



# ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

**December 4, 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](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 4

- 9:30 a.m. — Leroy Lovell (Bea Hallinan)  
Marilyn Huether (Colleen Navarra)  
11:30 a.m.— Giuseppa Carollo (Family)  
People of the Parish

### Monday, December 5

- 9:00 a.m. — Diane Pozzi (Josephine Scala)  
Russ Bengtson

### Tuesday, December 6

- 9:00 a.m. — Charles Salvietti (Family)  
Jaime Riutort

### Wednesday, December 7

- 9:00 a.m.— Alicia Cuervo (Blanche Werner & Family)  
Peter George Avalos (Blanche Werner & Family)

### Thursday, December 8

- 9:00 a.m. — Abelardo & Norma Angeles (Family)  
7:00 p.m.— People of the Parish

### Saturday, December 10

- 5:30 p.m.— Thomas Donnelly Jr. (Family)  
Rita Ella (Harry & Luz Gaviola)

### Sunday, December 11

- 9:30 a.m.— Diane Pozzi (Gochan Family)  
JoAnn Dinan (Kathie & Tom Flood)  
11:30 a.m.— Rosemary O'Connor (Uy Family)  
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 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. 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 \$7877

(includes Faith Direct)

Last Year's Collection \$8,842

**Thank You!**

Rest  
in  
Peace



Margaret Arlene McGuire

**Good News Reflection*****The peace that comes from the Holy Spirit***

Peace is the theme of the Second Sunday of Advent. The first reading describes Christ the Messiah, who came from the line of Jesse, the father of King David. It also describes how to obtain peace -- a peace that sustains us even in the midst of troubles: "The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him." Can you feel the Holy Spirit "resting" on you?



We experience true peace when we're in a restful relationship with God, i.e., when we're not struggling against him and his ways and his plans for us. Peace does not depend on bringing to an end the struggles we have with people or the problems we have with financial shortages or addictions or health, etc. We can work hard to accomplish peace in any trial, win the war, and still not be at peace.

Peace comes to us in the wisdom and understanding that we get from the Holy Spirit. Peace comes from following the Spirit's counsel and relying upon God's strength. Peace comes from gaining knowledge of the truth that God wants us to know, in total submission to his authority, obediently acting upon the truth.

In the Gospel reading, John the Baptist reminds us to "prepare the way of the Lord and make straight his paths." To receive the Spirit of God and his peace, we must prepare ourselves to meet Jesus in the Eucharist and in all the other ways that he comes to us. What kind of preparation produces peace? It's the work of honestly identifying our sins, happy that God is merciful, and straightening our crooked paths, because we realize that God's ways are really what's best for us.

Whatever separates us from God's peace, we must get rid of it. To do this, we have the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the Penitential Rite at the beginning of every Mass. Christ equips us for the journey into true peace!

**Questions for Personal Reflection:**

What turmoil is going on in your life? What has stolen your peace? Where is Jesus? What obstacles (e.g., unforgiveness or resentment) do you need to repent of to see him and feel his peace?

**Questions for Community Faith Sharing:**

What methods do you use to settle down and rest in the Spirit of Jesus when turmoil is spinning around you? What kind of prayer helps? Do you go on retreat or confide in a spiritual director? What are some other ideas?



This is the second week of our series, “Let There Be Light.” As the days get darker and darker, 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 for our spiritual and intellectual well-being.

Light is influential. When we are in a dark place or dark room, we naturally move toward the light because it gives us clear direction. The darker the place, the more we can be influenced by a light. Our lives are to be light for others so that they move in God’s direction. No matter who you are, you can influence or be a light to other people. Influence is the power to affect how someone develops, acts, or feels. Influence moves people in one direction or another. God has put you on this earth to be a light that will influence people in his direction.

Ask God to help you grow this week to see how you can be a light for others. Pray for God to give you the names of people he wants you to move in his direction.

**Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**  
 Thursday, Dec. 8  
 Masses: 9:00 AM & 7:00 PM

*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**

You are invited to “Coffee in the Courtyard”, on every **Sunday after the 9:30 AM and 11:30 AM Masses at the Plaza between church and the Parish Center**. 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!** Join us for fellowship, wonderful conversations and of course coffee.

### 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, Toothbrushes, Toothpaste, Deodorant, Cooking Oil, Mustard, Mayonnaise, Tea, Coffee, Cereal, Syrup, Canned Chili, Canned Chicken, Pasta Sauce.

**Good News Ahead**

**Signs of Christmas**

**Christmas Musical**

by Assumption Faith Formation Students

Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>  
at 3:30 PM

# 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 04, 2022****Peace to all who enter here**

The holiday season can be full of exciting plans and activities. It can also be stressful, as social demands increase. Shopping and seasonal food preparation take time—a thing always in limited supply. And as families and communities gather, opportunities for harmony or conflict arise. Francis de Sales offers advice for the harried: "Never be in a hurry; do everything quietly and in a calm spirit. Do not lose your inner peace for anything whatsoever, even if your whole world seems upset." Commit to Isaiah's peaceable kingdom, where calf and lion share the field and childhood innocence leads the way.

## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 11:1-10; Romans 15:4-9; Matthew 3:1-12 (4). *"The calf and the young lion shall browse together, with a little child to guide them."*

**Monday, Dec 05, 2022****Feed my flock**

"Mandela Day" is an annual international day in honor of South African anti-apartheid activist Nelson Mandela celebrated on his birthday in July as a call to action to every individual to change the world with acts of service. Today is the anniversary of Mandela's death and also International Volunteer Day, another reminder for each person to make a positive difference in the lives of others. In 2022, the Nelson Mandela Foundation focused on the intersection of food security and climate change—also themes of Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si'*. How can you and your parish help provide nutritious food to all in your community in ways that are sustainable? For suggestions, visit [mandeladay.com](http://mandeladay.com).

## ADVENT WEEKDAY

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

**Tuesday, Dec 06, 2022****Secret Santa**

The anonymous generosity of Saint Nicholas, bishop of Myra in the 300s, is legendary. So as not to attract praise from others, Nicholas performed charitable deeds on the sly—like the time he saved three poor maidens from destitution because they had no dowry for marriage. Under cover of night, Saint Nick secretly dropped three bags of gold down their chimney to ease their plight. The size, shape, and color of these bags of gold gave rise to the "Christmas orange" traditionally placed in Christmas stockings. Consider an anonymous act of charity today—and maybe treat yourself to an orange, too!

## MEMORIAL OF NICHOLAS, BISHOP

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 40:1-11; Matthew 18:12-14 (182). *"It is not the will of your heavenly Father that one of these little ones be lost."*

**Wednesday, Dec 07, 2022****Firm stance, gentle hand**

Saint Ambrose of Milan, the esteemed early church theologian and pastor, was consecrated bishop of Milan on this day in 374, during a trip to the city to quell a succession crisis for the contentious church post. Known for his conciliatory demeanor, Ambrose was a staunch defender of orthodox beliefs about the divinity of Jesus, but he was also respected by those who believed Jesus not to be God, because of his willingness to listen to them. Among his countless contributions to the church, he converted Saint

Augustine of Hippo with his preaching and baptized the wayward son before his own journey to theological greatness. In this season of charity, may we all emulate Ambrose's devotion to peace and unity on his holy feast.

MEMORIAL OF AMBROSE, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH  
TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 40:25-31; Matthew 11:28-30 (183). *"Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves."*

**Thursday, Dec 08, 2022****Holiness is about more than clean living**

Older Catholics might smile as they recall the imagery for sin that they learned in the mid-20th century. Sin-free meant a clean soul. The dogma of the Immaculate Conception refers to Mary as free from "all stain of original sin." Rather than emphasize Mary's clean soul, today many contemporary theologians choose to emphasize Mary's active faithfulness over a lifetime. That's something each one of us can aspire to.

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

TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 3:9-15, 20; Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12; Luke 1:26-38 (689). *"Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God."*

**Friday, Dec 09, 2022****Don't lose sight of Mary**

After providing a mantle of roses with the image of Mary miraculously impressed upon it as proof to the archbishop of Mexico City of her appearance to him, Juan Diego spent his days living as a hermit and guide to pilgrims near a shrine built in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe, a title Mary reportedly chose for herself. The Mexican bishops define the "Guadalupe Event" as the "beginning of evangelization with a vitality that surpassed all expectations." The Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe now holds the honor of being the most visited Catholic shrine in the world. As with any Marian apparition, spiritual transformation is Mary's primary purpose—all in the hope of leading a new generation to Christ. Draw on the presence of Mary today, as Saint Juan Diego did centuries ago, to help orient you toward God's boundless love.

MEMORIAL OF JUAN DIEGO CUAUHTLATZIN

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 48:17-19; Matthew 11:16-19 (185). *"Wisdom is vindicated by her works."*

**Saturday, Dec 10, 2022****Let your spirit soar!**

The title of Our Lady of Loreto is owed more to a building and a statue than to a person. The building is the Basilica of the Holy House (Basilica della Santa Casa) in Loreto, Italy. A tradition arose that the Holy House was the actual house where the Virgin Mary lived in Nazareth, which had later miraculously been transported by angels to Loreto. (Crusaders returning from the Holy Land may have more plausibly transported it with them, stone by stone.) The statue is a Madonna and Child image, called Our Lady of Loreto, carved in Cedar of Lebanon and enshrined in the basilica. Whatever you might make of the miraculous story about Our Lady of Loreto, the next time you embark on a long journey or relocation, it might not hurt to ask for her protection.

MEMORIAL OF OUR LADY OF LORETO

TODAY'S READINGS: Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11; Matthew 17:9a, 10-13 (186). *"Elijah has already come."*

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



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