



ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

December 25, 2022

Our Mission

Love God. Serve Others. Grow Disciples.

You Matter! + You Belong!

*Today in the city of David
a savior has been born for you who is*

Christ and Lord.

Luke 2:11



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, December 25

9:30 a.m. — Christmas Day
11:30 a.m.— Christmas Day

Monday, December 26

9:00 a.m. — Fr. Chris Aridas (Palma Family)
Robert Scibelli (Family)

Tuesday, December 27

9:00 a.m. — Peter Arato
Mariana Ruivo (Rose, Nancy & Sharon)

Wednesday, December 28

9:00 a.m.— Dr. Elisa & Frank Valisno (Aida, Tonypet & Arnold)
Ray Farlow

Thursday, December 29

9:00 a.m. — Jim Reilly (Family)
Jack & Dale Cahill (Mary Ross)

Saturday, December 31

5:30 p.m.—Living & Deceased Members of
Campanelli & Lang Families
Marie Scottaline (Joe & Louise Ferrara)

Sunday, January 1

9:30 a.m.— Diane Pozzi (Lorraine Amato)
Marilyn Huether (Rich Thienel)
11:30 a.m.—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 6th - 8th & 9th - 12th 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 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.

The LORD is near to all who call upon him, to all who call upon him in truth.

Psalm 145:18

STEWARDSHIP
GIVING to our parish as an act of worship

Parish Sacrificial Giving Summary
Last Week's Collection \$8,998

(includes Faith Direct)

Last Year's Collection \$8,407

Thank You!

Rest
in
Peace



Deceased
Brothers & Sisters
of our Parish family.

Good News Reflection

The song of faith

Joy to the world! This is our song. This is what we should always be proclaiming as a people of faith.

Don't focus on what destroys your joy, for nothing can destroy the coming of the Lord. The absence of joy is merely a blank area in your view of what God is doing.

Look at the love that Jesus has for you! Jesus was born not only to save you from the darkness of sin; he was born because he loves you -- he loves YOU! Even if you had never sinned, he would have come into the world so that he could love you on your level, human-to-human.

Sometimes, great things come in surprising packages that do not seem to be great at all. The Eucharist -- in the form of a little wafer of bread -- does not look like it contains the full presence of Jesus with all of his humanity and his divinity. The baby Jesus -- a tiny, helpless child -- does not look like the conqueror of evil. But he is! And so is Jesus in the Eucharist; he is here for you.

And you! You might not seem to be a great person, but you contain Jesus. You contain greatness beyond imagining! This greatness does not dwell only in you; it comes out from you in every good thing that you do. This is a life of faith!



To be a follower of Jesus means we learn to imitate him. In doing good, evil is defeated. In this goodness, the greatness of Jesus extends outward from us. In this goodness, there is cause for great joy.

Questions for Personal Reflection:

How much do you really believe that Jesus loves you? What are some examples of Jesus taking good care of you? How do you reveal the love of Jesus to others?

Questions for Family or Community Faith Sharing:

Share the story of the first time you can remember experiencing the love of Jesus and realized that it was a gift from God. What does the Eucharist mean to you? How can it change you so that you leave church ready to give the love of Christ to others?

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Merry Christmas



In this darkest time of the year, we become more and more aware of our need for light. We need light for our physical and emotional health. We need the light of Christ in our minds and in our hearts — and we are called, challenged, and encouraged to bring that light to others.

While we are to be light for others, we must return over and over again to receive Christ’s light. As we travel through life, we hit times of darkness. We know how difficult it is to walk through life in the dark. The darkness in our lives can come in many different ways or by different names: an illness, unemployment, parenting or marital issues. Darkness comes in many forms; and trying to navigate in our way in the dark is not fun.

God does not want us walking in the dark. He wants us to walk in the light and he wants to be our light. As we prepare to walk into a New Year, ask God to be your light.



**Parish Offices will be closed
on Monday, December 26th 2022,
and Monday, January 2nd, 2023.**

Small Group is where our large church gets small. Groups are 6-10 people who meet to discuss faith, go deeper in the weekly message, and support one another in their relationship with Christ. This is the place to care for others and be cared for; a place to impact our community and the world. Assumption small groups are open to accept more people anytime during the year to help your faith journey. If you like to join a small group, stop by at the Welcome Desk in the church lobby on Sunday or email rptak@abvmcentereach.com to sign up.



Will be on Recess
12/25/22
&
1/1/23
We will resume on
Sunday, January 8

Parish Social Ministry (Food Pantry) Needs for the Holidays



Christmas Donations: Thank you to all made our Christmas Drive a huge success! Your donations allowed us to give Christmas baskets to 50 families in need that are living in our Parish. This includes numerous gift cards that allowed these families to buy Christmas gifts for their children. The generosity of our Parishioners is inspiring!

The Parish Social Ministry is happy to accept donations of gift cards throughout the year. We distribute gift cards to the families that we assist so they can buy needed items that are not available in our food pantry.

These include \$25 gift cards from supermarkets, stores such as Walmart and Target, and Quick Chek so they can purchase gas. Donations of non-perishable food and household items are always welcome. Each week we list items that are needed in the bulletin. If you choose to donate gift cards, either drop them off at the Welcome Desk or deliver them to the Parish Office. Food and household items may be placed in the bin by the Church entrance or the Parish Office.

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



In person winter support group at **St Joseph's Church, 45 Church St, Ronkonkoma**. This group is a general bereavement support group for the newly bereaved. The group will meet on **Wednesdays from January 11 to March 8, 2023 from 11:00 am to 12:15 pm in the Parish Center**. There is a one-time registration fee of \$25.00 to pay the book used in the group. Interested individuals should call at the parish office 631-588-8456

This unique opportunity allows taxpayers to make charitable contributions through a direct IRA transfer. If you would like to make a gift using your IRA and if:

1. You are at least 70 1/2 years old on the date you make your gift
 2. Your IRA is a traditional (some Roth IRA's may qualify)
 3. You don't exceed your personal maximum of \$100,000 per year in qualified charitable distributions
2. Tax Saving Advantages:
1. QCDs are not included in your adjusted gross income.
 2. QCDs deliver a tax benefit while "regular" charitable donations might not since the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act almost doubled the standard deductions amounts.
 3. QCDs taken from your traditional IRA counts as a distribution for the required minimum distribution (RMD) rules. Therefore, you can donate all or part of your RMD that you would otherwise be forced to receive and pay taxes on.



VERY IMPORTANT!! Your gift must go directly from your IRA to the Charity. If you receive the money first then you'll be taxed on it like any other distribution.



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!



Sunday, Dec 25, 2022**Jubilee, every day!**

Christmas is the only day of the year designated as "merry." While most birthdays are declared "happy" in the celebration of life, the birth of God among us recommends merriment: a festival of delight, high spirits, good fellowship, and feasting. Yet Saint Théophane Vénard observed that our faith asks even more of us: "Try to fulfill each day's tasks steadily and cheerfully. Be merry, really merry. The life of a true Christian should be a perpetual jubilee, a prelude to the festivals of eternity." Capture the spirit of Christmas in your being. Resolve to bring joy to the world, every day of the year.

SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS)

TODAY'S READINGS: Night: Isaiah 9:1-6; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14 (14); Day: Isaiah 52:7-10; Hebrews 1:1-6; John 1:1-18 (16). *"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light."*

Monday, Dec 26, 2022**A day for renewed commitment**

Advent is full of anticipation that finally culminates on Christmas. But once the Savior is here, there's no time to wait to start Christianity's mission. So today we honor the first martyr of the faith, Saint Stephen, who was stoned to death. One of the first followers of the apostles, chosen by them to serve as a deacon, Stephen preached and performed miracles and forgave his attackers (Saul, later Saint Paul, among them) before dying. As we get ready to start a new year, let Stephen inspire you to reflect on your baptismal call to spread the gospel and how you might renew your efforts in word and witness.

FEAST OF STEPHEN, FIRST MARTYR

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Matthew 10:17-22 (696). *"You will be hated by all because of my name, but whoever endures to the end will be saved."*

Tuesday, Dec 27, 2022**Love remains**

What should your true love gift you on the third day of Christmas? How about the reminder that Saint John was the "beloved disciple" of Jesus? So beloved that Jesus—even as he was dying on the cross—entrusted his own mother to John's tender care: "'Woman, here is your son,' and to the disciple, 'Here is your mother'" (John 19:26). As the dust settles on our often hectic celebrations of Christmas, remember that "faith, hope, and love remain . . . but the greatest of these is love." So don't fret if your holiday feast doesn't include a Martha Stewart masterpiece; simple love should be the main course—and makes for the best leftovers.

FEAST OF JOHN, APOSTLE, EVANGELIST

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 1:1-4; John 20:1a, 2-8 (697). *"Beloved: What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen . . . and touched with our hands concerns the Word of life."*

Wednesday, Dec 28, 2022**Dry every tear**

In the midst of celebrating the great octave of Christmas we are reminded that Jesus was born into a world much like our own: filled with violence and terror, impacting especially the most vulnerable. Pope Francis stated in his 2016 address for the Feast of the Holy Innocents: "Christmas is . . . accompanied, whether we

like it or not, by tears. . . . It is the sobbing of mothers bewailing the death of their children in the face of Herod's tyranny and unbridled thirst for power. Today too, we hear this heart-rending cry of pain, which we neither desire nor are able to ignore or to silence." How shall we respond, to bring some comfort to those who grieve?

FEAST OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS, MARTYRS

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 1:5—2:2; Matthew 2:13-18 (698). *"Rise, take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you."*

Thursday, Dec 29, 2022**No disposable lives**

"Will no one rid me of this turbulent priest?" Those words are attributed to King Henry II. This provocative question signaled to Henry's armed forces that Bishop Thomas [Becket] of Canterbury should be killed. And so he was. Catholic teaching tells us that every single life is precious, whether a bishop or a pauper. On this memorial of Saint Thomas Becket, consider ways our community can reject the notion of ridding ourselves of turbulent human beings—be they convicts, the bedridden, or other troublesome or inconvenient lives.

MEMORIAL OF THOMAS BECKET, BISHOP, MARTYR

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 2:3-11; Luke 2:22-35 (202). *"Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel."*

Friday, Dec 30, 2022**All in the family**

Families come in all sorts of shapes and sizes. One thing they all share, however, is that they are not perfect. "Perfect families do not exist," said Pope Francis in a 2015 address. "This must not discourage us. Quite the opposite. Love is something we learn; love is something we live; love grows as it is 'forged' by the concrete situations which each particular family experiences. Love is born and constantly develops amid lights and shadows." As we remember the Holy Family, let us also recommit ourselves to this kind of love within all our family experiences.

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH

TODAY'S READINGS: Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14 or Colossians 3:12-21; Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23 (17). *"And over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection."*

Saturday, Dec 31, 2022**Slow down to celebrate**

Part of the wisdom coming to us from our long church tradition is found in the realization that some mysteries take a while to unfold. That is why during the Christmas season we celebrate the great mystery of God in the world for an entire octave, the eight days between Christmas and the solemnity tomorrow of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God. As we approach the end of this great celebration, ponder for a few moments how the mystery of this event has unfolded for you this year. And take a moment to feel the joy of Christmas once again.

SEVENTH DAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 2:18-21; John 1:1-18 (204). *"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."*

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



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