 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

Monday, December 9

9:00 a.m.—

Tuesday, December 10

9:00 a.m.— Thomas Donnelly Jr. (Family)
Joseph Alberigo (Family)

Wednesday, December 11

9:00 a.m.— Rosemary O’Connor (Elizabeth Leverock)

Thursday, December 12

9:00 a.m.— Bruce Staebler

Saturday, December 14

5:30 p.m.— Margaret Heenan (Tina Acevedo & Family)
Maruja Rodriguez & Juan M. Gonzalez
(Isabel Gonzalez)

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

*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: \$9,722
(includes Faith Direct)
Last Year’s Collection: \$9,257
Thank You!

Rest
in
Peace



John V. Zecca

Good News Reflection***Preparing for Joy***

While we're shopping for gifts, decorating, and sending Christmas cards, what are we doing to make Christmas a new rebirth of Christ for our daily lives?

All the readings at Mass during Advent remind us that this season is a time intended for spiritual preparation. It's tempting to let the busyness of December distract us from the most important purpose of Advent: our personal spiritual growth.

In our responsorial Psalm today, we proclaim: "The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy!" Do you actually feel joyful when you mouth these words?



It takes faith to experience joy in the midst of hardships. Faith grows from knowing that the Lord does great things for us because of his mercy – not because we have earned it, as we'll never be good enough. Repenting from our sins opens us to become aware of this mercy.

Therefore, Saint John the Baptizer is proclaiming to us today: "Prepare the way of the Lord!"

Now is the time to ask: What preparations do I need to make? What am I doing to straighten out the messes in my life, the areas of sin that continually distract me from a close relationship with Christ?

What penances will help "make straight" my path?

What depressing or discouraging valley of hardship needs to get filled with the joy of the Lord? If it seems hopeless, what will I do to let Jesus take charge of it? What mountain of debt or difficult obstacle needs to be made low by having faith in the Lord's digging tools?

What's twisted and warped in my thinking, like a road that winds through a jungle of confusion? I

pray, Holy Spirit, that you will lead me straight to holiness! What's rough about me? What's edgy and sharp and rubs others the wrong way? Lord Jesus, smooth me like a diamond polisher.

Throughout, let us examine the ways in which we still need to see the salvation of God. Let us make a plan of action to be holier and happier at the end of the Jubilee Year than we are today!

Questions for Personal Reflection: Which of the above questions stand out most for you? What will you do with this to prepare the way of the Lord so that your faith grows?

Questions for Community Faith Sharing: Name a tradition you grew up with that prepared you for Christmas. How did this affect your spiritual growth? What's your favorite way of preparing for the holy celebration of Christmas? Why?



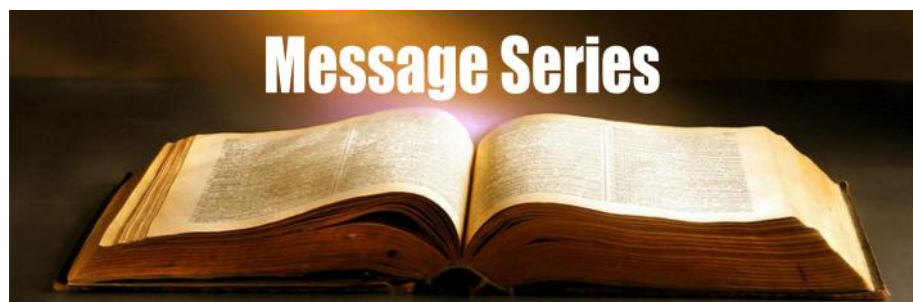
WEEK TWO – The Promise of Coming Home Scripture: Baruch 5:1-9

This week, will discuss about God’s promise to bring His people back from exile to Jerusalem, where they will experience His glory, reconciliation, mercy, and justice. The promise of Christmas is that we too can return home to God, finding reconciliation with our heavenly Father. When we receive His mercy, we can also reconcile with one another.

Christmas promises a return to God, offering reconciliation and mercy, both with God and with each other.

Come back to God, seek His mercy, and work toward reconciling with others.

We want to feel a sense of peace, belonging, and hope in the possibility of reconciliation and healing.



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

November 23/24 we celebrated our Stewardship weekend. Blessings to Assumption and blessings in our family and as individuals God has gives 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 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



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

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



**Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the
Blessed Virgin Mary**
Monday, December 9 - Mass 9:00 AM

THE SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION TRANSFERRED Because it falls on a Sunday of Advent, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is transferred to Monday, December 9. As the feast our National Patroness, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is always a Holy Day of Obligation, even if it falls on a Monday or Saturday

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.

08 December 2024

WORD OF THE WEEK

Immaculate Conception

\i-'ma-kyə -lət kən-'sep-shən

Dogma of the Catholic Church, since Pope Pius IX officially declared it in 1854, that Mary was “full of grace” and uniquely conceived without the stain (*macula*) of original sin. Not to be confused with the virgin birth of Jesus, a singular event for which Mary’s **Immaculate Conception** prepares.

Pronunciation: <https://tinyurl.com/Take5-immaculate-conception>

CONTEXT

In the spirit of the age (1856) the U.S. bishops chose Mary under the title of her **Immaculate Conception** to be the patroness of their relatively new country.
—*Elizabeth Johnson*

The **Immaculate Conception** shines like a beacon of light for humanity in all the ages. If Christ is the day that never fades, Mary is its dawn, shining with beauty. —*Pope John Paul II*

WHY IT MATTERS

As Mother of the church, Mary gives birth to our hope and understanding of discipleship. Just as Mary **Immaculate** was prepared before birth to be the Mother of God, we’re rescued from the effects of sin by Baptism into the redemption of Christ and thus made ready for service to God’s mission.

From *Ineffabilis Deus* (“God Ineffable”), papal bull declaring the dogma of **Immaculate Conception**: The Most Blessed Virgin Mary was, from the first moment of her conception, by the singular grace and privilege of almighty God and in view of the merits of Jesus Christ the Savior of the human race, preserved free from all stain of original sin (29).

RELATED WORDS

Dogma | Virgin Birth | Immaculate Heart of Mary

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Why do Catholics believe in Mary’s Immaculate Conception?

The teaching of Mary’s sinlessness from the moment of her conception assumes the heft of dogma, a Greek term for

“what seems right.” A dogma is an infallible teaching, which must be 1) contained in scripture or part of post-biblical tradition; 2) explicitly proposed as a divinely revealed belief; 3) issued as a solemn decree that can be later developed but not deliberately rejected without risk of heresy. This teaching about Mary’s beginnings is essential to Catholic understanding despite any mention in the gospels of Mary’s origins. However, Marian stories are recorded in “post-biblical tradition” texts, such as *The Birth of Mary*, that provide valuable windows into early Christian belief. One thing is clear: The Early Church believed the Incarnation bound Jesus and his mother in a singular, physical infusion of divine grace. The **Immaculate Conception** represents a very early understanding of this most pure bond.

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

REFLECTION OF THE WEEK

SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (DECEMBER 9)

Bonds of love

The **Immaculate Conception**, that is, that Mary was born without original sin, is one of only two doctrines—along with the Assumption of Mary into heaven—proclaimed infallible by a pope. It’s also the patronal feast day of the United States. Why all the attention? Mary’s **Immaculate Conception** shows that it is possible, through God’s grace, to have an unbreakable bond with God. For Mary, it led to her yes to giving birth to Jesus, the savior of the world, who would overcome sin and bring humanity back into communion with God.

READINGS: Genesis 3:9-15, 20; Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12; Luke 1:26-38 (689 <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/120924.cfm>). “*May it be done to me according to your word.*”

FAITH IN ACTION

Like Mary, we, too, can welcome God into our very selves and strive to strengthen the bonds of love.