



ASSUMPTION

of the Blessed Virgin Mary

A welcoming community sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ through faith, prayer and the sacraments.



March 7, 2021

We celebrate EUCHARIST

Saturdays: 5:30 PM

Sundays: 7:30, 9:30, 11:30 AM

Weekdays: 9:00 AM

We celebrate PENANCE

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

We celebrate BAPTISM

Usually the first and third Sundays each month. Meeting with Deacon Mike and attendance at class is required. Please contact the rectory during regular office hours to register.

We celebrate MARRIAGE

Make arrangements with the priest at least six months prior to the wedding. All are required by our Bishop to attend the Pre-Cana Conferences as part of the preparation.

Eucharistic Adoration

First Friday of the month: 1:00-2:00 PM - Nocturnal

Third Friday of the month: 7:30-8:30 PM - ADOREMUS

Miraculous Medal Novena

Wednesdays following the 9:00 AM Mass.

Communion for the Sick or Shut-ins

Contact the rectory during regular office hours.

Parish Social Ministry (Outreach)

Office hours, Monday to Friday, 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM.

Food pantry available. Will also try to help with referrals and advocacy. Call for appointment, 631-585-8760 x101.

RCIA

Provides for those who have never been baptized or those who have been baptized but have not celebrated Eucharist and/or Confirmation to experience the joy of our Catholic community, within an adult context. Anyone 18 and over is welcome. Contact the rectory office at 631-585-8760.

Faith Formation

Works with parents to share faith with our youngest members, grades 1-8. Contact the office for details at 631-588-6408.

Youth Ministry

- High School Ministry (AYM), Wednesdays: 7:30 - 9:00 PM
- Middle School Ministry (MSM), Thursdays, 7:00 - 8:45 PM

For further information, contact Renata 631-585-8760

Music Ministry

Our parish's Music Ministry seeks to lead and support our parish family in full, conscious, and active participation in the liturgy. For further information call Rob at 516-523-1668.

20 Chestnut Street, Centereach, NY 11720 631-585-8760 www.abvmcentereach.com

Rev. Joseph Alenchery, Pastor
Rev. Chris Aridas, Retired 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



**Mass Intentions
for the week**

Sunday, March 7th

7:30 a.m. — Albert Boehm (Regina DiLiberti)
 9:30 a.m. — Nick Campanelli (M/M T. Donnelly)
 11:30 a.m. — People of the Parish

Monday, March 8th

9:00 a.m. — Nelzi Kucich (Rose Picariello)

Tuesday, March 9th

9:00 a.m. — Mary Balsamo (Legion of Mary)

Wednesday, March 10th

9:00 a.m. — Edward P. Donnellan, Sr. (Sheila Donnellan & Family)

Thursday, March 11th

9:00 a.m. — Joseph Toth (M/M J. Sokolowski)
 Special Intentions

Friday, March 12th

9:00 a.m. — Rev. Robert Pelton

Saturday, March 13th

5:30 p.m. — Nancy Carpenter (M/M G. VanSchaick)

Sunday, March 14th

7:30 a.m. — Mary Wagenofer (Family)
 9:30 a.m. — Anna Joseph Alenchery (M/M Spina)
 Maria & Inacio DeSousa (Family)
 11:30 a.m. — People of the Parish



Deceased Brothers
and Sisters of our
Parish Family



Time, Talent & Treasure

**Fostering Stewardship
as a Way of Life**

**Parish Sacrificial Giving Summary
(Regular Sunday Offering)**

**Last Week's Collection \$8,553
(includes Faith Direct)**

**Last Year's Collection \$10,297
Thank You!**

Faith Formation

The ministry of the Word is a fundamental element of evangelization through all its stages, because it involves the proclamation of Jesus Christ, the eternal Word of God

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.; Saturday - 9:00 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Middle School Ministry (MSM)

Middle School Ministry is on Thursday nights from 7:00 PM to 8:45 PM. All Middle Schoolers (6th thru 8th) are welcome.



Assumption Youth Ministry (AYM)

Assumption Youth Ministry welcomes all high Schoolers (9th thru 12th) on Wednesday nights from 7:30-9:00 PM. We gather in the Parish Center Hall. Bring your friends with you.



**Catholic Daughters of the
America's (Court St. Gerard)**

First Thursday of the month: Sept - June at 7:30 PM in the Parish Library. Contact Alexandria McMahon at tacjs43@aol.com.

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. Contact the rectory for meeting dates and times.

Scouting (Cub Scout, Boy Scouts)

Contact Chantal Mears at Chantalmears@yahoo.com or 631-438-2468 or visit www.bsa356.com for more details..

Good News Reflection**Supernatural Faith**

The final paragraph of this Sunday's Gospel reading is very revealing: Jesus did not "trust" himself to the converts whose faith in him was based on the signs and wonders that he had done. The reason: He did not want anyone to testify (i.e., spread the faith) about the limitations of human nature.

Faith based on signs and wonders is human nature: It's easier to put faith in what we can humanly see, touch, and hear than to believe in a God who is invisible and who usually sounds very silent. There is nothing supernatural about this kind of faith, but God is very supernatural.



What happens to our faith when we pray and pray and pray for God's intervention and there are no signs indicating that we'll get what we want? Our reaction to unanswered prayers is an indicator of how natural or supernatural our spiritual life really is.

Jesus knew that his physical presence was the greatest sign of all, but it would soon be taken away. Don't we sometimes wish that Jesus would appear in front of us and make himself audible to our human ears? We think it would make our faith stronger.

Typically, we base our faith on many signs: prayers being answered, love being evidenced, peace and happiness filling our hearts, etc. But what happens to our faith when we enter the dark night of trials and difficulties? Do we continue to trust God when we can no longer see or feel signs that he cares?

The kind of faith we need when faith matters most comes from a relationship of trust. Real trust. We choose to trust God for who he really is and how much he really cares, rather than on what the evidence seems to say.

To succeed in this, we need supernatural faith. When we're united to the divinity of Christ, we join ourselves to his faith. We then trust him so much that we don't need signs.

Remember this the next time you receive Jesus in the Eucharist. Not only are you consuming his body, you are also uniting yourself to his divinity. And he is uniting himself to you! If you truly believe this, of course there will be miracles, but that is not the greatest gift that he's sharing with you.

What he wants to give you most of all is HIS ALL.

Questions for Personal Reflection:

Name some of the signs you rely upon that convince you that God is real and that he truly cares about you. How do you feel when those signs are taken away? Are these feelings based on the reality of God's unending love or on fear?

Questions for Community Faith Sharing:

Have you ever wished that Jesus would appear to you? Why? Did God provide what you needed some other way? How do you remind yourself that God cares during those difficult times when you can't see it or feel it?



I want to thank everyone who helped make 2020 Catholic Ministries Appeal a success. As you may already be aware, 100% of all the money raised is restricted to support the objectives, programs, and mission that serves more than 600,000 people each year, and our parish shares in the money raised to use for our own local needs

Your generosity enabled our parish to reach our assigned goal of \$56,200 for 2020, thus bringing back to the parish \$11,260 that have been redirected to parish activities. This year our parish goal is \$56,400.

According to our Holy Father, Pope Francis, mission touches us personally as he has called each of us to be instruments of Jesus' love and show compassion to those in need. Walking together with Long Island's faithful, we can act on this call through our support of the Catholic Ministries Appeal.

When we support the CMA, together we create and strengthen pathways of compassion by providing programs and ministries that serve disadvantaged families, our senior citizens, those struggling with substance abuse, and providing housing support to seniors, people with disabilities and veterans. During the pandemic, Catholic Charities expanded homecare service, Meals on Wheels and shopping services to the most vulnerable; our Parish Outreach programs set up outdoor access and shared resources to help struggling communities.

Additionally, the Catholic Ministries Appeal helps pave paths of evangelization through the formation of our priests, deacons and lay leaders; assists in training our religious education catechists and adult faith formation leaders who educate our youth and parish families, and programs that promote the sanctity of life at all stages. Youth and Young Adult Ministries held virtual retreats and prayer services. Our Catholic Schools assisted the underserved to get much needed internet services which was crucial for remote learning. Working together, we are all enriching the lives of our Long Island family.

In addition, parishes who make their goal receive a rebate from the diocese, amounting to 20% of the actual goal.

Please ask the Lord how you might participate. Your pledge is payable over a ten-month period of time. Remember also, one does not have to donate a large amount; joining everyone's sacrificial gift adds up to a great resource for those in need.

Fr. Joe

Worship with your talent



This is an opportunity to worship with your talent and help the parish community worship better by volunteering to help with live stream cameras and projecting lyrics and scriptures on the screen at Mass on the weekend and on special occasions. Training will be provided. Those who like to work with the camera and/or computer, please contact Fr. Joseph at jalenchery@abvmcentereach.com



Parish Social Ministry (Outreach) Program

The Outreach Food Pantry is available for individuals and families that are struggling to stretch their food budget. We can also refer those needing assistance to any program appropriate to their needs. Appointments can be made by calling 631 585-8760 x2. The Outreach Office is open Monday through Friday from 10 AM to 12 PM.

Pantry Needs: Noodles, Kleenex, Household Cleaner, Dishwashing Liquid, Mayonnaise, Salad Dressing, Razors, Toothbrushes, Fruit Juice, Icing



Snowstorm

Thank you all for your generous support of our parish family, especially during this pandemic. For the last few weeks, we all have experienced the bitter cold and a few big snowstorms. We had to spend thousands of dollars to clear the parking lot and the walkways. This expense was very much unexpected as well as over our budget. I ask for your generosity in taking care of the costs. Our faith in the Lord always shows us the way. Thanks again for your love of our parish family.



Please prayerfully consider supporting our parish with electronic donations through *Faith Direct*. You are helping our church be more efficient, and have a steady, predictable cash flow to support the works that are important to you, throughout the year. Signing up is easy! Visit faithdirect.net/NY563 or download the **Faith Direct app** and search for the parish with the parish code (NY563). Thank you for your continued support of our parish family!

FORMED®

PICK OF THE WEEK

March 7, 2021

WATCH

EVERYDAY HEROES

Heroism isn't restricted to decorated soldiers or persecuted saints. It's something achievable for all of us even in our ordinary lives. In this documentary, see how the Knights of Columbus have embodied this everyday heroism!



Our parish subscribes to a revolutionary online platform which provides the best in Catholic audio talks, movies, e-books, and video-based studies. It is, **free of charge**. Simply type in abvmcentereach.formed.org on your browser. Once you have registered you'll have access to all the material on FORMED, again **free of charge**.

You also can install FORMED through an app. Learn more at app.formed.org. Our parish code is P8DGQ8.

Sunday, Mar 07, 2021

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Balancing act

Saint Paul lived in that perilous posture you see in cartoon characters whose feet are on opposite supports that are swiftly gliding apart. As a privileged Roman citizen of Cilicia (modern Turkey), Paul had one foot firmly planted in the reality of Greco-Roman culture. Yet the other was just as securely fixed in his Jewish faith. It was a tough posture to maintain. Then Paul encountered the Risen Lord and understood in the gospel the most excellent way to unite Jews and Greeks in an elegantly reconciling Christian message. Christianity is for uniting, not dividing.

TODAY'S READINGS: Year B: Exodus 20:1-17; I Corinthians 1:22-25; John 2:13-25 (29). *"Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified."*

Monday, Mar 08, 2021

LENTEN WEEKDAY

Sisters act

How fitting that the first day of Catholic Sisters Week is also International Women's Day, celebrating achievements of women in politics, culture, and society. Catholic sisters have been making the world a better place for centuries! By teaching children, healing the sick, fighting injustice, promoting peace, defending the planet, creating community, and empowering other women, Catholic sisters are a powerful gospel witness—and many of us have been on the receiving end of their work and prayers. Celebrate sisters this week—find information and resources

at catholicsistersweek.org.

TODAY'S READINGS: 2 Kings 5:1-15ab; Luke 4:24-30 (237). *"Amen, I say to you, no prophet is accepted in his own native place."*

Tuesday, Mar 09, 2021

MEMORIAL OF FRANCES OF ROME, RELIGIOUS

A religious life for all

During a week that celebrates Catholic sisters, women religious, we remember an Italian saint who found a way to work and pray like a nun while staying committed to her immediate family. In fact, Frances of Rome—who nursed her sick husband and children, as well as the poor, during a plague in the 1400s—is commonly called a Benedictine oblate. An oblate is anyone who wants to share in the common vision and prayer of a religious community without officially entering religious life. Explore religious communities at VocationNetwork.org.

TODAY'S READINGS: Daniel 3:25, 34-43; Matthew 18:21-35 (238). *"Let our sacrifice be in your presence today as we follow you unreservedly."*

Wednesday, Mar 10, 2021

LENTEN WEEKDAY

Love will change the world

"Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world." This quote belongs to Harriet Tubman, who died on this day in 1913. This courageous woman, who escaped the chains of slavery and then led hundreds of slaves to freedom, reminds us that no matter the odds, no matter the restrictions, God gives us strength to reach for the stars and become the Love we were created to be. On this mid-March day, in the third week of Lent, perhaps we could use a

little encouragement to keep reaching for the stars as we respond to our Lenten call to love as God loves. Take one courageous step toward racial healing today.

TODAY'S READINGS: Deuteronomy 4:1, 5-9; Matthew 5:17-19 (239). *"But whoever obey and teaches these commandments will be called greatest in the kingdom of heaven."*

Thursday, Mar 11, 2021

LENTEN WEEKDAY

Stretch your heart

One year ago this week, COVID-19 began to seriously disrupt lives in North America. During this tumultuous year, everyone has suffered, whether from isolation, illness, unemployment, or another pandemic problem. Pope Francis has urged us to grow from these experiences: "If we are to come out of this crisis less selfish than when we went in, we have to let ourselves be touched by others' pain," he wrote. Has COVID-19 stretched your heart? Whether you give to a food pantry or call a shut-in, act on your compassion today.

TODAY'S READINGS: Jeremiah 7:23-28; Luke 11:14-23 (240). *"Every kingdom divided against itself will be laid waste and house will fall against house."*

Friday, Mar 12, 2021

LENTEN WEEKDAY; DAY OF ABSTINENCE

Abstinence makes the heart grow fonder

As we practice Lenten abstinence today, we might keep in mind these words from fourth-century Saint Basil the Great: "True fast is the estrangement from evil, temperance of tongue, abstinence from anger, separation from desires, slander, falsehood, and perjury. Privation of these is true fasting." Being mindful of what goes into our mouths is important today, but being mindful of what comes out of them, even more so. Strive to abstain from the unkind, false, or hostile word today. And if you find you have broken the fast, make amends as best you can. Let this be your spiritual discipline today.

TODAY'S READINGS: Hosea 14:2-10; Mark 12:28-34 (241). *"You are not far from the kingdom of God."*

Saturday, Mar 13, 2021

LENTEN WEEKDAY

Pray the mercy mantra

Gregory Palamas, a saint of the Eastern Orthodox, Melkite, and Ukrainian Catholic Churches, taught that the use of the Jesus Prayer—"Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner"—prepares one to receive the grace-filled light of the Lord. This short, formulaic prayer has its roots in today's parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector. Saint John Paul II repeatedly cited Palamas as one of the great spiritual writers of history. Today, join with John Paul II and Palamas in heaven and the multitude of Catholics throughout the world who recite this spiritual mantra over and over again seeking the Lord's mercy.

TODAY'S READINGS: Hosea 6:1-6; Luke 18:9-14 (242). *"For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and the one who humbles himself will be exalted."*

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



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