



# ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

**November 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](http://www.abvmcentereach.com)**

Rev. Joseph Alenchery, Pastor  
Deacon Michael Montelione  
Rectory Office: Summer Hours M - Th 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, November 19**

9:30 a.m. — Peter & Marjorie Gochan (Family)  
George O’Toole (Elena & Kevin O’Toole)  
11:30 a.m.— People of the Parish

**Monday, November 20**

9:00 a.m. — Julius Kaiser (Ed Uy & Family)  
Jane Giacomini (Calestini Family)

**Tuesday, November 21**

9:00 a.m. — Living & Deceased Members of the Romeo  
& Wolz Families  
Michael Dentrone (Nancy Dentrone)

**Wednesday, November 22**

9:00 a.m.— Stephen Vaccaro (Gayle & Albert Nordt)

**Thursday, November 23**

9:00 a.m.. — People of the Parish

**Saturday, November 25**

5:30 p.m.— Fernando Pacheco Goncalves (Melissa  
Ferrara)  
Madeline Morton (Pat Rivers)

**Sunday, November 26**

9:30 a.m.— Domenica Bellavia (Ferrara Family)  
Molly Drew & Timothy Connolly (Connolly  
& Licari Families)  
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.

**RECTORY OFFICE HOURS**  
**Monday to Friday**  
**9:00 AM to 2:00 PM**

**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 631-585-3938.

**Catholic War Veterans**

Second Saturday of the month: Sept - June at 10 AM in the Parish Library. Contact Vincent Zecca, [papazecca@aol.com](mailto: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](mailto:rtbhuntington@yahoo.com) or Anita Wolf at [hwolf96@aol.com](mailto: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.  
Psalms 145:18

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

**Parish Sacrificial Giving Summary**  
**Last Week’s Collection: \$8,591**  
*(includes Faith Direct)*  
**Last Year’s Collection: \$8,470**  
**Thank You!**

Rest in Peace		Anthony Sabia
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**Good News Reflection****Well done, my good and faithful servant!**

This Sunday's Gospel reading reminds us not to bury the gifts that God has given us. To do so is to be a "wicked, lazy servant!"

Ouch.

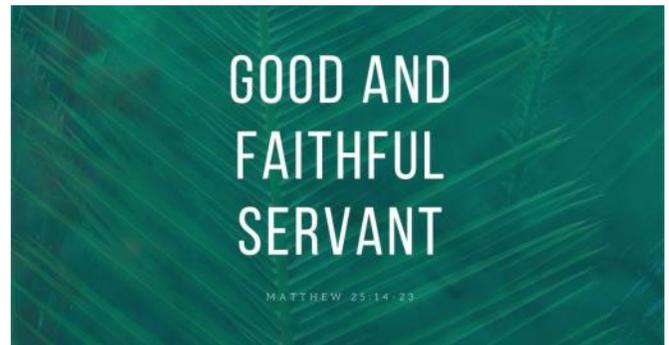
We all have at least one buried talent. There's more we could be doing for the kingdom of God, but we think: "Not me. I'm not gifted enough" or "Someone else can do it better than I can" or "God can't be telling me to do that" or "I don't have the time, the financial resources, the know-how, or good enough health" or "I'm retired now and I've been waiting a long time to finally focus on my own desires."

There's no holy excuse for wasting anything good that God has given us, but sadly it happens quite often, because we don't realize how necessary our talents are for the Church and our joint mission of spreading Christ's influence upon the world.

What's pushing your gifts and talents aside? What's interfering with your usefulness to the kingdom of God? Now is the time to open wide your potential and release your talents into God's plans!

We are all gifted "enough" to make a difference for God's kingdom, because our abilities come from him. We're his servants, and it's up to him, not us, to decide what we're capable of doing.

Even the homebound and the bedridden have a divine purpose that can be accomplished in their circumstances and sufferings. Often, these precious people are very powerful prayer warriors and have some of the soundest wisdom on earth.



Have you ever been challenged by the question: "If God is so good, why does he allow evil to happen?" The answer is: It's not God that allows it. It's we who allow it! We are the Body of Christ on earth. We are his hands and feet and vocal chords and embracing arms. Jesus truly wants to make our world more heavenly, but too many of us have seemingly good reasons to bury the gifts that could make a difference. Indeed, this is wicked laziness!

**Questions for Personal Reflection:**

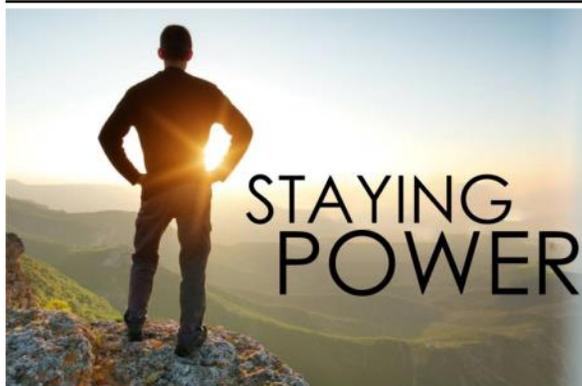
What good have you done? Hear God assuring you: "Well done, my good and faithful servant! Since you were faithful in small matters, I will give you greater responsibilities. Come, share your Master's joy!" What "greater responsibilities" can you say yes to by offering the gifts that he's provided to you? What's stopping you from saying yes?

**Questions for Community Faith Sharing:**

How would you recommend, based on your own experiences, that Christians invest the gifts of God? How do you identify (1) your giftedness and (2) God's purpose for it?

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**The power of Commitment  
and the Steps  
we invite to take as a church.**

### **Week Six –Commitment to Giving – Stewardship Weekend**

In this week we will invite people make a commitment to give to the church in the year ahead. In the parable of the Talents, Jesus tells the servants who have invested the master's money to enlarge his kingdom, "Well done, good and faithful stewards." We are stewards of our money and possessions and we are rewarded when we use the money and possessions we have to build God's kingdom. God rewards us when we invest his money to build his kingdom. Hand in a commitment card giving one percent more of their income away.

Christmas is a season of secrets. We buy gifts and presents for others but then we hide the gifts. We wrap them and put them in boxes to conceal them. We keep our gifts a secret and hide them because we want to give something to others.

When God came into history in the person of Jesus Christ, he came quietly into this world. Most of the world did not even notice. God revealed his plans secretly to many of the main characters we associate with the Christmas story: Mary, Joseph, the wisemen, the shepherds. God chose to reveal his plans to them quietly and secretly. He revealed his secrets to them because they were willing to listen.



The Secrets of Christmas are available to anyone who will listen. The key is learning to listen to God's voice. The key is to be someone that God can trust with his secrets. In this message series we will look at how we learn to discern and listen to God's voice at this hectic time of year. When we slow down to listen, we get to be a part of God's bigger plans in the world.

### **Secrets of Christmas Daily Practice**

Advent season is coming upon us so fast. All our small groups are still getting together to reflect and share the Secrets of Christmas during this season of waiting. If you are in a small group or not, you are able to read and reflect on the Secrets of Christmas with our Daily Practice. It is a Scripture passage, reflection, and a short prayer for each day of the week for Advent and Christmas. It is a lot to print in the bulletin. So, it will be on an On Demand basis, means those who would like to receive it need to sign up with an email. It will be sent to you every week. We call it DAILY PRACTICE. Please leave your name and email at the Welcome Desk or contact the Office at [rectory@abvmcentereach.com](mailto:rectory@abvmcentereach.com).



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!



# STEWARDSHIP WEEKEND

## November 18-19, 2023

### GIVING to our parish is an act of WORSHIP

This weekend is our Stewardship weekend. God has given us abundant gifts in our lives, including our financial resources. All that we are and everything that we have belongs to God. He has appointed us as stewards of His blessings. Giving to God by giving in my place of worship is an act of worship and giving to the poor is a sure and certain way to grow my faith right now and invest in my future by building up treasure in heaven.

By now you must have received a mailing. If you haven't received the mailing or are new to the parish and haven't registered yet, please pick up the packet at the door or at our Welcome Desk for more details. This weekend our parish's financial report for 2022-23 is available in the bulletin. Thank you very much for your commitment to our parish as we journey together rebuilding our parish by Loving God, Serving Others and Growing Disciples. -Fr. Joe

**Thanksgiving Donations:** Thank you to all made our Thanksgiving Drive a huge success! Because of your donations, we were able to give Thanksgiving baskets to 56 families in need that are living in our Parish. The generosity of our Parishioners is inspiring!

**Christmas Donations:** With Christmas just around the corner, the Parish Social Ministry is getting ready to start our Christmas Drive to provide Christmas baskets for our clients. 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 Christmas gifts for their children. We are also happy to accept food donations as well as \$25 gift cards from local supermarkets to help provide a great Christmas dinner for our clients, allowing them the dignity to choose their favorite holiday foods. If you choose to donate gift cards, please drop them off at the Welcome Desk or deliver them to the Parish Office.



### 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 on Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday from 10AM to 1PM. **PANTRY NEEDS: Paper Towels, Kleenex, Laundry Detergent, Mayonnaise, Ketchup, Salad Dressing, Coffee, Box Milk, Fruit Juice, Pancake Mix, Dry Soup Mix, Baked Beans, Canned Tomatoes, Jelly, Canned Tuna.**

*We are also in need of any paper or plastic shopping bags.*



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## Financial Report: September 2022 through August 2023



It is my responsibility to make sure that the parish remains up to date as to our financial situation. What follows, therefore, is our parish’s financial report from our last budget year. I’ve divided income/expenses into recognizable categories, e.g., Sunday collections, program fees, parish offices, etc. Hopefully, this gives a clearer idea of where the money comes from and where it went. Note that such items as utilities, salaries, etc., have been divided proportionately into several categories, Parish Office, Faith Formation,

Church, and Rectory, so these items could be distributed to all areas depending upon a percentage of the total activity.

The goal, of course, is to have our operating expenses covered by our operating income without needing to use our savings. I’ve listed a couple of our annual bills so you get a sense of how much must be spent just to keep the doors opened: Gas, \$20,295 electric, \$20,232 water, \$3,183; insurance, \$58,599; grounds, \$50,017. As you can see from the Income/Expense chart below, we had a small deficit in our operating budget. This was due to an increase in our expenses as we continue to add programs and improve our weekend experience while our Auxiliary income sources decreased and our total collections stayed relatively flat.

For the parish to thrive, we must continue growing as disciples who embrace the STEPS of Discipleship: Serve, Tithe, Engage, Practice Prayer and Sacraments, and Share our faith. When you give in your place of worship as an act of worship, you are becoming more of the person God wants you to be. Thankfully, our online giving portion of collections has increased over the past year. One way of improving and stabilizing our financial situation would be for more families to participate in Faith Direct, our parish’s Electronic Giving Platform. It’s a great way toward a stewardship way of life. I use Faith Direct for my own weekly parish offering.

Together we rely on God’s abundance. I remain convinced that the Lord is much more prepared for us than we are receiving. The following Income/Expense chart gives us an idea of where we’ve been over the past fiscal year. If anyone wishes further information or explanation, do not hesitate to contact me at the rectory to set up an appointment.

*fr. Joe*

<b>Income</b>		
Amount our parishioners contributed to the parish	508,807	Sunday, Christmas, Easter collections.
What the parish received from Catholic Ministries Appeal Rebate	11,376	This is the diocesan rebate the parish receives because of your support of the Catholic Ministries Appeal.
What the parish collected from program fees	36,729	Faith Formation, AYM, VBS, Adult Ed, etc.
What the parish received from auxiliary sources	38,304	Baptisms, weddings, funerals, Outreach donations, bulletin income, candles, miscellaneous donations.
What the parish received for diocesan collections	11,649	All the monies collected are given directly to the diocese. None stays in the parish.
Capital Gain & Extraordinary Revenue	59,227	Non-operating revenue. This includes Capital Campaign, insurance claims, investment income/loss.
TOTAL received by the parish to carry on its mission.	595,216	Does not include Diocesan collections, Capital gain and extraordinary revenue
<b>Expenses</b>		
What it costs to maintain our Rectory Office	\$156,356	Includes salaries, utilities, supplies, etc. Also includes Outreach.
What it costs to maintain our Faith Formation programs and other adult formation	182,769	Includes salaries, utilities, supplies, etc. used for the ongoing formation of our adults and children
What it costs to use our Church for liturgy	149,285	Includes salaries, utilities, supplies, etc.
What it costs to maintain our priests’ residence	45,454	Includes food, utilities, maintenance
What our parish contributes to our Catholic Schools Subsidy	45,935	The diocese taxes all parishes 12% of a parish’s collections to support Catholic schools.
What our parish paid the diocese for assessments/ services rendered/ collections	40,764	Diocesan assessment, - pay 8% of collections to diocese
	11,649	Diocesan collections.– given directly to Diocese– not operating expense
Capital improvement	94,304	Not part of operating expense.
TOTAL Operating Expense:	\$620,565	Does not include Diocesan collections, and Capital expenses
<b>Total operating surplus/deficit</b>	<b>(\$25,349)</b>	<b>LOVE GOD, SERVE OTHERS, GROW DISCIPLES</b>

**Sunday, Nov 19, 2023****Curl up with the Good Book**

President Franklin D. Roosevelt inaugurated the first National Bible Week. Presidents since have continued the tradition of encouraging scripture reading during the holidays. The practice began in 1941, when NBC radio hosted the National Bible Association's founders. News of the attack on Pearl Harbor interrupted the program, and NBC asked the association to continue reading the Bible all day to a grieving nation. This week, spend some time with scripture daily. Consider reading the book of your choice, from the Old or New Testaments. Or read a psalm of thanksgiving daily. Discover the inspiration.

THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

TODAY'S READINGS: Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31; 1

Thessalonians 5:1-6; Matthew 25:14-30 (157). *"For all of you are children of the light and children of the day. We are not of the night or of darkness."*

**Monday, Nov 20, 2023****Can we talk?**

The word *bible* is from a Greek word meaning "book." If you could have no other book, the Bible would be the one! As you count your blessings this week, don't forget to give thanks for sacred scripture and spend some time with the inspired word of God. If you haven't before, try *lectio divina* (Latin for "divine reading")—it's a traditional monastic form of praying with scripture in a meditative way to open ourselves to hearing what God is saying to us and listening for our own interior response. Scripture isn't just text, it's the Living Word—strike up a conversation!

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Maccabees 1:10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-63; Luke 18:35-43 (497). *"What do you want me to do for you?"*

**Tuesday, Nov 21, 2023****Mary, most exemplary**

According to tradition, Mary's parents—an elderly Anne and Joachim—were so grateful for the unexpected birth of their daughter, they presented her in the Temple to thank God. Accounts also say the toddler Mary "danced with joy" on the third step of the Temple, signifying her future role. Other qualities of the Blessed Mother, present even from her youth, are enumerated in the "**Ten Evangelical Virtues of Mary**" that we're all encouraged to emulate as Christians: pure, prudent, humble, faithful, devout, obedient, poor, patient, merciful, and sorrowful. Cultivate these in your own life by praying the Virtues of Mary **chaplet** used by the Marian religious order since 1699.

MEMORIAL OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

TODAY'S READINGS: 2 Maccabees 6:18-31; Luke 19:1-10 (498).

*"Today salvation has come to this house."*

**Wednesday, Nov 22, 2023****Let the music play!**

Today's gospel from Luke tells the parable of the 10 gold coins. Matthew tells the same parable (Matt. 25:14-30), only he replaces Luke's "gold coins" with "talents." Whichever version you read, it's clear that God wants us to make the most of what we've been given—and that he recognizes our efforts! In honor of today's **Feast of Saint Cecilia, patron of music and musicians, enjoy Anton**

Bruckner's Te Deum as performed by the talented musicians of the Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia (National Academy of St. Cecilia, founded under Pope Sixtus V in 1585) or check out the contemporary namesake band La Santa Cecilia, recipient of the 2013 Grammy for Best Latin Rock Album (Alternative or Urban). **MEMORIAL OF CECILIA, MARTYR**

TODAY'S READINGS: 2 Maccabees 7:1, 20-31; Luke 19:11-28 (499).

*"I tell you, to everyone who has, more will be given, but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away."*

**Thursday, Nov 23, 2023****Give thanks for a virtuous day**

Because Thanksgiving brings together family members, personalities sometimes grate, children might misbehave, and the gravy surely will spill. It's an ideal day to practice what the Catechism of the Catholic Church calls the "cardinal virtues": prudence (think before you act), justice (be fair), fortitude (don't give up), and temperance (maintain your equilibrium). These virtues smooth out the bumps in human interaction. Ask God to increase in you the virtue you most need for a happy celebration today.

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Maccabees 2:15-29; Luke 19:41-44 (500).

Mass for Thanksgiving Day (943-947). *"If this day you only knew what makes for peace."*

**Friday, Nov 24, 2023****Follow the rule**

"Keep the rule, and the rule will keep you." In this monastic proverb, "rule" refers to the daily rhythm of life for monks and nuns that is grounded in their foundation and charism as a community and oriented toward Jesus the Christ. The rule helps the community develop habits for prayer, work, relationships, study, and even play. Monastics still follow a rule of life, as do other intentional communities. Each of us can develop a rule of life according to our own daily rhythm and relationship with God. This rule will keep us grounded, even when the inevitable storms of life roll in.

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Maccabees 4:36-37, 52-59; Luke 19:45-48

(501). *"Let us go up to purify the sanctuary and rededicate it."*

**Saturday, Nov 25, 2023****No room for violence**

On this day in 1960 a trio of courageous sisters was brutally assassinated for opposing the murderous regime of Dominican dictator Rafael Trujillo. Since 1993, the U.N. has commemorated World Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women in honor of the Mirabal sisters. It is an appropriate coincidence that today we also honor Catherine of Alexandria, a young convert martyred at the tender age of 18 during Roman persecutions around the year 300. She was reportedly subject to terrible tortures, but her courage instead attracted hundreds more converts. No woman should have to endure violence for any reason. Today is a day we can honor martyrs both modern and ancient with a firm "*No más, no more.*"

MEMORIAL OF CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA, YOUTH MARTYR

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Maccabees 6:1-13; Luke 20:27-40 (502).

*"They are the children of God because they are the ones who will rise."*

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



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