



# ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

**December 5, 2021**

**Our Mission**

**Love God.**

**Serve Others. Grow Disciples.**

**You Matter! + You Belong!**

**20 Chestnut Street, Centereach, NY 11720 631-585-8760 [www.abvmcentereach.com](http://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, December 5th**

- 7:30 a.m. — Marianna Tutka (Annette Wolz)
- 9:30 a.m. — Salvatore Rosato (Julie Mercado)  
Rosemary Bliss (Schnerk Family)
- 11:30 a.m. — People of the Parish

**Monday, December 6th**

- 9:00 a.m. — Charles Salvietti (Family)  
Dawn Hearne (Rosary Altar Society)

**Tuesday, December 7th**

- 9:00 a.m. — Peter Avalos & Alicia Cuervo (Family)  
Rosemarie Gebel (Thomas DeSena)

**Wednesday, December 8th**

- 9:00 a.m. — Peter & Marjorie Gochan (Family)
- 7:00 p.m. — People of the Parish

**Thursday, December 9th**

- 9:00 a.m. — Dawn Hearne (Barbara DellaCroce)  
Annamma & Thomas John (Molly)

**Friday, December 10th**

- 9:00 a.m. — Thomas Donnelly, Jr. (Family)  
Evelyn Reilly (M/M Vito Graziano)

**Saturday, December 11th**

- 5:30 p.m. — Jim Reilly  
Deceased Members of Luisi Family (Family)

**Sunday, December 12th**

- 7:30 a.m. — Joan Tait (Holy Name Society)  
Maria Christina Caccavello (Luigi & Rita)
- 9:30 a.m. — Marianna Tutka  
Joseph Nugent (M/M Ed Pozzi & Family)
- 11:30 a.m. — People of the Parish

**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.

**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 6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> 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 Chantal Mears at Chantalmears@yahoo.com or 631-438-2468 or visit www.bsa356.com for more details..



**Time, Talent & Treasure**

**Fostering Stewardship  
as a Way of Life**

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

**Last Week's Collection \$8,842  
(includes Faith Direct)**

**Last Year's Collection \$8,944  
Thank You!**

*Rest  
in  
Peace*



Daniel McKeon Fitz

## ***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.

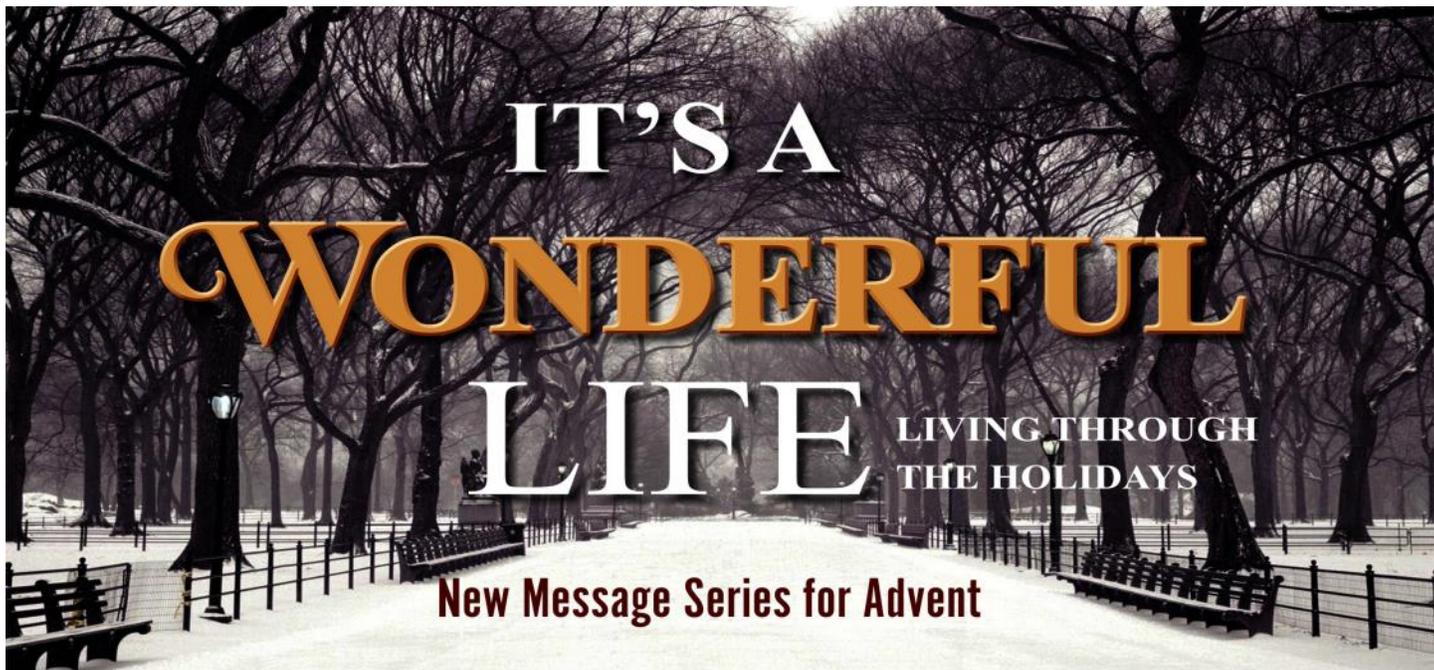
Throughout Advent, let us examine the ways in which we still need to see the salvation of God. Let us make a plan of action to be holier and happier at the end of the Jubilee Year than we are today!

### **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 holiness grows?

### **Questions for 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?



Gratitude is a perspective that helps us to see the world correctly. It helps us to discern what is of value and become purer in our motivations and in our living. In this week we will look at some of the reasons we have to be grateful as Paul describes in his letter to the Philippians. Gratitude is a perspective that can give us more confidence. We can be grateful that God is still working in us and on us.

**What to do?** Think of one person you need to thank because every time you think of them you feel grateful for them. **Or** think of a person you know you take for granted but when you step back and think about them you realize he or she is an incredible blessing to you personally and because of the work you are doing together. Commit this week to pray for that person. Share their names with us in the book that in the back of the church so that we can pray for them too.

**STEWARDSHIP  
— SUNDAY —  
GIVING to our parish is an act of worship**

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. This is just a gentle reminder to Plan, Pray, Commit and return your commitment card to the office by mail or by depositing it in the collection basket on Sunday with your worship offering.



Please prayerfully consider supporting our parish with electronic donations through *Faith Direct*. Signing up is easy! Visit [faithdirect.net/NY563](http://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.**

## **Parish Social Ministry (Food Pantry) for Christmas**

**Gift Cards for Christmas:** With Christmas just around the corner, we're getting ready to prepare Christmas baskets for our Parish Social Ministry clients. Gift cards to local stores such as Walmart and Target are very helpful in providing those in need with the ability to purchase gifts for their children. Since we also provide food for our clients Christmas meal, we are also happy to accept food donations as well as supermarket gift cards. If you choose to donate gift cards, either place them in the collection basket or to the Parish Office or at the Welcome Desk.




**Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

**Wednesday, Dec. 8**

**MASSES: 9:00 AM & 7:00 PM**



**CHRISTMAS PAGEANT**



**3:30 PM ← Sunday, December 19 → 4:30 PM**

Students from 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to participate in the pageant. If interested, please reach out to the Faith Formation Office via **email** to [dmaterazo@abvmcentereach.com](mailto:dmaterazo@abvmcentereach.com) or [jmercado@abvmcentereach.com](mailto:jmercado@abvmcentereach.com).

Parish Family Event sponsored by the Women's Ministry. Tree lighting, Christmas carols, and refreshments after. Invite family and friends to come and enjoy evening.

**ALL ARE WELCOME**



*Coffee  
in the  
Courtyard*

You are invited to "Coffee in the Courtyard", on every **Sunday after the 9:30 AM and 11:30 AM Masses in the Parish Center Hall**. Hang out with our fellow worshippers, spend a few minutes conversing with others, make new friends, and build a stronger community, in which we then become a stronger parish family. **All are welcome!**

**Sunday, Dec 05, 2021**

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**In praise of community service**

Consider him an early volunteer. John the Baptist preached and baptized through the countryside, preparing the community for the way, truth, and life about to open to them. He wasn't paid for these services, which is probably why his diet was locusts and honey, and his clothing coarse. Today on International Volunteer Day, we give thanks for all who helped their neighbors with grocery runs and check-ins during the long season of sickness. We can continue this spirit of social engagement: giving blood, organizing group clean-ups, shoveling a neighbor's sidewalk. Volunteering builds empathy!

TODAY'S READINGS: Baruch 5:1-9; Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11; Luke 3:1-6 (6). "A voice of one crying out in the desert: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.'"

**Monday, Dec 06, 2021**

MEMORIAL OF NICHOLAS, BISHOP

**The wonder of it all**

Very little is known about the historical Saint Nicholas, but he evolved into a legendary figure so intertwined with Christmas, it's almost as if he were part of the Nativity story. The actual Nicholas lived 300 years after the birth of Jesus. Whether he secretly gave gifts to children or not, the spirit of his story is real. Centuries later as presents are wrapped in mystery and kept under the tree in anticipation, emotions of waiting for the Christ Child heighten as we ponder a miracle we can't fathom. Thank you, Saint Nicholas, for a tradition that helps incarnate our joy and wonder!

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 35:1-10; Luke 5:17-26 (181). "We have seen incredible things today."

**Tuesday, Dec 07, 2021**

MEMORIAL OF AMBROSE, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

**Wage peace**

Advent anticipates the Prince of Peace. But as we recall Pearl Harbor, Catholics also embrace a tradition that includes just war theory—sketched out by the likes of Saint Augustine, fleshed out by the likes of Saint Ambrose. King David "never waged war unless he was driven to it," Ambrose observed, illustrating that wars should be fought only as a last resort. Further, war should be waged selflessly—to help and protect others. War that "preserves one's country [or] defends the weak . . . is full of justice." Pray for those in the armed services who sacrifice and protect, and also pray for peace.

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 40:1-11; Matthew 18:12-14 (182). "Comfort, give comfort to my people."

**Wednesday, Dec 08, 2021**

SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (PATRONAL FEAST DAY OF THE U.S.A.)

**A day of pure celebration**

Today we celebrate the Immaculate Conception, the church's teaching that Mary was preserved from original sin from the moment of her conception. It is one of only two dogmas proclaimed infallibly by a pope. All of today's readings are related: They trace the tale back to the Fall, followed by a celebration of the "marvelous deeds" of God's salvation, culminating in the gospel reading of the Annunciation, where Mary learns she will bear a son who will reverse the curse of sin. Today, honor our Blessed

Mother and thank God for her preservation from sin so that she might bring Christ into the world.

TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 3:9-15, 20; Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12; Luke 1:26-38 (689). ". . . he chose us in him, before the foundation of the world, to be holy and without blemish before him."

**Thursday, Dec 09, 2021**

MEMORIAL OF JUAN DIEGO CUAUHTLATZIN

**Be a witness to the miracle of God's love**

We are told that Saint Juan Diego was undistinguished before he became the person to whom the Virgin Mary appeared at Tepeyac, Mexico in 1531. Juan Diego had an opportunity to open himself to God's grace—Mary's appearance and miracle. He responded in faith by listening to the Virgin and persistently communicating her message, even though as an indigenous person, his word was at first discounted. His part in the miracle at Tepeyac has had enduring impact by opening other indigenous and mestizo Mexicans to the gospel message, and by opening church leaders—albeit slowly, in fits and starts—to the message indigenous peoples have for the wider church. Are you ready to receive God's grace, as did Juan Diego?

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 41:13-20; Matthew 11:11-15 (184). "Whoever has ears ought to hear."

**Friday, Dec 10, 2021**

MEMORIAL OF OUR LADY OF LORETO

**Jesus makes his presence known**

Emmanuel, "God is with us," is our guiding truth. Christians find many ways to remind ourselves of God's Real Presence. Of course, the primary way is through the Eucharist. But shrines and relics are also a very Catholic way of pointing to the reality of Christ in our lives. Take for example the shrine of Our Lady of Loreto, which resides in Loreto, Italy, a small town on the Adriatic coast. It is there that the original home of Mary is said to have been moved, either by angels or more probably by a wealthy Italian merchant, after the late 13th-century siege of Jerusalem. At this shrine we can presumably touch the same stones that Jesus touched as a boy. What a remarkable reminder that the Word was made flesh and lived among us. Pray to Our Lady of Loreto for continued reminders of God's abiding presence.

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 48:17-19; Matthew 11:16-19 (185/689B). "The virgin shall be with child, and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel, which means 'God is with us!'"

**Saturday, Dec 11, 2021**

MEMORIAL OF DAMASUS I, POPE

**By the book**

By the fourth century of the Christian era there were 20 or so gospels floating around the early church communities along with the familiar four. Dozens of epistles existed in addition to the 21 we now recognize. It was today's saint, Pope Damasus I (c. 305–384), who presided over the Council of Rome in 382 that determined the canon, or official list, of the Bible. He also encouraged Saint Jerome to produce a translation of the existing Greek and Hebrew texts into Latin, the common language of the day. Inexpensive versions of the Catholic *New American Bible Revised Edition* make great Christmas gifts for friends and family looking to deepen their faith.

TODAY'S READINGS: Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11; Matthew 17:9a, 10-13 (186). "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths."

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



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