



ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

January 8, 2023

Our Mission

Love God.

Serve Others. Grow Disciples.

You Matter! + You Belong!

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, January 8

9:30 a.m. — Iris Hernandez (sisters & cousins)
 Ronald Bermudez (Nick & Patti Campanelli)
 11:30 a.m.— People of the Parish

Monday, January 9

9:00 a.m. — Diane Pozzi
 Erlinda Matibag (Gochan Family)

Tuesday, January 10

9:00 a.m. — MaryAnn Murphy
 Marie Scottaline (Sharon Holliday)

Wednesday, January 11

9:00 a.m.— Laura Jeanne Mauro
 Robert Scibelli (Family)

Thursday, January 12

9:00 a.m. — George Leverock
 Joseph Angland Jr. (Angland Family)

Saturday, January 14

5:30 p.m.—Jake Daniel Gentile-Farrell (Rich Thienel)
 Jason J. Scolaro (Rich Thienel)

Sunday, January 15

9:30 a.m.— Lucy Vetrovec (Riggs Family)
 Living & Deceased Members of the
 Romeo & Wolz Families
 11:30 a.m.—People of the Parish

**So whoever is in Christ is a new creation:
 the old things have passed away;
 behold, new things have come. 2Corinthians 5:17**

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

**Parish Sacrificial Giving Summary
 Last Week's Collection \$10,520
 (includes Faith Direct)
 Last Year's Collection \$9,636
 Thank You!**

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 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.

Rest
 in
 Peace

Deceased
 Brothers & Sisters
 of our Parish family.

Good News Reflection

Where did the faith of the Magi come from?

The Season of Christmas includes the celebration of the arrival of the magi from the East. Let's consider the humble adoration of the magi for the Christ child. The magi were Gentiles, and the Greek word "magi" meant oriental scientists. Despite sometimes being translated as "astrologers", their visit to the manger does not validate astrology.

Because they were not Jews, their determination to meet the Jewish savior says much about what the word "epiphany" means. The magi are good examples of believing in the importance of Jesus even without understanding what it would mean to them personally or to the rest of the world.



They worshiped Jesus as a King-Messiah before they knew how he would become king or how his kingship would save the world from evil. As scientific scholars, they had studied religious writings from beyond the scope of their own culture. Then, they acted on faith in response to the Spirit of God who activated them, and it changed their lives.

Only the Spirit of God can move someone to have faith, because faith is a gift of the Holy Spirit (see 1 Corinthians 12). The word "epiphany" means discovery, a revelation that changes our lives. Epiphanies are gifts from God as he collaborates with our desire for new growth.

We can imagine how the magi felt when they experienced an epiphany in the presence of the Christ child. Although they did not understand how this baby from a poor family could become king, they remembered him for the rest of their lives and listened for news from the land of Israel about Jesus. We know that they heard about his crucifixion and learned what his followers were teaching about it, for they became Christians -- their relics have been venerated since very early times.

Questions for Personal Reflection:

What sign from God, like the star that the magi followed, are you waiting to see? What signs is God already showing you? These are evidence that he is working in your life. What epiphany -- new understanding -- is Jesus giving you about what God is doing in your life?

Questions for Community Faith Sharing:


God has given you faith to believe in Jesus as the Messiah. How do you act on this faith? And how do these actions evangelize non-believers?



Today we begin a new message series called, “Habits.” A habit is a practice we do regularly and routinely with little or no effort of the mind or the will; it is an automatic response to a situation. Our habits are the regular deposits in our lives that can compound over time and then make a huge impact in our lives.

Habits imply continual, steady improvement. We can celebrate and take pride in every time we practice a healthy habit. Every time we practice a healthy habit, we cast a vote for a new identity. We move in the direction of the person God has created us to be. One healthy habit can create a ripple effect that positively impacts our whole life.

Over the next month, we will work on instilling one healthy habit that will improve our life in 2023. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you identify one healthy habit that he wants you to implement this year.



Sprouts is a children’s ministry for ages three and up on Sundays after 9:30 am Mass during Coffee in the Courtyard. We are ready to hear and be part of the stories our youngest disciples of our parish are living and to invite them to the most incredible adventure of their lives, reminding them week after week, year after year, that our Father is madly after their hearts.

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.



Food Pantry Volunteers Needed

Our Parish Mission Statement includes the words “Love God. Serve Others.” If you are looking to start the new year by putting those words into action, please consider joining the Parish Social Ministry. Our Ministry serves those in need in our community by providing a fully stocked food pantry as well as offering limited financial assistance in some cases. We are looking for volunteers who are compassionate, understanding and are committed to the mission of the Parish. The ability to converse in Spanish or familiarity with Microsoft Office software is helpful but not necessary. The following hours are available:

Tuesday, Wednesday or Friday 10AM – 1 PM

If you are interested in joining our Ministry or have any questions please contact us.

Phone: 631 585-8760 x2 Email: outreach@abvmcentereach.com

You can also sign up or get information at the Welcome Desk following the 9:30 Mass.

Pantry Needs: Shampoo, Conditioner, Dishwashing Liquid, Laundry Detergent, Deodorant, Cooking Oil, Salad Dressing, Tea, Canned Pasta, Canned Chicken, Pasta Sauce, Syrup.





Faith Formation

Classes will RESUME on

Monday, January 23rd

after Christmas and New Year recess.



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.



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, Jan 08, 2023

Bless this mess

Do a perimeter walk of your home. What do you see? Each room tells a story, every corner contains a chapter about who lives here and what happens between these walls. *Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers* recommends we bless our homes annually on Epiphany in imitation of the wise ones who once followed the divine presence to a humble dwelling. What sort of blessing might each area need? What requires a blessing: the kitchen table, living room sofa, or home office desk? A child's room or elder's sickbed? Don't forget the front door—the passageway to every other story that involves us.

SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6; Matthew 2:1-12 (20). "Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come."

Monday, Jan 09, 2023

Be a carrier of peace

Pigeons and doves are different species within the same family of birds. The homing pigeon, also called the mail or carrier pigeon, is a variety bred for its ability to find its way home over extremely long distances of up to 1,000 miles or more. Because of this skill, they were used to carry messages throughout history. The dove, of course, is a symbol of peace and hope, and famously carried an olive branch to Noah on the Ark after the great flood. If you want to send a similar message, you don't have to go nearly as far. Just extend peace and hope across the dinner table or over the neighbor's fence.

FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7 or Acts 10:34-38; Matthew 3:13-17 (21). "He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming upon him."

Tuesday, Jan 10, 2023

Give peace every chance

On this day in 1920, the Treaty of Versailles formally ended World War I. On this same day in 1946—following World War II—the UN General Assembly met for the very first time, gathering on church property at the Methodist Central Hall in London. And on January 10, 1984 the United States and Vatican City re-established full diplomatic relations after 117 years. It's not enough for Christians to worship the Prince of Peace. "We must work tirelessly to avoid war between nations and peoples," writes Pope Francis in *Fratelli Tutti* (On Fraternity and Social Friendship). "There is a need to ensure ... tireless recourse to negotiation, mediation, and arbitration." Learn more at [Pax Christi USA](#).

FIRST WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME

TODAY'S READINGS: Hebrews 2:5-12; Mark 1:21-28 (306). "The people were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority and not as the scribes."

Wednesday, Jan 11, 2023

Measure with mercy

On this day in 314—or the day before; the history is unclear—Pope Saint Miltiades died after a life of historic twists and turns that would help define the Early Church. Born to North African parents, Miltiades was the second of the Catholic Church's three African popes, having been elected in 311, shortly after the end of the persecutions of Emperor Diocletian. As pope, Miltiades was most famous for rejecting the Donatists, who argued that apostates who

repent needed to be re-baptized (and re-ordained, if priests). In an age of manifestly imperfect priests, may we model Pope Miltiades' mercy and forgiveness for all the fallen—starting with ourselves!

TODAY'S READINGS: Hebrews 2:14-18; Mark 1:29-39 (307). "They immediately told him about her. He approached, grasped her hand, and helped her up."

Thursday, Jan 12, 2023

Pull back the curtain with contemplative prayer

Fans of *The Wizard of Oz* relish the moment when a curtain is drawn and the Great and Terrible Oz is shown to be an ordinary man. In a way, the tradition of contemplative prayer is an attempt to pull back the curtain but with reverse results. Instead of seeing the wondrous as ordinary, contemplation is meant to move people to see the depth and intricacy and wonder of the ordinary. In other words, contemplative prayer wants us to see God's face everywhere. Consider the times when God's presence became tangible for you. Build a time into today to seek that presence.

TODAY'S READINGS: Hebrews 3:7-14; Mark 1:40-45 (308). "Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand, touched the leper, and said to him, 'I do will it. Be made clean.'"

Friday, Jan 13, 2023

The word is out

Saint Hilary, born in Poitiers in southwest France in 315, had a learned education but was not raised Christian. Able to read the biblical languages, however, he was drawn to Christianity by the beauty and power of the prologue of the Gospel of John (John 1:1-18) and spent his life in strong defense of the divinity of Jesus, a controversial subject at the time. Recognition of his tireless efforts eventually earned him the high title of doctor of the church.

Perhaps John's prologue has a word to speak to you as well. Why not dip into its powerful language today?

MEMORIAL OF HILARY, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

TODAY'S READINGS: Hebrews 4:1-5, 11; Mark 2:1-12 (309) "Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, pick up your mat and walk'?"

Saturday, Jan 14, 2023

Accepted unconditionally

Levi was an outcast of his people. Because of his position at the Roman customs post, not only he but also his family were held in disdain. His alliance with the Romans was considered treasonous and his wealth ill-gotten. Levi had many character flaws, yet Jesus chose him as a disciple, and he accepted. This is good news for the outcasts of our generation, the people our society and sometimes our church counts as unacceptable. It's good news for all of us, to be honest, as we all fall short in one way or another.

Thankfully, Jesus sees past our shortcomings. Imitate Jesus before judging others.

OPTIONAL MEMORIAL OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

TODAY'S READINGS: Hebrews 4:12-16; Mark 2:13-17 (310). "I did not come to call the righteous but sinners."

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



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