



# ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

**February 12, 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](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, February 12

9:30 a.m. — Marilyn Huether (Melissa & Anthony Ferrara)  
Loretta Bengtson (Maureen & Sheila)

11:30 a.m.— People of the Parish

### Monday, February 13

9:00 a.m. — Florence Talluto (Angela Nugent)  
Peter & Marjorie Gochan (Family)

### Tuesday, February 14

9:00 a.m. — Otto Wolz  
Diane Pozzi (Nugent Family)

### Wednesday, February 15

9:00 a.m.— Joseph Alberigo (Debbie Wong)  
Erlinda Matibag (Rosay Altar Society)

### Thursday, February 16

9:00 a.m. — Joseph Alberigo (Ponce Family)  
Marie Claude Casimir (children)

### Saturday, February 18

5:30 p.m.—Domenica Bellavia (Joe & Louise Ferrara)  
Margaret McGuire (Mary Ann & Andrew Bracco)

### Sunday, February 19

9:30 a.m.— Peter & Christina Bergman (Uy Family)  
Juanito Lagasca (Uy Family)  
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 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.

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 \$10,379

(includes Faith Direct)

Last Year's Collection \$12,537

**Thank You!**

Rest  
in  
Peace



Judy V. Carlson  
Joseph A. Nieckarz Sr.

## Good News Reflection

### The Law of Love

The Jewish religious authorities of Jesus' day were often literalists in their interpretation of the Law of God. Jesus, however, gave a deeper meaning to the Law. He placed his focus on the goal of the Law: Love.

In this Sunday's Gospel reading, Jesus explains that we fail to fulfill the Law when our so-called obedience isn't motivated by love.



Jesus completely fulfilled the true meaning of the Law. In doing so, he took upon himself our disobedience and died for us in the most generous gift of love.

As his followers, we also are to be generous with love. Obeying all the commandments -- truly obeying them -- requires loving God with our whole heart, all the time, and loving others as ourselves.

Jesus explains how to transform literal interpretations of God's laws into the Law of Love. In each example, he shows that we are to choose the most loving approach to every problem, no matter how difficult.

His first topic is anger: Sinful anger is judgmental and we are judged by this sin.

Jesus provides the remedy: Go and do whatever is necessary to be reconciled. This, he points out, is even more important than worshipping God. How genuine can our worship be if anger has replaced love in our hearts, since God is love?

Another example is lust, which is a counterfeit of love because it treats others as objects. And divorce from a valid marriage is a failure to love as Christ loves, who taught that love makes sacrifices and endures hardships. Remarriage, he says, furthers the sin because it's unloving to the spouse of the original union.

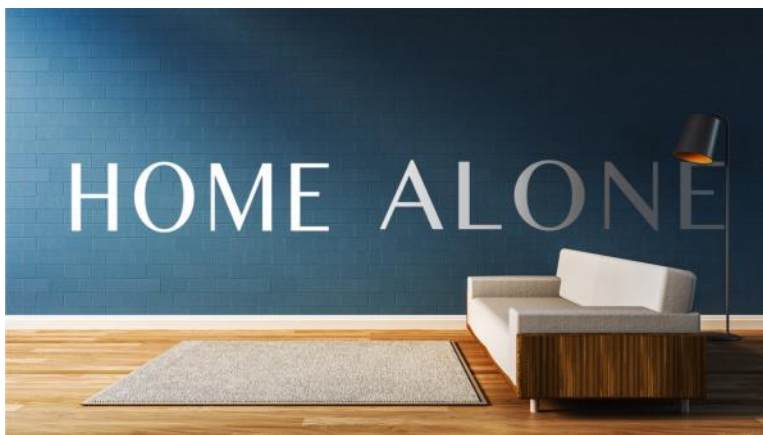
Jesus extends this teaching to every area of life. Breaking an oath is unloving. Lying and never intending to keep the commitment is unloving. In fact, the entire Sermon on the Mount, of which this Gospel reading is a part, explains how to love.

### Questions for Personal Reflection:

Were you ever treated unlovingly because of another person's legalism? How did that experience hide the true nature of Jesus? What habits or addictions do you have that are unloving toward yourself? How do they affect others?

### Questions for Community Faith Sharing:

Recall a time when someone treated you unfairly but you responded with an act of love. How difficult was it to give that love? What were the results? Name common ways that Christians fail to obey God. What did Jesus do to make up for those failures? For example, how do you suppose Jesus treats unborn babies who've been aborted or miscarried?



This is the second week of our message series called, "Home Alone." We live in the most technologically connected culture in the history of the world. And yet, polls and studies show that loneliness is one of the greatest struggles and problems of our age. God created us to be in relationship with one another; yet, loneliness still affects each of us at one point or another.

This week, we will look deeper into the loneliness that alienates us from others. Je-

sus brings a message of reconciliation that shows us how to reestablish right relationships with the people in our life.

Name a person from whom you have felt disconnected recently. Pray for that person and ask God to help you start seeing how to reconcile your differences.

**ADO REMUS**  
EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

**Friday, February 17, 2023 - 7:30 - 8:30 PM**

**in the church & LIVE Streaming**

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

**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](mailto:rptak@abvmcentereach.com) to sign up.



Sprouts

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.

### Parish Social Ministry Program Annual Report 2022

This is a summary of the assistance we were able to provide our clients in 2022. Our Program was able to do this thanks to the continued generosity of our parishioners who donated money, gift cards and food. We are especially blessed with a dedicated group of volunteers who assist our clients and make them feel welcome.



**Households Assisted:** Number of households receiving food, toiletries, paper goods and cleaning products from the food pantry. This includes regular assistance given throughout the year as well as our Thanksgiving and Christmas Basket drives.

**New Clients:** This is the number of new families that joined our program in 2022.

**Individuals Assisted:** This shows how many people our program has assisted, also including information from our Thanksgiving and Christmas Basket drives.

Households	New Clients	Children	Adults	Seniors	Total Individuals Assisted
475	24	455	1069	196	1720

**Financial Assistance:** In addition to providing assistance from our food pantry, the Outreach Program also provides financial assistance to our clients. This includes assistance with rent, utilities and other expenses, as well as gift cards to various stores in the area. These numbers also include information from our Thanksgiving and Christmas Basket drives.

Rental Assistance	Other Assistance	Gift Cards	Total Financial Assistance
400	745	6890	8035

**Pantry Needs:** Paper Towels, Toilet Paper, Kleenex, Laundry Detergent, Dishwashing Liquid, Household Cleaner, Razors, Shampoo, Conditioner, Liquid Hand Soap, Cooking Oil, Mayonnaise, Ketchup, Mustard, Salad Dressing and Noodles.

### Drug Crisis Assistance

Are you or someone you know having family or interpersonal problems due to drinking ALCOHOL and/or using DRUGS? CATHOLIC CHARITIES / Talbot House, a Chemical Dependence Crisis Center, located in Bohemia provides withdrawal and stabilization services on a voluntary basis to males and females over the age of 18, who are seeking to stop and/or withdraw from alcohol and/or other drug use. For more information, please call: 631-589-4144. Talbot House staff is available 24/7. Each call is confidential. Sliding scale fees, Medicaid, Medicare, and other third-party insurance accepted.





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



Please prayerfully consider supporting our parish with electronic donations through *Faith Direct*. Signing up is easy! Visit [faithdirect.net/NY563](https://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, Feb 12, 2023****Create a genuine love story**

No one ever said relationships were easy. Commitments, whether in marriage, religious life, or elsewhere, take spiritual insight to discern, patience to maintain, time to mature, and a whole lot of love to keep the engine moving on the tracks. Today's celebration of World Marriage Day is meant to support the development of a culture of life and love within our most fundamental relationships. As Pope Francis declared in *Amoris Laetitia* (The Joy of Love): "The welfare of the family is decisive for the future of the world and that of the church." Take the journey to joy and love. Work to make each relationship life-giving.

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

TODAY'S READINGS: Sirach 15:15-20; 1 Corinthians 2:6-10; Matthew 5:17-37 (76). "We speak a wisdom to those who are mature, not a wisdom of this age."

**Monday, Feb 13, 2023****Make a petition, not a deal**

It can be tempting, especially when we're desperate, to try to bargain with God: "If you do this one thing for me, I'll quit a bad habit forever and never miss Mass again." But that's not how our relationship with God works. For starters, Jesus told us not to bargain, but to simply ask for what we need (Matthew 7:7-11). God already knows what we need better than we do but wants us to ask anyway, persistently even—because a willingness to be vulnerable and share intimacy are central to any healthy relationship. For that reason, petitionary prayer isn't always easy. Open up with your longings and offer God your trust, rather than a deal.

TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 4:1-15, 25; Mark 8:11-13 (335). "Amen, I say to you, no sign will be given to this generation."

**Tuesday, Feb 14, 2023****Speak the language of love**

More than 1,000 years before Vatican II—with its directive to translate the Latin liturgy into the vernacular—two missionary siblings, Cyril and Methodius, got the blessing of their pope to do the same for the Slavic people. In doing so, they created the Cyrillic alphabet. And as Pope John Paul II noted, they impacted not only the "history of the church, but also the civil and the political history of a great part of the European continent. . . . Cyril and Methodius [are] not only the apostles of the Slavic peoples but also the fathers of their culture." On this Valentine's Day, how can you translate love into your vernacular?

MEMORIAL OF CYRIL, MONK, AND METHODIUS, BISHOP

TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 6:5-8; 7:1-5, 10; Mark 8:14-21 (336). "Do you not yet understand or comprehend? Are your hearts hardened?"

**Wednesday, Feb 15, 2023****A pioneer priest who broke a color barrier**

On this day in 1880, Augustus Tolton departed the United States on a holy mission: to enter a Catholic seminary as an African American. After several years of trying to become a priest stateside and experiencing rejection due to racism, Tolton's friends and allies successfully arranged for his passage to study at the Urban College in Rome, where he was ordained as the world's first openly African-American Catholic priest in 1886. He would return to his home state of Illinois, eventually settling in Chicago

where he founded the city's first black parish. He died of heat stroke in 1897 at the young age of 43 and has since been on the path to sainthood. In these times of continuing anti-black discrimination, may we look to his witness for hope and sustenance. Venerable Father Tolton, pray for us!

TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 8:6-13, 20-22; Mark 22-26 (337). "My vows to the LORD I will pay in the presence of all his people.

*Precious in the eyes of the LORD is the death of his faithful ones."*

**Thursday, Feb 16, 2023****Take the path of Saint Francis**

Christian theology has often encouraged human domination over creation. Saint Francis of Assisi had another view, one that has become more prominent in the church as the climate crisis intensifies. Franciscan Sister Rose Dowling expresses one facet of it: "The Earth with which we are so intimate is our primary teacher about who God is and how God wants to relate with us. . . . I see a God who has set into being a creation that continues to grow, evolve, become more conscious, become more complex. I see that as a human I, like the rest of creation, have the potential to grow and become *more* . . ." How will you become more conscious of all of creation today?

TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 9:1-13; Mark 8:27-33 (338). "Peter said to him in reply, 'You are the Christ.'"

**Friday, Feb 17, 2023****To Mary, in times of sorrow**

The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order were 13th-century Florentine cloth merchants who banded together in prayer, solace, and community during politically tumultuous times. From the beginning, the Servites dedicated themselves to Mary, the Sorrowful Mother. Today their mission is to "gather in fraternal communion to be with those suffering and sorrowful." The Servites developed the three most common devotions to Our Lady of Sorrows, namely the Scapular of the Seven Dolours of Mary, the Novena to Our Sorrowful Mother, and the Rosary of the Seven Sorrows. In the closing prayer of the Rosary chaplet, we say, "Pray for us, O most sorrowful Virgin. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ." That is certainly a prayer to remember as we face each day's trials.

MEMORIAL OF THE SEVEN HOLY FOUNDERS OF THE SERVITE ORDER

TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 11:1-9; Mark 8:34—9:1 (339). "Whoever loses his life for my sake and that of the Gospel will save it."

**Saturday, Feb 18, 2023****Good to be here**

Were you ever so enamored of something that you just wanted it to last forever? That's what Peter was experiencing on the Mount of Transfiguration. But Jesus and his inner circle had to move on. They had to come down the mountain. There was more that needed to be done, people who needed to be served. In his 1967 encyclical, *Populorum Progressio* (On the Development of Peoples), Pope Paul VI wrote, "Genuine progress . . . consists in an economic order designed for the welfare of the human person, where the daily bread that each [one] receives reflects the glow of love and the helping hand of God." Pray that we become enamored by justice and help transfigure the world in Jesus' image!

TODAY'S READINGS: Hebrews 11:1-7; Mark 9:2-13 (340). "Rabbi, it is good that we are here! Let us make three tents."

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



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