



ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

March 19, 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



Sunday, March 19

9:30 a.m. — Maria Serqueira (Acacio & Elizabeth Reis)
 Antonio Salgado (Acacio & Elizabeth Reis)

11:30 a.m.— Michael Kennedy (Kennedy Family)
 People of the Parish

Monday, March 20

9:00 a.m. — Otto Wolz

Tuesday, March 21

9:00 a.m. — Fernando Pacheco Goncalves (John & Dawn Huether)

Wednesday, March 22

9:00 a.m.—

Thursday, March 23

9:00 a.m. — Joao Fernandes (Family)

Friday, March 24

9:00 a.m. — Billy Meslin

Saturday, March 25

5:30 p.m.— John Kump (John & Mary Ann Kuschman & Family)
 Paul Howard (Harry & Luz Gaviola)

Sunday, March 26

9:30 a.m.— Frederick C. Lingen Jr. (Family)
 Intentions of Debbie Carney (Quinn)

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 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.



Parish Sacrificial Giving Summary
Last Week’s Collection \$7,847

(includes Faith Direct)

Last Year’s Collection \$8,420
Thank You!

Rest
in
Peace



James Glynn
Frances Ehresman

Good News Reflection

How conversion happens

Conversion to Christ is a process. The blind man in the Gospel reading exemplifies this journey into faith. Notice that at first he did not go to Jesus. Jesus came to him. The man responded by waiting to see what would happen and then by obeying Jesus.

Conversion begins when Jesus seeks us out and we make ourselves available to his touch. He then opens our eyes to the truth, but we don't immediately understand.

When the man's neighbors asked about his cure, he did not yet understand who Jesus was; he thought of him as just a man.

Then, the pressure of listening to the Pharisees argue about who Jesus was caused him to give it more thought. He concluded that Jesus must be a prophet, which for the Jews was a highly esteemed, holy vocation.

Next, as the Pharisees treated him more roughly and raised the possibility of expelling him from the synagogue if he claimed that Jesus was the Christ, he began to wonder whether it might be true. Their reasons for hating Jesus became the eye-openers that cured his spiritual blindness.

Finally, Jesus sought him out again, this time to minister to him in response to the mistreatment he had suffered from the Pharisees. In this act of caring, the man could see who Jesus really was.

Conversion -- the purification of our spiritual vision -- takes place in the fire of our sufferings as we recognize the love and concern that God has for us.

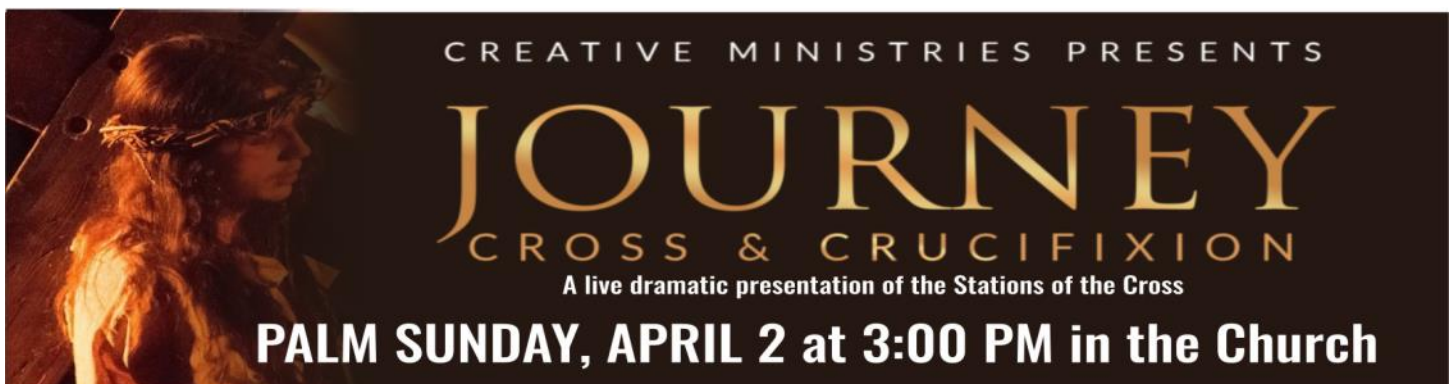
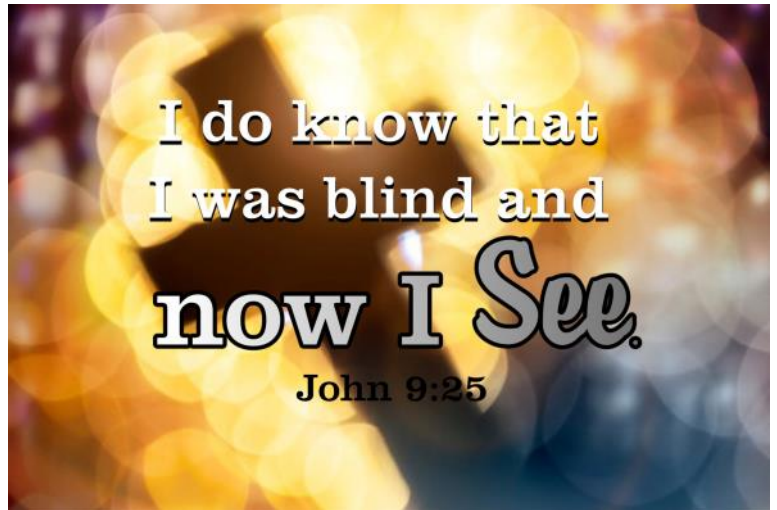
Questions for Personal Reflection:

Name the areas of your life where there is confusion from a lack of understanding. Perhaps you're having a hard time seeing the good in someone. Maybe you're worried about the future. What will you do this week that will help you see it from God's perspective?

Questions for Community Faith Sharing:

1. In the first reading, God makes it clear that he sees what we cannot see when we're focused on external evidence. Think of a time when you looked deeper or beyond the obvious. How did that change you?
2. In Ephesians 5, we read that we have become light in the Lord. Name some of the good fruits that come from the ability to see what Jesus is doing in your life.
3. The Gospel reading illustrates that those who think they can see the truth are very often blind, and those who acknowledge their blindness become able to see clearly. Why does this happen? How has it happened to you?

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I'M FINE

...and neither are you



This week we will look at the healing of the man born blind. This encounter shows that Jesus heals in order that the glory of God be made visible. Our healing and transformation has the ability to make visible the power and glory of God. Our healing reveals that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of Man. The miracle shows that we must participate in our healing as the blind man. The man regains his sight after Jesus rubs mud in his eyes and he washes in the pool of Siloam.

Our healing reveals the glory of God. To be healed we need to participate in it. Go and wash. Go and forgive. Go and do what Jesus tells us to do to be healed. We are encouraged that our wounds can be healed and used for God's greater glory.



Communal Penance Service
(Sacrament of Reconciliation)

Friday, March 31st, 7:00 PM

All are invited

As we face our wounds, Jesus heals us.

Come & join the fun

EASTER EGG HUNT

Sunday April 9 | After 9:30 AM Mass | 33 Crown Acres Rd
Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church

Free Egg Hunt - Ages 2-12 - BYOB (bring your own basket)

Donations of plastic Eggs &/or Candy are very much appreciated,
and please drop them off at the office by April 2

Parish Social Ministry

The Outreach Food Pantry is available for individuals and families that are struggling to stretch their food budget. If you or someone you know can use our services, please call us at 631 585-8760 x2 or by email to outreach@abvmcentereach.com. The Outreach Office is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 10 AM to 1 PM. **Pantry Needs: Household Cleaner, Coffee, Fruit Juice, Toothbrushes, Shampoo, Conditioner, Deodorant, Noodles, Syrup, Instant Potatoes, Snacks.**



THE EASTER MUSICAL

His Story

Friday, March 24th at 7pm in the church
presented by
Faith Formation Students



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!



Catholic Ministries Appeal 2023

Diocese of Rockville Centre

One Family - Journeying together in Communion, Participation and Mission

Donor Name: _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Parish _____
 Email _____



Please make checks payable to: Catholic Ministries Appeal

I/we agree to make a gift of:

\$500 \$250 \$100 \$50 \$25 Other \$ _____

Pledge Total \$ _____ Initial Payment \$ _____

Reminders will be send each month for the next 10 months. Thank you very much for your generosity. Your gifts make a difference in the lives of others!

Sunday, Mar 19, 2023**Step out of the spotlight**

They called her the "Pearl of the Antilles" for her uncompromising care of the sick. In Cuba, the Dominican Republic, and her original home in Puerto Rico, Mother Maria Soledad Sanjurjo Santos and the Servants of Mary she led were there to help. Mother Maria made it her signature to be hidden so Christ could be made visible. Her humility in service illuminates what Saint Paul means by living as children of light. If we insist on the spotlight, all that people see is us. If we wear a cloak of invisibility in practicing our good works, Christ alone lights up the darkness.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (LAETARE SUNDAY)

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41 (31). *"Live as children of light, for light produces every kind of goodness."*

Monday, Mar 20, 2023**Pull a chair up to the table**

On the Solemnity of Saint Joseph, it is the custom in some places, especially Italy, to bless bread, pastries, and other food and give it to the poor. Legend has it that the tradition started in the Middle Ages after Sicilians prayed to Saint Joseph to end a terrible drought. After rain finally came and produced a bountiful harvest, the food was shared with everyone in need. Saint Joseph's Table is now an annual celebration, where some wealthy Italian families invite the public to huge buffets and no one is turned away. What a festive tradition to start in your parish or home! Show your gratitude for the blessings you've received by renewing your devotion to this special saint—a foster father to Jesus and us all.

[Here is the Blessing of Saint Joseph's Table Prayer.](#)

SOLEMNITY OF JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

TODAY'S READINGS: 2 Samuel 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Romans 4:13, 16-18, 22; Matthew 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Luke 2:41-51a (543). *"When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him."*

Tuesday, Mar 21, 2023**Nothing so beautiful as a tree**

The U.N. declares today the International Day of Forests. Trees happen to be the most frequently mentioned living things in the Bible, aside from people and God of course. From the Garden of Eden to the cedars of Lebanon, trees represent God's provision. They provide food to eat and medicine to heal. Olive trees growing in the Garden of Gethsemane are estimated to be 900 years old. Little surprise, then, that trees—and the modern-day scourge of deforestation—appear in Pope Francis' environmental encyclical, *Laudato Si'*. The global loss of trees contributes to climate change. It leads to soil erosion and flooding, particularly for vulnerable indigenous populations. Visit the Interfaith Rainforest Initiative to find a "[Catholic toolkit](#)" that features *Laudato Si'* and beautiful prayers.

LENTEN WEEKDAY

TODAY'S READINGS: Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12; John 5:1-16 (245). *"Trees of every kind shall grow; their leaves shall not fade, nor their fruit fail."*

Wednesday, Mar 22, 2023**Sabbath prayer**

Biblically speaking, there are many reasons to celebrate the sabbath. First, a sabbath rest brings to mind God's rest after the great act of creation. Second, we recall God's liberating action in

our own lives, freeing us from the bonds of sin just as Jews were freed from bondage in Egypt. Finally, the great victory of Jesus over sin and death is cause for a sabbath celebration. Sabbath shouldn't be reduced to outward observances, but rather as a perspective that places God's accomplishing activity front and center. We rest and rise again to carry on that liberating work to help bring about the reign of God.

LENTEN WEEKDAY

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 49:8-15; John 5:17-30 (246). *"My Father is at work until now, so I am at work."*

Thursday, Mar 23, 2023**Defend against injustice**

Turibius of Mogrovejo was a highborn Spanish bishop in Peru during the late 1500s, a period of intense violence as the Spanish forcibly colonized the native people. Although many of the colonizers considered indigenous to be less than fully human, Turibius learned their languages and fought for their rights. Who is vulnerable in your community? Is God calling you to take steps on their behalf?

MEMORIAL OF TURIBIUS OF MOGROVEJO, BISHOP

TODAY'S READINGS: Exodus 32:7-14; John 5:31-47 (247). *"How can you believe, when you accept praise from one another and do not seek the praise that comes from the only God?"*

Friday, Mar 24, 2023**Let's not turn our gaze away**

We join with the international community today in remembering Saint Oscar Arnulfo Romero, archbishop of El Salvador, assassinated on this day in 1980 by a paramilitary member because he was an advocate for the poor and condemned military and landowner violations of basic human rights. Honoring Romero, the United Nations proclaimed this day the International Day for the Right to the Truth Concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims. Let us pray Romero's own words: "Let us be today's Christians. Let us not take fright at the boldness of today's church. With Christ's light let us illuminate even the most hideous caverns of the human person: torture, jail, plunder, want, chronic illness." Saint Oscar, pray with us.

LENTEN WEEKDAY; DAY OF ABSTINENCE

TODAY'S READINGS: Wisdom 2:1a, 12-22; John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30 (248). *"So Jesus cried out in the temple area as he was teaching."*

Saturday, Mar 25, 2023**Hear ye! Hear ye!**

There is a tendency to put Mary on a spiritual pedestal and thereby distance her from the lives the rest of us live. But the point of Mary's exaltation is to point toward what all of us are called to, and capable of—a complete and radical response to our divine calling. Mary was fully human, and her response to God's call sets the standard to which we can all aspire. God has some work to announce to each of us, our own annunciation. Claim your spot on the pedestal with your response!

SOLEMNITY OF THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 7:10-14; 8:10; Hebrews 10:4-10; Luke 1:26-38 (545). *"May it be done to me according to your word."*

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



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