



# ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

**December 3, 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, December 3

9:30 a.m. — Peter & Marjorie Gochan (Family)  
Cuno A. Engel (Elizabeth Leverock)  
11:30 a.m.— People of the Parish

### Monday, December 4

9:00 a.m. — Joselito Uy Sr. (Ed Uy & Family)  
Roger Landagan (Ed Uy & Family)

### Tuesday, December 5

9:00 a.m. —

### Wednesday, December 6

9:00 a.m.— Living & Deceased Members of Rosary  
Altar Society  
Charles Salvietti (Family)

### Thursday, December 7

9:00 a.m.. — Alicia Cuervo (Blanche Werner)  
Peter George Avalos (Blanche Werner)

### Friday, December 8

9:00 a.m. — Blessed Mother of Guadalupe (Rafael  
Camacho)  
7:00 p.m.— People of the Parish

### Saturday, December 9

9:30 a.m.— John E. O'Neil (Helen McNeill)  
John G. Joseph (Elaine & Rich Burke)

### Sunday, December 10

9:30 a.m.— Joseph Alberigo (Ferrara Family)  
Thomas Donnelly Jr. (Donnelly 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.

## 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.

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

### Parish Sacrificial Giving Summary

Last Week's Collection: \$8,504

(includes Faith Direct)

Last Year's Collection: \$7,878

**Thank You!**

Rest  
in  
Peace



Deceased Brothers &  
Sisters of Our Parish

## ***Good News Reflection***

### ***A gift for Jesus***

Today we begin the Season of Advent. This year, as we prepare for Christmas, think about how you like to show your fondness for the special people in your life by choosing gifts that will be meaningful to them. And yet, assuming that you can actually find something (or make something) that will be appreciated, does it always make a difference in the long run?

How many gifts have you given in the past that became mere dust-collectors? Which ones turned out to be truly valuable with a long-lasting impact?



Since Christmas is the celebration of the birthday of Jesus, let's remember to give him a gift, too. God deserves more gifts than anyone else, but what do you give to someone who already has everything? Or does he?

What gift can you give to Jesus that will have an eternal impact, a gift that no one else can give him, a gift he doesn't already have? What have you been withholding from him? What talent or activity or ministry or commitment or change in lifestyle?

This Sunday's first reading reminds us that God is our Father. The responsorial Psalm asks the Father to help us turn to him. The second reading gives thanks to God for all that he has done for us. So - what gift can you give to God to express your appreciation for what he has given to you?

In the Gospel reading, we're reminded of the need to prepare - to actually do something that makes a difference - for the coming of Christ. This not only refers to his Second Coming. It's also about the day when he comes for us as we breathe our last earthly breath. It's about the way he wants to come to you during this year's Season of Christmas. And it's about the way he is coming to you right now, today.

There's something new that he wants to give you. When he offers it, will he find you doing what's right (as in the first reading)? Will he find you using your spiritual gifts (as in the second reading)? Will he find you alert and ready to do his bidding (as in the Gospel reading)?

Advent is an opportunity to take notice of the gifts he gives us and for becoming aware of the gifts we can give to him that he doesn't already have. It should make an eternal difference - for him and for us.

#### **Questions for Personal Reflection:**

List the gifts that God has given to you. Write them on a sheet of paper. Then think about how much appreciation you have given to God for the gifts on that list. Do you know how much he appreciates your appreciation?

#### **Questions for Family or Community Faith Sharing:**

Name some of the obvious ways that Jesus comes to us today. What are some unexpected ways that Jesus has revealed himself to you? What will you do this Advent to become more aware of Jesus coming to you? How will this make you more ready for Christmas?

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*Christmas at Assumption*  
 Christmas Eve: 3:30 PM, 5:30 PM & Midnight  
 Christmas Day: 9:30 AM & 11:30 AM  
 Come as you are!      You Matter + You Belong



### Week One –Introduction

In this first message we will introduce the topic of the Secrets of Christmas. We will look at why God has secrets and who he reveals them to. We will reflect on Paul's letter to the Corinthians. Paul tells the Corinthians they will be enriched in every way with all discourse and knowledge of Christ. We will introduce the importance of learning to listen to God and his teachings for our life so we can get on board his great big plans for the world.

God hides things for you, not from you.

Come back next week to learn about preparing our hearts.

### Secrets of Christmas Daily Practice



Advent season is here. All our small groups are still getting together to reflect and share with the series, Secrets of Christmas during this season of waiting. If you are in a small group or not, you can still 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).

**Immaculate Conception of the blessed Virgin Mary**

**Friday, December 8**

**MASSES: 9:00 AM & 7:00 PM**



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](http://abvmcentereach.formed.org). Our parish code is P8DGQ8

# STEWARDSHIP WEEKEND

*Thank you*

## GIVING to our parish is an act of WORSHIP

We celebrated Stewardship weekend last week. 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.

The parable of the Talents in the Gospel of Matthew is encouraging us to put God first by investing in an immediate kind of way in the things God cares about, which are his people, especially the poor and his church. Our hearts grow to share the same mission and values as the Lord himself. We share God's interest in bringing people into a relationship with him. **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

**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](mailto: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.**



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 scan the QR Code on your right. Please use **the parish code (NY563)**. Thank you for your continued support of our parish family!



# 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 dismissed with catechists and assistants downstairs to the church basement to reflect and share the scriptures read at the Mass. A presentation is given, and then the children share in their small groups. This is an excellent opportunity for our youngest to engage during the Mass at their own level. We are ready to hear and be part of the stories of our parish's youngest disciples and invite them to the most incredible adventure of their lives, reminding them weekly, year after year, that our Father is madly after their hearts. If God puts in your heart to help at the Sprouts, please leave your name and phone number at the Welcome Desk or contact the Office.

**Good News Ahead**

**Signs of Christmas**

**Christmas Musical & Tree Lighting**

**Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>  
at 3:30 PM**

**by Assumption Faith Formation Students**

## GIVE THE GIFT OF CHRISTMAS to a child

**Faith Formation Giving Tree** is up in the Lobby and is ready for you to pick an ornament to help a child living at the Lake House Shelter this Christmas. Gifts should be re-turned to the Office by 12/17.

*Please attach the description tag to the gift.*

**Coffee in the Courtyard**  
in the Parish Center Hall

**Coffee Conversations Community**

**After 9:30 AM & 11:30 AM Masses**

**Sunday, Dec 03, 2023****A season of welcome**

The color violet reminds us that a new season has begun: a time to prepare to welcome Christ in our midst for all days and in all persons. Coincidentally this year, Advent starts on the World Day for Persons with Disabilities. How welcoming is our church to the people with physical and mental challenges? Not just improving accessibility with an entrance ramp or elevator but providing accommodations for those with hearing, visual, and intellectual impairments, including for liturgies and sacramental preparation? Take a look around your own parish. Is it true that "all are welcome"?

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:33-37 (2). *"We are the clay and you the potter: we are all the work of your hands."*

**Monday, Dec 04, 2023****Iconic inspiration**

Think of how much sacred images of Jesus, Mary, angels, and the saints—in painting, stained glass, and sculpture—have filled your life and stimulated your spirit. You might have many sacred images throughout your home. Perhaps you can find them in different public places in your city. Our Catholic churches are certainly full of them. Think of how much they inspire and prompt you to momentary prayer, a fleeting lifting of your heart and mind to God as you pass by them, or to long stretches on your knees, deep in conversation. You can partly thank John Damascene, who defended holy images against iconoclasm, a movement in the eighth century that was opposed to the veneration of icons. Treasure the rich imagery of our tradition.

MEMORIAL OF JOHN DAMASCENE, PRIEST, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 2:1-5; Matthew 8:5-11 (175). *"Many will come from the east and the west, and will recline with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob at the banquet in the Kingdom of heaven."*

**Tuesday, Dec 05, 2023****Be a light in the darkness**

As Advent days grow ever darker, Isaiah offers hope: "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light" (Isa. 9:1). We Christians seek the Son's light, but we also take the Savior at his word when he describes us as the "light of the world" (Matt. 5:14). 'Tis the season, to celebrate those who shared their light, such as Rosa Parks, who co-led the Montgomery bus boycott beginning this day in 1955. Or Mary McLeod Bethune, who formed the National Council of Negro Women 20 years earlier. To quote Saint Isidore of Seville (who opened the Fourth Council of Toledo on this day in 633): "Just as we must love God in contemplation, so we must love our neighbor with action."

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 11:1-10; Luke 10:21-24 (176). *"He shall judge the poor with justice, and decide aright for the land's afflicted. He shall strike the ruthless with the rod of his mouth."*

**Wednesday, Dec 06, 2023****Peace on Earth requires living on the edge**

This year we celebrate the centennial of the birth of Phil Berrigan, the famed peace activist and one-time Josephite priest. His dedication to serve the African-American community quickly blossomed into an all-out crusade for justice, resulting in his many

arrests, sentences, and continuing activities to emphasize the Catholic opposition to bloodshed. He was hardly rewarded for his efforts in this life, and in this time of war in our day, we owe him a great debt. We can pay it by walking as he walked, in the path toward peace.

ADVENT WEEKDAY

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 25:6-10a; Matthew 15:29-37 (177). *"On this mountain he will destroy the veil that veils all peoples, The web that is woven over all nations; he will destroy death forever."*

**Thursday, Dec 07, 2023****Unite to fight for good**

Today is Pearl Harbor Day, when the 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor officially thrust the United States into World War II. Americans sacrificed in multiple ways to serve the war effort, from military service to rationing. What if we were to unite in the same way to fight poverty? An emphasis on charity and justice for the poor exists within all the Abrahamic traditions, Christianity, Judaism, and Islam. Who is fighting poverty in your community? Take a step today to unite with them.

ADVENT WEEKDAY

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 26:1-6; Matthew 7:21, 24-27 (178). *"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the Kingdom of heaven."*

**Friday, Dec 08, 2023****A day of grace**

Today is all about grace. It was God's grace that provided Mary with the privilege of being born without original sin; it was Mary's grace that said yes to God's plan; and it is our grace to honor Mary's witness and protection. As Pope John Paul II explains, "Grace means love and the gift of God himself, the completely free gift in which God entrusts to [us] his Mystery." In honor of this day, pray the mysteries of the Rosary.

SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (PATRONAL FEAST DAY OF THE U.S.A.)

TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 3:9-15, 20; Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12; Luke 1:26-38 (689). *"Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you."*

**Saturday, Dec 09, 2023****Mary mirrors her people**

Can you imagine what today's saint, Juan Diego, was going through when he encountered Our Lady of Guadalupe? First of all, she looked nothing like the pictures of the Blessed Virgin he was used to. She wasn't a blue-eyed, white European. She was brown-skinned with dark hair and dark eyes. She wasn't wearing a blue veil either. And she didn't even speak to him in Spanish, but in Nahuatl, the ancient language of his ancestral Aztec. Was she for real? When the image of the Virgin appeared on his cloak, he knew she was. Celebrate Our Lady of Guadalupe, who acts as a reflection for all the faithful.

MEMORIAL OF JUAN DIEGO CUAUHTLATOATZIN, VISIONARY  
TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26; Matthew 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8 (180). *"As you go, make this proclamation: 'The Kingdom of heaven is at hand.'"*

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



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