



ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

February 20, 2022

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



**Mass Intentions
for the week**

Sunday, February 20th

9:30 a.m. — John Ricciardi (Joy Newell)
 11:30 a.m. — People of the Parish
 Jean & Phillip Cavallo (Caballo Family)

Monday, February 21st

9:00 a.m. — Joseph Napoli (Vinnie & Joan Aquino)

Tuesday, February 22nd

9:00 a.m. — Rosemary O'Connor (M/M V. Zustovich)

Wednesday, February 23rd

9:00 a.m. — Fr. Chris Aridas (Gochan Family)

Thursday, February 24th

9:00 a.m. — Fr. Chris Aridas (Florence Talluto)

Friday, February 25th

9:00 a.m. — Fr. Chris Aridas (Hilda Manitta)

Saturday, February 26th

5:30 p.m. — Judith Gerardo (Theresa Silvestri)

Sunday, February 27th

9:30 a.m. — Abelardo & Norma Angeles (Family)
 11:30 a.m. — People of the Parish
 Fr. Chris Aridas (Ursulita)

Here is my servant whom I uphold,
 my chosen one with whom I am
 pleased, upon whom I have put my
 spirit. *Isaiah 42:1*



Time, Talent & Treasure
 Fostering Stewardship
 as a Way of Life

Parish Sacrificial Giving Summary
 (Regular Sunday Offering)

Last Week's Collection \$7,920
 (includes *Faith Direct*)

Last Year's Collection \$8,695
Thank You!

We celebrate EUCHARIST

Saturdays: 5:30 PM
 Sundays: 9:30, 11:30 AM
 Weekdays: 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.

ASSUMPTION YOUTH MINISTRY
Every Thursday 7:00PM - 8:30PM
in the Parish Center
All 6th - 8th & 9th - 12th graders are Welcome
 P.S. Mask required for everyone inside the building
 For more information please contact Renata Tutka-Ptak at 631-585-8760 ext. 105 or rptak@abvmcentereach.com

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 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 Denise Materazo at dmfl121@yahoo.com for more details..



*Rest
 in
 Peace*

Jo-Ann Garrant
 Barbara Lupo

Good News Reflection**God's love in good measure and overflowing**

We can use this Sunday's Gospel passage as a checklist to survey our holiness. Jesus is outlining, in very clear terms, true Christian living. He describes how to love -- faithfully and unconditionally, which sometimes means sacrificially as well.

It's not an easy love, that's for sure. But it's God's love. This is how he loves us! And to remain in his love, we love others the same way he loves them. When we don't, we separate ourselves from God's love. That's why Confession is called the Sacrament of Reconciliation; it reunites us to God and to all those we've separated ourselves from through sin.



Love even your enemies, Jesus says. An "enemy" is anyone who opposes us in any way -- opposes our will, our desires, our needs, etc.

Holy living separates us from the world and unites us to God. Christianity is counter-cultural and counter-intuitive. It goes against our nature -- our fallen nature, that is. Our sinful nature. In our baptisms, we received God's nature. That means we have the ability to love as God loves. However, we need to rely on God's help (the Holy Spirit) to resist the pull back into sin and be holy instead.

"If you do good to those who do good to you, so what? Even sinners do that much." To remain in God's love, we do good to everyone, whether they deserve it or not.

If by the Spirit's help we genuinely love everyone, we become much more fully aware of the love that Jesus has for us -- in good measure and overflowing. It is, after all, his love that we give when we love others while they oppose us.

Questions for Personal Reflection:

On Jesus' checklist for Christian living, which ones are you already doing fairly well? Which ones are hardest for you? What will you do this week to live in God's love more fully?

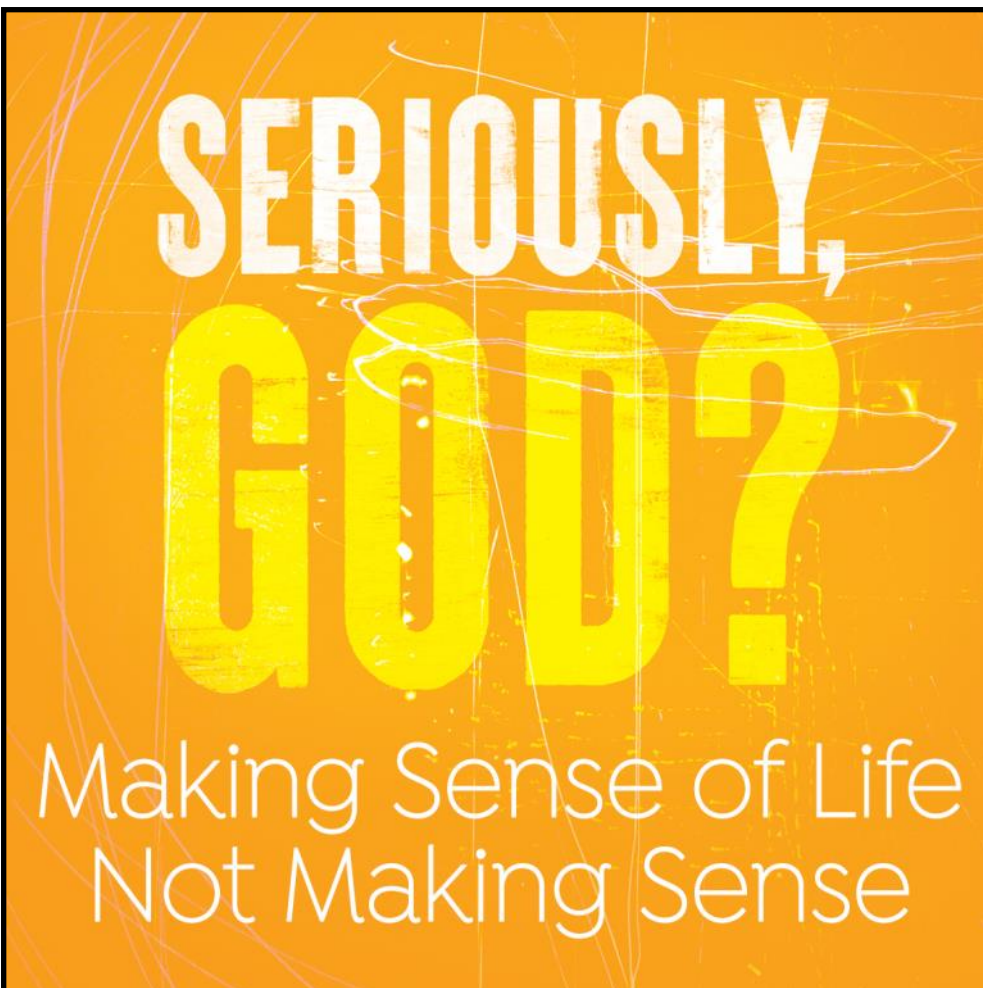
Questions for Family & Community Faith Sharing:

Choose one of the items on Jesus' checklist. How does it bring you closer to God?



In this message, we will look at investing in people and inviting them to church (and/or a relationship with God), because it grows our faith. As we give our faith to others, we receive more back in the process. Jesus says it this way: "Give and it will be given to you." We will talk about the ways in which sharing our faith helps us to grow closer to God.

Identify people to invest and invite to church.



A friend's child dies; a parent gets a cancer diagnosis; your spouse loses their job. Sometimes life and God's plan don't make sense and we end up feeling hurt and angry.

Please join us in a small group as we begin a six week book and video study of *Seriously, God? Making Sense of Life Not Making Sense* by Fr. Michael White and Tom Corcoran.

We'll read one chapter a week, exploring the denial, doubt, and betrayal we experience when we face hardship, pain, and grief. White and Corcoran will encourage us to lean into our feelings and to take each circumstance as a chance to learn more about God.

Sign up today!

Parish Social Ministry

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. 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. We are happy to assist people of all faiths. The Outreach Office is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 10 AM to 1 PM. **Pantry Needs: Laundry Detergent, Paper Towels, Kleenex,**



Thank you for your love

I can't believe that it's already two weeks since Fr Chris has passed as I write this note. It is a tremendous loss for our parish and me personally. I am sure, so many people feel the same. As a pastor and a holy priest, he served God's Church and its people with sincerity, vision, and, most importantly, love. As I look at his life personally, I can say that Fr Chris always wanted to serve God and His people. He was a visionary who had a great sense of where the parish should go and always wanted to help the poor and the forgotten. Here at Assumption and St Margaret's, he made sure that the place we come to worship and gather should be clean, comfortable, and welcoming. That's why he installed the elevator at the parish center and renovated the church. His homilies constantly challenged us without moving away from the Gospel message. He faced death with boldness, courage, and strength, just like he lived his life. His wake and funeral were an incredible testimony of his love of God and His people.



I want to thank you all for your words of consolation and love. Numerous cards, emails, and texts that I received showed your love for Fr Chris and his mission. I want to repeat the Antiphon from the Office of the Hours (morning prayer, Friday of the second week of Ordinary time); "What I longed for, I now see; what I hoped for, I now possess; in heaven, I am espoused to him whom on earth I loved with all my heart." I know and believe that's how he lived and where he is now.

Thank you very much. Blessings and prayers.

Fr Joe



Coming to Our Senses through Honesty, Humility and Hope.

By Fr Larry Lewis Mary Knoll
(Popular speaker and Retreat Director)

March 11-13, 2022 at Immaculate conception Seminary,
440 W Neck Rd, Lloyd Harbor, NY 11743

\$245.00 two overnights/\$50.00 day commuters.

Mail check to Stanley E Blyskal, 19 Tern Court, East Islip, NY 11739 prior to 3/1/22
Questions: sblyskalmd@gmail.com/ 631-786-7855



Please prayerfully consider supporting our parish with electronic donations through *Faith Direct*. 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!



Scan. Pay. Go.

Sunday, Feb 20, 2022

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

It's a long road to freedom

Justice feels good—if we're on the side of the angels when it's meted out. Which means in most cases, the struggle for justice will cost us. This was certainly true for Frederick Douglass (1818-95), born enslaved yet becoming the first black American to gain a vote for president of the United States. As he wrote in his 1852 July Fourth speech: "The . . . conscience of the nation must be roused . . . the hypocrisy of the nation must be exposed; and its crimes against God and man must be denounced." On this World Day of Social Justice, consider the price you're willing to pay for justice.

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23; 1 Corinthians 15:45-49; Luke 6:27-38 (81). *"Do to others as you would have them do to you."*

Monday, Feb 21, 2022

MEMORIAL OF PETER DAMIAN, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

Turn toward the good

Saint Peter Damian had two brothers—one bad, one good. The first treated him like a servant, the second had him educated, which led to Peter becoming a Benedictine monk. Humble and pious, he only reluctantly accepted when his community chose him to be their leader—and he was so good at it that some of those he directed became saints themselves. It was said of him that "his genius was to exhort and impel to the heroic, to praise striking achievements and to record edifying examples—an extraordinary force burns in all that he wrote." Like Peter, we've all encountered people who hold us down and others who lift us up. Which influence do you allow to shape you?

TODAY'S READINGS: James 3:13-18; Mark 9:14-29 (341). *"Everything is possible to one who has faith."*

Tuesday, Feb 22, 2022

FEAST OF THE CHAIR OF PETER THE APOSTLE

Please be seated

The topic of papal infallibility relates to today's feast. A pope only makes infallible statements of faith when he speaks *ex cathedra*—Latin for "from the chair." *Cathedra*, from which we also get the word "cathedral," refers to a bishop's throne, a visual symbol of authority and governance harkening back to monarchical times. It's symbolic of a bishop being the seat of government for a particular locality. In this case, the pope is actually bishop of Rome, as Saint Peter was . . . and the Roman Catholic Church recognizes Rome's bishop as having authority over all the rest. Pray for Peter's successor today.

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Peter 5:1-4; Matthew 16:13-19 (535). *"And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church."*

Wednesday, Feb 23, 2022

MEMORIAL OF POLYCARP, BISHOP, MARTYR

Make our mark

Saint Polycarp was born around the year 69, and it is said he was a direct student of Saint John, the evangelist, and may have compiled, edited, and published many of the texts now found in the New Testament. He helped advance recognition of Paul as an apostle and the now common practice of biblical interpretation. He suffered a martyr's death by proclaiming a higher authority than the Roman emperor. His dying prayer included the words: "Lord

God Almighty, I bless you, for having made me worthy of this day and hour." Let the breadth and strength of Polycarp's faith be an inspiration as you strive to trust in the Lord during challenging times.

TODAY'S READINGS: James 4:13-17; Mark 9:38-40 (343). *"There is no one who performs a mighty deed in my name who can at the same time speak ill of me."*

Thursday, Feb 24, 2022**Take a step toward wholeness**

Today's gospel refers three times to Gehenna. Typically, Gehenna is interpreted as another term for hell. Who is in hell? Can we go to hell after we die? These questions have puzzled believers and scripture scholars for centuries, and the living cannot answer them from direct experience. The church teaches in the catechism that "this state of definitive self-exclusion from communion with God and the blessed is called 'hell.'" We know what separates us from God, and we know what unites us with God. Take a step today, no matter how small, to unite yourself with God.

TODAY'S READINGS: James 5:1-6; Mark 9:41-50 (344). *"Salt is good, but if salt becomes insipid, with what will you restore its flavor? Keep salt in yourselves."*

Friday, Feb 25, 2022**When together forever is causing real harm**

Sometimes relationships don't work out. In the case of marriage, the Catholic Church urges reconciliation and offers pastoral help. But sometimes even reconciliation is impossible, especially when harm is present. That is why the church encourages people not to enter into marriage lightly, or any life commitment for that matter. The tools of discernment, prayer, spiritual reading, and seeking wise counsel can help you as you determine your best path. If you or a loved one need more information about beginning or ending a marriage or other life vocation, seek out the church's help.

TODAY'S READINGS: James 5:9-12; Mark 10:1-12 (345). *"The Lord is compassionate and merciful."*

Saturday, Feb 26, 2022**Learn some childish ways**

The question of how children were viewed and treated in biblical times is a complicated one, but it seems safe to say they were often not extended the full rights and protections we assume for them today. The fact that Jesus treats them as fully formed persons, in fact as possessing qualities of innocence and trust that are essential for a full embrace of his saving message, would have struck his followers as remarkable. But Jesus has a way of turning our expectations upside down. What can you learn from the little persons in your own life?

TODAY'S READINGS: James 5:13-20; Mark 10:13-16 (346). *"Whoever does not accept the Kingdom of God like a child will not enter it."*

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



©2022 TrueQuest Communications. TakeFiveForFaith.com; mail@takefiveforfaith.com. All rights reserved. Noncommercial reprints permitted with the following credit: Reprinted with permission from TakeFiveForFaith.com. Scripture citations from the New American Bible Revised Edition. For more information about TAKE FIVE and our regular contributors, go to PrepareTheWord.com. **Free daily email and app available online at TakeFiveForFaith.com/subscribe.**