



# Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary RC Church

20 Chestnut Street, Centereach, NY 11720 · 631-585-8760 · [www.abvmcentereach.com](http://www.abvmcentereach.com)

*Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish is a welcoming community, sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ through faith, prayer and the sacraments.*

## December 22, 2019

### **We celebrate EUCHARIST**

Saturdays: 5:30 PM

Sundays: 8:00, 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.

### **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 Maria Calestini at [flo815@optonline.net](mailto:flo815@optonline.net).

### **Catholic War Veterans**

Second Saturday of the month: Sept - June at 10 AM in the Parish Library. Contact Richard Gallagher at [popparich38@aol.com](mailto:popparich38@aol.com).

### **Communion for the Sick or Shut-ins**

Contact the rectory during regular office hours.

### **Eucharistic Adoration**

- First Friday of the month: 1:00 - 2:00 PM. - Nocturnal Adoration
- Third Friday of the month: 7:30-8:30 PM. - ADOREMUS

### **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](mailto:rtbhuntington@yahoo.com) or Anita Wolf at [hwolf96@aol.com](mailto:hwolf96@aol.com).

### **Miraculous Medal Novena**

Wednesdays following the 9:00 AM Mass.

### **Music Ministry**

Our parish's Music Ministry seeks to lead and support our parish family in full, conscious, and active participation in the liturgy. Practices are on Wednesday, 6 – 7:30 PM, and Thursday, 6:30 – 8:00 PM. For further information call Rob at 516-523-1668.

### **Parish Social Ministry (Outreach)**

Open Tuesday and Friday, 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Food pantry available. Will also try to help with referrals and advocacy. Call Outreach Office for appointment, 631-585-8760 x101.

### **RCIA**

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

### **Religious Formation Office**

Works with parents to share faith with our youngest members, grades 1-8. Contact the office for details at 631-588-6408. Office hours during school sessions: Mon. & Tues., 9 AM - 8 PM; Wed. 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM; Saturday 9:00 AM - Noon. Office is closed Thursday, Friday. Opened Sunday, 10:30 AM - 1:00 PM during class sessions. Check bulletin for summer hours.

### **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](mailto:Chantalmears@yahoo.com) or 631-438-2468 or visit [www.bsa356.com](http://www.bsa356.com) for more details.

### **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 or email [rptak@abvmcentereach.com](mailto:rptak@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, December 22nd

- 8:00 a.m. — John Paeper (Tiri & Children)  
9:30 a.m. — Peter & Marjorie Gochan (Family)  
11:30 a.m. — People of the Parish

### Monday, December 23rd

- 9:00 a.m. — Frank Lisi (Family)

### Tuesday, December 24th

- 9:00 a.m. — Lucyna & Joseph Vetrovec (Family)

### Christmas Eve Masses

- 3:30, 5:30, Midnight

### Wednesday, December 25th

#### Christmas Day Masses

- 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m.

### Thursday, December 26th

- 9:00 a.m. — George Schweers (Schweers Family)

### Friday, December 27th

- 9:00 a.m. — Arnold Hoffmann (Wife & Children)

### Saturday, December 28th

- 5:30 p.m. — Dr. Elisa & Frankie Valisno, Jr  
(Aida, Tony Pet & Arnold)

### Sunday, December 29th

- 8:00 a.m. — Peggy Rowland (Torres Family)  
9:30 a.m. — Living & Deceased Members of  
Campanelli & Lang Families  
11:30 a.m. — People of the Parish



Rest  
in  
Peace



Vincenza Chaimowitz

### 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. 3:00—8:00 p.m.); Wednesday 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.—7:30; Thursday & Friday - Closed; Saturday - 9:00 a.m. to 11; Sunday - 10:30 a.m. to Noon.

### Middle School Ministry (MSM)

Middle School Ministry is on Thursday nights from 7:00 PM to 8:45 PM. All Middle Schoolers (6<sup>th</sup> thru 8<sup>th</sup>) 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.



### Capital Campaign Update

To date we have received pledges and/or one-time gifts from 371 families, bringing our total thus far to \$812,934. The BIG bump came from a very generous gift of \$100,000. To date more than 90% of the pledge total has been collected. Many thanks.

Thus far we have spent \$859,066 to complete all the projects. In addition, there was a \$65,000 fee for running the campaign over the four years. As mentioned previously, we “borrowed” \$200,000 from our savings to complete the parking lot. Everyone’s continued participation, support and generosity are needed since everyone benefits from the upkeep of our church facilities. Please prayerfully consider how you can join in reaching our goal!



## Time, Talent & Treasure

### Fostering Stewardship as a Way of Life

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

Last Week's Collection \$10,533 | Last Year's Collection \$11,822

(includes Faith Direct)

Thank You!

**Good News Reflection****The love that comes from God who is with us**

Love is the theme of the Fourth Sunday of Advent. A good definition of love is in the name that we see in the first reading and again when the prophecy is fulfilled in the Gospel reading: Emmanuel, which means "God is with us." To have love is to have "God with us". To give love is to give God who is with us.

Have you ever felt like you've run out of love to give? Well, that's quite impossible! We might run out of patience; we might get tired of giving more love than we receive from others, but God who is love is always with us.

When we feel empty from loving someone who doesn't equally love us back, or when we reach the point of despising someone who repeatedly hurts us, this is when we need to ask God for a supernatural ability to love with his love. This prayer always works! It's how we become effective evangelizers as distributors of his love.

When we give God's love to those who are unpleasant to love, we're revealing to them God who is with us.



We all have people in our lives who fail to be Christ to us. They don't love us like God wants them to love us. So we need to remind ourselves that our happiness is not dependent upon how they treat us. God is with us! We need to call upon Emmanuel. God who is with us already loves us fully and unconditionally, whether or not we deserve it.

When we're looking for others to love us more than they do, we feel unloved, but if we keep our eyes on Jesus, his love fills in all the gaps.

Emmanuel. It's a name for Jesus that we should use year-round.

As you finish preparing for the celebration of Christmas, focus on Emmanuel. Sing to Emmanuel. Pray to Emmanuel. This sign, this reminder, this name is God's personal Christmas gift to you.

**Questions for Personal Reflection:**

Are you loved enough? What will you do this week (as a Christmas gift for yourself) to become more aware of God's love for you? Here's an idea: Go to the nativity display at your church and look at the manger. Write on a small piece of paper the names of those who fail to love you sufficiently. Place it in the manger and, if it has straw or hay, take a piece of it (or take a flower petal or leaf from a nearby plant) as a reminder that Emmanuel was born to give you more than enough love.

**Questions for Community Faith Sharing:**

What is the best Christmas gift you've ever received from God? Why did it make you feel loved?



In the Gospel of John we read, “The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.” (John 1:14) Yes, our God living with us, Emmanuel. The one who created us, the one who guides us and protects us living with us. That is the good news of Christmas. Let us keep that in our minds and hearts as well as in our actions as we celebrate the great feast of Christmas.

May the peace and good will expressed in the song of the Angels come into our hearts and homes on Christmas Day and abide with us always. May we share the gladness of the shepherds by closing the door of hate and opening the door of love. May we imitate the worship of the Wise Men by adding kindness to every greeting. May the Christ Child teach us to be merry with clean hearts on the day of his birth and may Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts.

May the coming year bring all of us happiness and joy in our closeness to the Infant Christ and to one another. Amen.

Fr. Joe

### **Catholic Ministries Appeal (CMA)**

This year our parish goal is \$57,400. Your generosity provides us with an excellent opportunity to reach out to those in need by supporting the many programs run by our diocese. In particular, the CMA enables our Catholic community on LI to support the work of Catholic Charities, our Catholic Regional Schools, programs for ongoing formation and training of lay leaders as well as our deacons; our seminary which trains men for the priesthood as well as various pastoral offices which provide excellent resources throughout the diocese.

In addition, parishes who make their goal receive a rebate from the diocese, amounting to 20% of the actual goal. Thus far we have collected \$57,928. Please ask the Lord how you might participate. Your pledge is payable over a ten-month period of time.



Assumption Youth Ministries invite everyone to “Coffee in the Courtyard”, on Sundays after the 9:30 AM Mass. Since the weather has changed into cold and rainy we are moving inside until the Spring. It is a great opportunity to meet people who we worship with, make new friends, and build a stronger community, in which we then become a stronger parish family. All are welcome!

FORMED

PICK OF THE WEEK



### **The Story of the Nativity**

#### **Understanding the Full Story of Jesus' Birth**

The birth of Jesus is often misunderstood, but this fast-paced, thought-provoking look at the true story of the Nativity clarifies widespread misunderstandings of Jesus' origin. Join top scholars, inspirational speakers, and popular authors as they explain the story behind the story of the birth of Jesus.

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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](http://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](http://app.formed.org). Our parish code is P8DQG8.

# One Family In Mission

## **Stewardship Reflection**

Reflecting on our recently completed Stewardship Appeal, it is clear to see that our Assumption parish family is truly blessed. We are working together to create and sustain a community of belonging, where each individual's dignity and self-respect is strengthened by the solidarity of our shared faith, the respect and affection we have for one another, and our mutual dedication to our God-given mission.

With God's help we will continue to grow in discipleship. The willingness of our members to enter into sacrificial giving of time, talent, and treasure in response to our Stewardship Appeal speaks of our continuing gratitude for God's gifts.

May God continue to bless us as we share in His work

## **Stewardship Appeal Update**

As our Stewardship Appeal draws to a close, 250 households have increased their offertory contribution. Assumption parish family is truly blessed with generous stewards. Thank you.

If you have not already done so, please return the Special Response form to indicate your new level of giving, and return to your regular envelope packet for succeeding weeks. If you are interested in receiving information on our Electronic Giving Program, please see below or contact the parish office.



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 [faith.direct/NY563](http://faith.direct/NY563) or download the **Faith Direct app** from ios or Android app store and search for the parish with the parish code (NY563). Thank you for your continued support of our parish family!

## **Outreach Needs**

**Christmas Donations:** Thank you to all who gave to our Christmas Drive. Because of your donations, we were able to give Christmas baskets to 60 families in need that are living in our Parish. The generosity of our Parishioners is inspiring!

**Pantry Needs:** Boxed milk, vegetable oil, salad dressing, mustard, deodorant, conditioner, dishwashing liquid and laundry detergent.





**CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE**

**CHRISTMAS EVE**  
**Tuesday, December 24**  
**3:30 pm, 5:30 pm and Midnight**

Our Music Ministry will sing Christmas carols  
 30 minutes before each mass

**CHRISTMAS DAY**  
**Wednesday, December 25**  
**9:30 am, 11:30 am**

**SOLEMNITY OF MARY**  
**Wednesday, January 1<sup>st</sup>**  
**9:30 am, 11:30 am**

### ***Remember Our Parish in Your Will***

we often do not realize how helpful it is to the parish that serves our spiritual needs when a person decides to share his/her resources as a way of saying "thank you" for all that has been provided. Most assuredly, a gift to the parish in your will or trust affirms your continued commitment to the parish's life and works.

Making this gift is easy. You can instruct your attorney to use this wording: "I hereby give, devise and bequeath to Assumption of the BVM parish, with offices at 20 Chestnut St., Centereach, NY 11720, the sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to be used for its most urgent needs." As an alternative, you can make a gift of what remains in your estate or living trust after all other bequests and expenses have been paid: "I hereby give, devise and bequeath to Assumption of the BVM parish, with offices at 20 Chestnut St., Centereach, NY 11720, all the rest, residue and remainder of my estate (trust) to be used for its most urgent needs." For more information about remembering the parish in your will or living trust, contact Fr. Joseph at 631-585-8760 or [jalenchery@abvmcentereach.com](mailto:jalenchery@abvmcentereach.com) or Barbara Kilarjian at 516-379-5210 x 229.

