



# ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

**December 11, 2022**

**Our Mission**

**Love God. Serve Others. Grow Disciples.**

**You Matter! + You Belong!**

*Christmas at Assumption*

**Christmas Eve: 3:30 pm, 5:30 pm, Midnight**

**Christmas Day: 9:30 am & 11:30 am**

**20 Chestnut Street, Centereach, NY 11720 631-585-8760 [www.abvmcentereach.com](http://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, December 11**

9:30 a.m. — Diane Pozzi (Gochan Family)  
JoAnn Dinan (Kathie & Tom Flood)  
11:30 a.m.— Rosemary O’Connor (Ed & Tita Uy)  
People of the Parish

**Monday, December 12**

9:00 a.m. — Diane Pozzi  
Peter Arato (Greg Shemitz)

**Tuesday, December 13**

9:00 a.m. — Maria & Inacio de Sousa (Family)  
Alonzo Werner (Family)

**Wednesday, December 14**

9:00 a.m.— Living & Deceased Members of RAS  
Iris Hernandez (Sisters & Cousins)

**Thursday, December 15**

9:00 a.m. — James Basil Richardson (NY Metros)  
Elena & Blaise Calamonici (Josephine Scala)

**Saturday, December 17**

5:30 p.m.— Joanne Ruf (Joe & Louise Ferrara)  
Kristie Cleary (Irene & Joe Zabbara)

**Sunday, December 18**

9:30 a.m.— Peter & Marjorie (Gochan Family)  
Joseph Vetrovec  
11:30 a.m.— Diane Pozzi (Rosary Altar Society)  
People of the Parish

**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.

**ASSUMPTION YOUTH MINISTRY**  
**Every Thursday 7:00PM - 8:30PM**  
**in the Parish Center Hall**  
**All 6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> graders are Welcome**  
For more information please contact Renata Tutka-Ptak at 631-585-8760 ext. 105 or rptak@abvmcentereach.com

**Sacraments**

For more information on Baptism, Marriage and Anointing of the Sick, please visit our parish website [www.abvmcentereach.com](http://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 McMahan 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. Meetings are held on every first Tuesday of the month from September thru June.

Show us Lord, your love; and grant us your salvation.  
Psalm 86:8

**STEWARDSHIP**  
GIVING to our parish as an act of worship

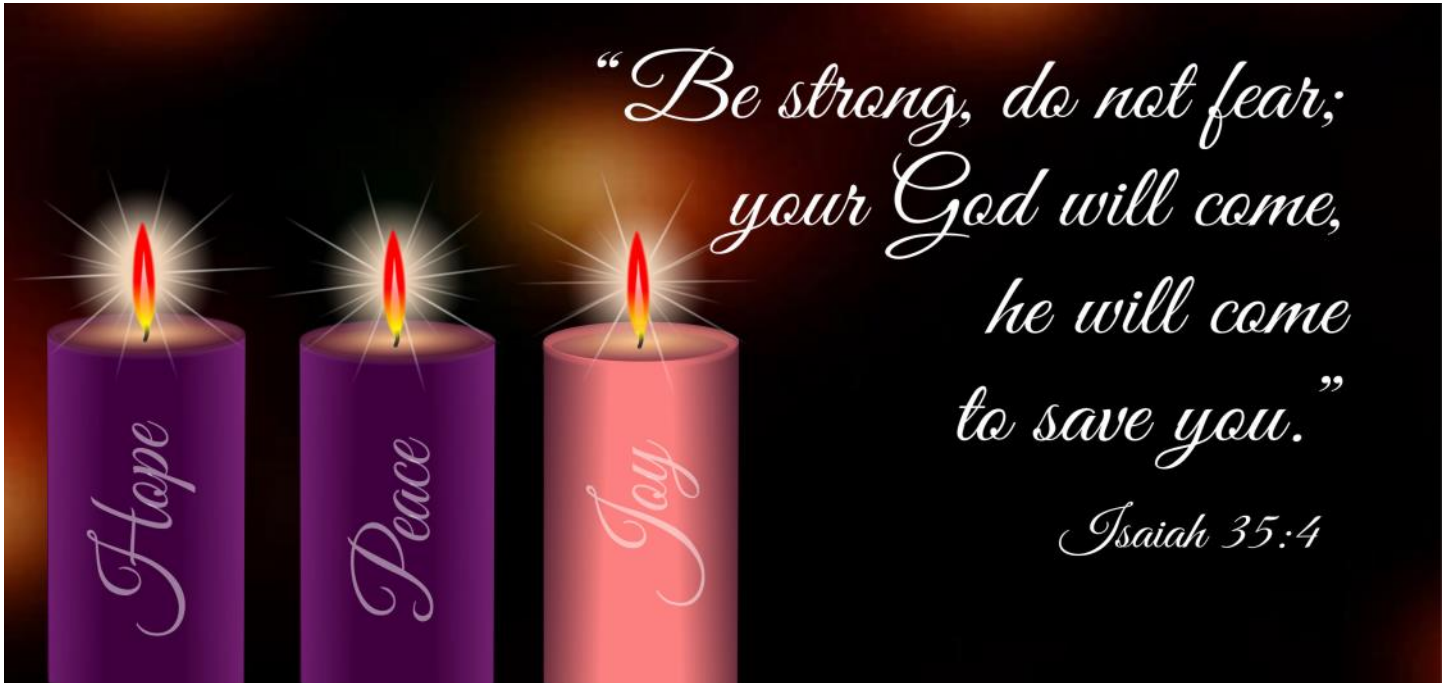
**Parish Sacrificial Giving Summary**  
**Last Week’s Collection \$9,882**  
(includes Faith Direct)  
Last Year’s Collection \$11,880  
**Thank You!**

Rest  
in  
Peace

Shirley Vezzi

**Good News Reflection*****The joy that comes from being rescued by Christ***

Joy is the theme of the Third Sunday of Advent. As it says in the first reading, "Be strong, fear not! Here is your God, he comes with vindication to rescue you!" This is the reason for our joy. We have been ransomed from sin and its destruction; Jesus paid the price through his terrible sacrifice on the cross. This is why Jesus came to earth to be born as one of us: to rescue us from the horrors of an eternal separation from God and his love.



Compared to eternity, our current problems are little, very little indeed.

Joy comes from realizing that, because of Jesus, no sins against us and no destructive forces can do us permanent harm. In fact, God will make good use of everything for our benefit! He defeats evil by making blessings come from it.

Even the worst of times become huge blessings if we let them unite us to Jesus. With Christ and in imitation of how he suffered for the sake of others, we offer to others what our hardships have taught us, and thus our sufferings become ministries. Our sorrows find valuable meaning, which produces a joy that gets multiplied beyond measure.

In Christ we are crowned with everlasting joy. We feel his joy and gladness because of the good that will come and is already starting. Sorrow and mourning will flee away as we rise above our pain to rejoice in the goodness of joining in the ministry of Christ. And we are lifted up by a faithful and compassionate God.

As the second reading points out, we must be patient while we wait for the Lord to convert our trials into triumphs. To maintain an attitude of joy, we must remain firm in our faith, not doubting that the Lord is concerned about us. And we must not complain, because complaints mean that we think we know better than God does about how our problems should be resolved and how long it should take.

Joy comes from rejoicing in the good news that God really does care and is of course working on our behalf to produce many wonderful blessings from our sufferings, just like Jesus says in the Gospel reading: "Blessed is the one who takes no offense in me."

**Questions for Personal Reflection:**

What are you unhappy about? Can you find joy in the trial? -- because God will make good come out of the suffering if you want to use it for the benefit of others. Talk to Jesus about that today. What is he telling you? What hug is he giving you?

**Questions for Community Faith Sharing:**

Describe a time when you saw blessings come from your sufferings. If you could do it all over again, with the option of avoiding those particular troubles, would you? Why or why not?



Jesus came into this world to save and redeem the world. He did this by his whole life, death, and resurrection. His cross and resurrection are essential but so were his life, teaching, and actions. The redemption of the world does not just mean that Jesus came to save our souls from our sins. Jesus did so much more than just saving one part of us. He came to bring about healing and redemption of the whole person and the whole world, all of creation. His cures and miracles of healing were all signs of the greater work God was doing and that God’s grace was available to everyone.

After Jesus died and rose from the dead, the early Church continued his work. They knew Jesus personally and wanted others to know him as well. Their mission was to bring about the redemption of the world by bringing people into a relationship with Jesus Christ. But they didn’t just tell people about Jesus and preach about him. They acted as Jesus did. This is why the book describing their efforts is called Acts of the Apostles. They made an impact by caring for the sick among them whom no one else would care for. They gave attention to the least influential or powerful members of society – slaves, the poor, women, children. In a time when human life was cheap and disposable, they cared for people. They became a light in a very, very dark world.

Pray for our Church. Pray that we would work together to bring God’s love and light into our dark world. Pray that our efforts will help people in need.

**ADOREMUS**  
EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

**Friday, December, 16, 2022 - 7:30 - 8:30 PM**

**in the church & LIVE Streaming**

**PRAISE AND WORSHIP \* SILENT ADORATION \* BENEDICTION**



*Coffee  
in the  
Courtyard*

**in the plaza between the church and the parish center**

*Coffee  
Conversations  
Community*

**After  
9:30 AM  
& 11:30 AM  
Masses**

## Parish Social Ministry (Food Pantry) Needs for the Holidays



Thank you to all who made our Thanksgiving Drive a huge success! Because of your donations, we were able to give Thanksgiving baskets to 45 families in need that are living in our Parish.

**Gift Cards for Christmas:** With Christmas just around the corner, we're getting ready to prepare Christmas baskets for families who are in need. 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 gifts for their children. We are also happy to accept \$25 gift cards from local supermarkets to help provide a great Christmas dinner for our them, allowing

them the dignity to choose their favorite holiday foods. If you choose to donate gift cards, either drop them off at the Welcome Desk or deliver them to the Parish Office.

**Pantry Needs:** Kleenex, Household Cleaner, Toothbrushes, Deodorant, Cooking Oil, Mustard, Tea, Mayonnaise, Canned Pasta, Canned Chicken, Pasta Sauce.

### Mobile Outreach Bus

### Free Health Screenings and Flu Vaccinations

The Community Outreach team is pleased to offer free health screenings and **flu vaccinations** in your community by a Catholic Health registered nurse.



**Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary RCC**

20 Chestnut Street Centereach, NY

**Tuesday December 13, 2022 - 10 am to 2:00 pm**



#### Services for adults (18 and older):

- Brief cardiac history
- Blood pressure screening
- BMI screening
- Simple blood test for cholesterol and glucose
- Health education
- Referrals as needed
- Resources for those without insurance
- **Free flu vaccination** (senior dose available)

## GIVE THE GIFT OF CHRISTMAS to a child

**Faith Formation Giving Tree** is up in the Lobby and is ready for you to pick an ornament to help a child living at the Lake House Shelter this Christmas. Gifts should be re-turned to the Office by 12/18. *Please attach the description tag to the gift.*



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!



**Sunday, Dec 11, 2022****'Tis the season to be generous**

Seasonal gift-giving was originally an expression of generosity toward the needy. These days, gift-giving has become many other things, including a source of anxiety or obligation, mindless consumerism, one-upmanship, and often, an annual occasion of snowballing debt. The gifts Jesus brings are different—they are restorative, occasions of good news. Consider offering gifts that fill hearts, not closets. Heifer International, World Wildlife Fund, and PlanUSA are among the many organizations that accept donations in directed ways to honor your loved ones.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11 (7). *"Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk . . . and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them."*

**Monday, Dec 12, 2022****We're good enough for God**

The appearance of Our Lady of Guadalupe to Saint Juan Diego in December 1531 is reminiscent of the appearance of the angel Gabriel to Mary. Juan and the young Mary were both understandably overwhelmed by what was asked of them. In the Gospel of Luke, Mary is "greatly troubled at what was said." According to later accounts, Juan told Our Lady to pick someone of higher standing as messenger, since he was a "man of no importance." But by accepting the challenge, a Jewish peasant girl became the Mother of God, and an indigenous Mexican persevered in getting a church built in Our Lady's honor. Today, the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City is the most-visited Catholic shrine in the world. Think you're not good enough for God's plan? Trust that God equips us all for what we're called to do.

FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

TODAY'S READINGS: Zechariah 2:14-17 or Revelation 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Luke 1:26-38 or Luke 1:39-47 (690A). *"Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God."*

**Tuesday, Dec 13, 2022****Follow the light**

Lucy, whose name means "light," is a great saint for these darkening days of Advent. Her name and example personify the "light" mentioned throughout the Bible, not only Isaiah's promises of a future messiah—"people who walk in darkness will see a great light"—but Jesus, who called himself the "Light of the World", while also calling us the same. Scandinavian celebrations of Lucy, with a crown of candles on her head, remind us that she fed persecuted Christians hiding in the catacombs, affixing candles to her head in order to use both hands to serve. How will you be a light to the world today?

MEMORIAL OF LUCY, MARTYR

TODAY'S READINGS: Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13; Matthew 21:28-32 (188). *"Take refuge in the name of the Lord."*

**Wednesday, Dec 14, 2022****In the darkness, a great light**

One of multiple doctors of the church celebrated this month, Saint John of the Cross was a renowned priest and friar in Spain, descended from a line of "conversos" (Iberian Jewish converts to Catholicism). A contemporary of another Carmelite saint, Teresa of Ávila, John was, like her, a mystic whose writings have lived far

beyond his own lifetime as classics of European literature. His seminal work, the poem "Dark Night of the Soul," is the basis of a widely held tenant of spirituality involving spiritual distress as a part of searching and growth. (We all have our "dark nights of the soul.") His "Ascent of Mount Carmel" is likewise widely revered. In this season of holy joy as we celebrate the approach of the Messiah, may we likewise honor the legacy of the humble Catholic friar of Jewish descent whose profound and mystical faith has inspired millions the world over.

MEMORIAL OF JOHN OF THE CROSS, CARMELITE PRIEST, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 45:6c-8, 18, 21c-25; Luke 7:18b-23 (189). *"And Jesus said to them in reply, 'Go and tell John what you have seen and heard.'"*

**Thursday, Dec 15, 2022****The greatest gifts are priceless**

The tradition of Christmas gift-giving can be uncomfortable for those wanting to take seriously Catholic teaching about the environment and consumerism. Fortunately, more and more people are open to alternatives: gifts of time or special skills, gifts made from household items, gifts to charitable causes in loved ones' names. How can you celebrate creatively, in keeping with the spirit of Christmas?

ADVENT WEEKDAY

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 54:1-10; Luke 7:24-30 (190). *"I tell you, among those born of women, no one is greater than John."*

**Friday, Dec 16, 2022****Truly right and just**

The prophet Isaiah tells the Israelites to "observe what is right, do what is just." No easy task, often leading us to ask for some guidance. Fortunately, Jesus showed us the way. As we await the celebration of Christ's coming, take a moment to ponder some of the examples of right and just living Jesus gave us, such as caring for outcasts, being a healing presence, praying, evangelizing, and forgiving. Simply put, follow Christ's advice to love God and your neighbor as yourself and to count your blessings, and let Christ take care of the rest.

ADVENT WEEKDAY

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 56:1-3a, 6-8; John 5:33-36 (191). *"These works that I perform testify on my behalf that the Father has sent me."*

**Saturday, Dec 17, 2022****Dip into God's wisdom**

Today we begin the recitation of the O Antiphons. The church sings these seven lines during evening prayers (vespers) on the last seven days of Advent, and also uses them as the Alleluia Verse during the daily Mass. Each antiphon is a title for Christ taken from the Book of Isaiah. They go back to an unknown source some 1,500 years ago in medieval Europe, and all begin with "O," thus known as the "O Antiphons." Take an opportunity today to connect to this ancient tradition by enjoying sung versions and explanations of the antiphons on the internet, starting with today's antiphon, O Wisdom.

ADVENT WEEKDAY (O WISDOM)

TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 49:2, 8-10; Matthew 1:1-17 (193). *"The mountains shall yield peace for the people, and the hills justice."*

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



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