



ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

December 24, 2023

Our Mission

Love God.

Serve Others. Grow Disciples.

You Matter! + You Belong!

Christmas at Assumption

CHRISTMAS EVE: 3:30 PM, 5:30 PM & MIDNIGHT

CHRISTMAS DAY: 9:30 AM & 11:30 AM

Merry and Blessed Christmas

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, December 24

9:30 a.m. — Augustine Alenchery (Ferrara Family)
Antonio & Fernanda Barreira (Tina & Sonny Acevedo)
3:30 p.m.—Christmas Eve
5:30 p.m.—Christmas Eve
Midnight—Midnight Mass

Monday, December 25

9:30 a.m.—Christmas Day
11:30 a.m.—Christmas Day

Tuesday, December 26

9:00 a.m. —

Wednesday, December 27

9:00 a.m.— Maria & Inacio de Sousa (Family)
John G. Joseph (Carmine & Antonietta Diolallevi)

Thursday, December 28

9:00 a.m.. — Dr. Elisa Valisno, Fank Valisno & Gloria Roque (Aida, Tonypet & Arnold)
Kevin W. Sutter (Porcaro Family)

Saturday, December 30

5:30 p.m.— Dale & Jack Kahill (Mary Ross)
Geraldine Bindert (Tina & Sonny Acevedo)

Sunday, December 31

9:30 a.m.— Living & Deceased Members of the Lang & Campanelli 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 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, 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.

STEWARDSHIP
GIVING to our parish as an act of worship

Parish Sacrificial Giving Summary

Last Week’s Collection: \$12,395
(includes Faith Direct)

Last Year’s Collection: \$24,694 (Christmas)
Thank You!

Rest
in
Peace



Deceased Brothers & Sisters of Our Parish

Good News Reflection

Our personal connection to Mary

This Sunday's Gospel shows us how the mission of Christ affected the Virgin Mary even before Jesus was conceived in her womb.

Three decades later, Jesus would become the Savior of the world. However, that is not when his salvation plan began. Jesus is God; he has always existed. He is the uncreated Divine Son, the Person of the Holy Trinity who, as we proclaim in the Nicene Creed, was "born of the Father before all ages, God from God...."

His salvation plan could -- and did -- impact Mary since the moment of her own conception.

In order for God to come into our world in the flesh, his Spirit totally bathed Mary in his pure, holy presence. Therefore, even though she could not understand how the promised Messiah could be conceived within her, since she'd had no sexual relations, by the grace of God's Spirit she could know that God was the one who was asking for it and God was the one who was doing it. That's all she needed.

All of us are called by God to carry the presence of Christ and birth him more fully into the world. What are you doing about it? How much are you fulfilling your divine destiny? Remember, he always empowers us to accomplish whatever he asks us to do. God knows what he's doing when he calls us to continue what Mary began, and he is always trustworthy and dependable. There is nothing to fear, no reason to hold back from fulfilling our true destiny.

With this in mind, when he asks us to do something for his kingdom, of course our answer is yes, right? Why wouldn't it be? Of course we want to cooperate with his plan, and we say yes to his plan even when we don't understand it nor see how God could possibly do what he says he'll do.

Often, we feel inadequate, because we know we are weak, sinful, and unqualified. Don't trust your feelings about it; trust God. Don't trust your feelings about it; trust God.

Questions for Personal Reflection:

When was the last time you said to God, "But how can this be? You want me to do WHAT? I don't understand why!" What were you afraid of? How strong was your trust in God?

Questions for Community Faith Sharing:

When God chooses you for a task or responsibility, what helps you move from uncertainty or confusion or reluctance into saying "yes"? When the plans of God don't make sense or they seem unpleasant, how do you overcome your reluctance?

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And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." Luke 2:1-14

Merry Christmas

There is a season of favor coming to you--where you will come to know God and his great love for you. This is a season of favor for you to know that God delights in you and in which you have faith and confidence in HIS goodness. God wants to give you a life in which you bask in this favor and goodness. Merry and a Blessed Christmas. - Fr. Joe



Week Four –Secret revealed Scripture: Luke 1:26-38

God reveals his secret plan of salvation to Mary. Mary questions the angel and seeks clarification of his purposes. In this message we will look at how listening to God is a dialog so that we can say yes to his plans for our lives.

Nothing is impossible with God. Say yes to God in your heart.

Know that God is for you. We are all invited to participate in God’s work.

Daily Practice—Secrets of Christmas

Season of Christmas upon us as we celebrate Christmas. During this time we have offered “Daily Practice”. It is a Scripture passage, and a reflection, for each day of the week for Advent and Christmas. If you would like to receive it you need to sign up with an email. I would like to continue the Daily Practice after Christmas. It will be sent to you every week. . Please leave your name and email at the **Welcome Desk** or contact the Office at rectory@abvmcentereach.com.



Joining Our Catholic Community

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) might be what you are seeking if:

- You were never baptized or
- You were baptized in another religious tradition, or
- You were baptized Catholic but have not celebrated Confirmation or Eucharist.

Our parish desires to share our faith with all who wish to discover the beauty and power of a shared life in Christ the Lord. If you are interested, contact the office by email, rectory@abvmcentereach.com, or phone Melissa at 631-585-8760 at the office to get additional details.



Our parish subscribes to a revolutionary online platform which provides the best in Catholic audio talks, movies, ebooks, and video-based studies from trusted providers. This allows you, **free of charge**, to access online resources in bible study, apologetics, Christian entertainment, family catechesis, etc. at your convenience. It’s available 24/7 thus allowing you to put time aside when it’s best for you. To access please visit abvmcentereach.formed.org. Our parish code is P8DGQ8

You are invited

Christmas at Assumption

CHRISTMAS EVE:

Sunday, December 24

3:30 pm, 5:30 pm & Midnight

CHRISTMAS DAY:

Monday, December 25

9:30 am & 11:30 am



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: Kleenex, Household Cleaner, Shampoo, Laundry Detergent, Liquid Hand Soap, Mayonnaise, Ketchup, Tea, Salad Dressing, Box Milk, Fruit Juice, Hot Chocolate, Snacks, Canned Chili, Canned Tomatoes, Canned Pasta.

SPROUTS

Children's Ministry for ages
FOUR to SECOND Grade on
Sundays during 9:30 AM Mass

At the beginning of the Mass, children will be sent forth with catechists and assistants downstairs to the church basement to reflect and share the Word of God. This is given, and then the children share in the Eucharist. They will be encouraged to engage during the Mass at their own level. They will be invited to be the greatest disciples and invite them to the most important feast of the year, that our Father is madly after their hearts. If you would like to help at the Sprouts, please leave your name and phone number at the Welcome Desk or contact the Office.

*Sprouts will be on break for the next four weeks.
We will resume on January 21, 2024*



Please prayerfully consider supporting our parish with electronic donations through *Faith Direct*. Signing up is easy! Visit faithdirect.net/NY563 or scan the QR Code on your right. Please use the parish code (NY563). Thank you for your continued support of our parish family!



Christmas Musical 2023



Sunday, Dec 24, 2023**An embarrassment of riches**

Every so many years, we experience this happy collision of observances: the last Sunday of Advent blossoms into Christmas Eve in a single day. Which means next week, the Feast of the Holy Family will roll into the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God by nightfall. It's a mad scramble for presiders, preachers, choirs, and liturgists to keep up with the whole, holy mess of these occasions. Parishioners too will be obliged to untangle the remarkable Mass schedule this landslide of liturgies creates. Consider it a cheerful reminder that liturgy gathers us into mysteries that are not finite but everlasting.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

TODAY'S READINGS: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38 (11). *"Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God."*

Monday, Dec 25, 2023**The wonder of it all**

In the early church, Christmas was actually not a major feast, but over the centuries it grew in importance, and Saint Francis of Assisi catapulted its popularity in 1223 by creating the first nativity scene in a cave with live animals. Christmas Midnight Mass was celebrated there and it was a huge hit with the whole town. The tradition of the Christmas crèche was born. Francis loved Christmas, considering it the "Feast of Feasts," because God chose to take the humble form of a poor baby. Let the wonder of the Incarnation imbue your day.

SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS)

TODAY'S READINGS: Vigil: Isaiah 62:1-5; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Matthew 1:1-25 (13); Night: Isaiah 9:1-6; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14 (14); Dawn: Isaiah 62:11-12; Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2:15-20 (15); Day: Isaiah 52:7-10; Hebrews 1:1-6; John 1:1-18 (16). *"For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord."*

Tuesday, Dec 26, 2023**For the love of Saint Stephen**

On this second day of Christmas, consider words about true love—and Saint Stephen—from Saint Fulgentius, a North African bishop of the sixth century: "Love was Stephen's weapon by which he gained every battle, and so won the crown signified by his name. His love of God kept him from yielding to the ferocious mob; his love for his neighbor made him pray for those who were stoning him." Celebrate the Christmas octave with the same steadfast love the first Christian martyr showed his persecutors.

FEAST OF STEPHEN, FIRST MARTYR

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Matthew 10:17-22 (696). *"They could not withstand the wisdom and the spirit with which he spoke."*

Wednesday, Dec 27, 2023**Through thick and thin**

Beloved! That's what we know about today's saint—John the apostle is the "disciple whom Jesus loved." John was the last apostle to leave Jesus at the cross and one of the first to discover his Resurrection on Easter Sunday. He earned the title of evangelist by writing the fourth gospel (likely with help from his

followers). His account of Jesus' life has a more spiritual and mysterious air than those of Matthew, Mark, and Luke. But that doesn't mean he's otherworldly—after all, John is the patron saint of loyalty and friendships. Honor him today by visiting with a friend.

FEAST OF JOHN, APOSTLE, EVANGELIST

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 1:1-4; John 20:1a, 2-8 (697). *"What we have seen and heard we proclaim now to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us."*

Thursday, Dec 28, 2023**Mortal consequences**

Amid the Christmas festivities, today the church has a somber reminder of the infants in the vicinity of Bethlehem who were slaughtered by King Herod in his fruitless effort to destroy Jesus. They were "collateral damage" that paved the way for Christianity, a faith that confesses to protecting the most vulnerable. In honor of the Holy Innocents, we might consider the many innocents who die prematurely because of lack of healthcare, pollution that results in disease, and isolation that leads to early death. Strive to be a force for life.

FEAST OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS, MARTYRS

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 1:5—2:2; Matthew 2:13-18 (698). *"God is light, and in him there is no darkness at all."*

Friday, Dec 29, 2023**The Catholic bucket list**

Gift-giving at Christmastime is a common custom. Whether it's at home under a lit tree or at the secret Santa party at work, it's fun to give and receive. "Experience" gifts are becoming more a part of this custom: tickets to see a ballgame, an art class, a hiking trip. Experience gifts can be given any time, and we can even treat ourselves. Since it's the season of Christmas, let's think of Catholic experiences that we'd enjoy and create a kind of "Catholic bucket list." See the pope? Run a food pantry? Visit Assisi? Take a scripture class? Spend the rest of the Christmas season creating your own list.

FIFTH DAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 2:3-11; Luke 2:22-35 (202). *"It had been revealed to [Simeon] by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Christ of the Lord."*

Saturday, Dec 30, 2023**What is the purpose of life?**

This age-old question has as many answers as there are questioners. For Catholics though, there is one simple answer: love. But when is love ever simple? Deep love can be complicated and even gut-wrenchingly hard. It can bring pain, longing, disquiet, questioning, loneliness, and sacrifice. Yet, "The pain that comes from deep love makes your love ever more fruitful," writes Henri Nouwen. Love is our purpose, and we join with those celebrating Kwanzaa who are reflecting this day on the principle of Nia, that is, purpose.

SIXTH DAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 2:12-17; Luke 2:36-40 (203). *"Whoever does the will of God remains forever."*

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



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