



ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

January 7, 2024

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



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.

Sunday, January 7

9:30 a.m. — Pat Radics (Maureen Reilly)
Rose O’Toole (Elena & Kevin O’Toole)

11:30 a.m.—People of the Parish

Monday, January 8

9:00 a.m.—

Tuesday, January 9

9:00 a.m. — Peter & Marjorie Gochan (Gochan Family)
Marivic Guillen (Ed Uy & Family)

Wednesday, January 10

9:00 a.m.—

Thursday, January 11

9:00 a.m.. — Robert Scibelli (Family)
Laura Jeanne Mauro

Saturday, January 13

5:30 p.m.— Sebastiano Vultaggio (Brittany & Dan Elliott)
Jane Giacomini (Maureen & Sheila)

Sunday, January 14

9:30 a.m.— Anna Joseph Alenchery (John & Dawn)
Augustine Alenchery (John & Dawn)
11:30 a.m.—People of the Parish

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: \$7,104
Christmas Collection: \$26,752
(includes *Faith Direct*)
Last Year’s Collection: \$24,694 (Christmas)
Thank You!

Rest
in
Peace

Deceased Brothers & Sisters of Our Parish

Good News Reflection

Gifts of new birth

Epiphany is a celebration of the adoration of magi from the East who sought and found Christ the newborn king.

The Greek word "magi" meant oriental scientists. Also called astrologers, their worship of Jesus does not validate astrology, which assigns power over us to stars and planets; rather, it validates that Jesus was born to bring salvation to all, Gentiles as well as Jews. Their arrival at the manger demonstrates that Jesus was born for the sake of all who recognize that only God should have power over us. Jesus was born to free us from sin and all other forces that control us.



The magi also demonstrate that gift-giving is a normal part of worship. Their gift of gold honored Jesus as king. Their gift of incense honored Jesus as God. And their gift of myrrh honored the gift that Jesus would eventually give to us: his death. He was born to sacrifice his life for us. He took to the cross our sins, and then his resurrection destroyed the power of sin and the power of demons who tempt us to sin.

The gifts of the magi become gifts that we all give to Jesus: Gold represents our righteousness, which Christ's kingship over our lives makes possible so that we become more and more saintly each day. Incense represents our prayers going up to God - prayers that involve giving God the gift of our trust. And myrrh is the gift of suffering for Christ: the sacrifices we make for the

sake of his ongoing mission of transforming our world.

The word "epiphany" means a moment of discovery, a revelation that changes our lives. Did the magi have an epiphany about Jesus when they came into his presence? Did they realize that they were looking at the Savior of the world? Did they want this little baby to save them from their own sins?

We can safely assume that they never forgot about their trip to Bethlehem. Surely they kept their ears open for news about him as the years went by. Probably they heard about the King of the Jews who was crucified.

We know that they in fact became very saintly Christians; their relics still exist and have been venerated since very early times.

What about you and me? Will we remember Jesus in some new way this year? Will our worship of him transform us? Will the power of sin be defeated by our faith in Christ when we face temptations?

Hopefully, we have been changed this Advent and Christmas Season by a new rebirth of Jesus into our lives and - through our lives - out into the world.

Questions for Personal Reflection:

What's the gold you're giving to Jesus? What is your incense? What is your myrrh?

Questions for Community Faith Sharing:

Describe an epiphany you have had during this past Advent and the Season of Christmas. How will you take this out to others so that they, too, experience Christ more completely?



Week One – Introduction - Scripture: Matthew 2:1-12

The wisemen come to meet Jesus because they made studying the stars a priority in their lives and then at a certain point, they made it a priority to follow the star. While many things in this world are out of our control, we get to choose what will be our priorities in life. Our priorities set the course and direction of our lives. In this message we will introduce the power of setting our own priorities and to step back and begin to evaluate our priorities. The best way to do this is to write your own eulogy. What do you want people to say about you when you die.

Our priorities set the course and direction of our lives. Create a list of accounts and your current priorities.

Daily Practice

Happy New Year! "Daily Practice" is a daily devotional that is sent in an email weekly. It is a Scripture passage, and a reflection, for each day of the week. If you would like to subscribe to it, please sign up with an email. It will be sent to you every week on a Friday before. Please leave your name and email at the Welcome Desk or contact the Office at rectory@abvmcentereach.com.



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

Advertisement for Coffee in the Courtyard featuring a coffee cup icon, the text "Coffee in the Courtyard in the Parish Center Hall", "Coffee Conversations Community", and "After 9:30 AM & 11:30 AM Masses".

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 Gospel. After the Gospel is given, and then the children share in the Eucharist. Children will be encouraged to engage during the Mass at their own level. Children will be encouraged to be the greatest disciples and invite them to the most. Children will be encouraged to help at the Sprouts, please leave your name and phone number at the Welcome Desk or contact the Office.

**Sprouts is on break .
We will resume on January 21, 2024**

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, Household Cleaner, Laundry Detergent, Dishwashing Liquid, Liquid Hand Soap, Shampoo, Deodorant, Cooking Oil, Mayonnaise, Fruit Juice, Tea, Coffee, Hot Chocolate, Snacks, Canned Pasta, Canned Chili.



Catholic Men's Retreat

Fear - Faith - Risk - Trust: Living in God's Promise with Jesus

March 1 @ 4:00 pm – March 3 @ 1:00 pm EST

Location: Cormaria Retreat Center, 77 Bay Street, Sag Harbor, NY 11963

Cost: \$265:00 To Register, call: 631-725-4206 or email: info@cormaria.org

Assumption Prayer Team

We pray for every request in the prayer Petition Books, from Adoremus and those given to us in person. What are your prayer needs? Prayer Petition Books are in the back of the church.

Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Hebrews 4:16



PRAYER TEAM



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!



Message Series

At Assumption, we preach in message series. Over several weeks, we will look at a topic and go deeper into it. We select a topic based on the weekend's scripture readings and dive deeper. These are the three questions we ask as we prepare each message series. What do we want the people to feel? What do we want the people to know? What do we want the people to do? This way, the message you hear in the church is not some head knowledge or something that flies over your head but touches the hearts and has practical applications for our daily lives. That's why I always mention "homework" in my messages. God speaks to us at every moment, especially in a community setting, when His people come together on Sundays and listen to the Word of God as we celebrate, pray, praise, and thank God. Then the discussion continues in the Small Groups and goes deeper. Our message series usually runs from September to July. Our mission continues to Love God, Serve Others, and Grow Disciples.



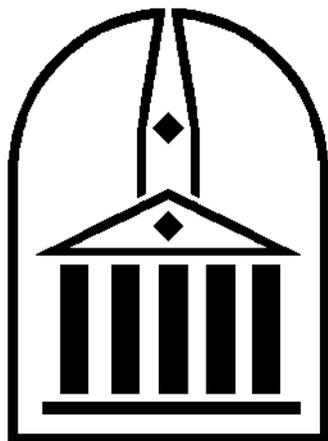
Bishop McHugh Health Centers deliver health screenings, education, vaccinations and other services to those without access to primary care.

To learn more, please visit: chsli.org/catholic-healthcommunity-health

**Bishop McHugh Health Center
(Nassau)**
750 South Broadway
Hicksville, NY 11801
(516) 827-2727



**Bishop McHugh Center
(Suffolk)**
24 East Main St
Bay Shore, NY 11706
(631) 376-4025



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.

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; 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 rectory@abvmcentereach.com to sign up.





*Invest time each week to
expand your vocabulary
and deepen your faith.*

07 January 2024

WORD OF THE WEEK

Preparation of the Gifts

*\pre-pə-'rā-shən |
'gifts*

The set of ceremonial actions at Mass preceding the Eucharistic Prayer and Holy Communion. Includes dressing of the altar; bringing forward the bread and wine; and the community's personal sacrifices taken up in the collection. Formerly called the Offertory. The community offers a song of praise for all these gifts as the priest washes his hands in a purification rite.

Pronunciation: <https://tinyurl.com/Take5-preparation-gifts>

CONTEXT

The **Preparation of the Gifts** allows time for the preparation of our hearts. Like the Magi bearing gifts and doing homage to Majesty, we bring our gifts and our praise to the Table.

—*Father Paul Boudreau*

God has first blessed us with the gift of creation. Humans take those gifts given, wheat and grapes, and, using our creativity, make bread and wine. Then, we bring those gifts we have received and labored over to present them at the Altar/Table that they might be transformed into the Body and Blood of Christ. Finally, we receive them back in Communion. The procession of the **Gifts** says, in essence, "Behold the gifts God has given us!"

—*Father Roc O'Connor, S.J.*

WHY IT MATTERS

We take great care preparing other festive tables for our most cherished gatherings. Could we do less for the table where the Real Presence of Christ will be made tangible for us?

From the General Instructions of the Roman Missal: The altar or Lord's table, which is the center of the whole Liturgy of the Eucharist, is made ready. . . . The offerings are then brought forward. It is a praiseworthy practice for the bread and wine to be presented by the faithful (73).

RELATED WORDS

Corporal | purificator | Missal | Chalice

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Is Epiphany about giving or getting gifts?

"We three kings of Orient are/ bearing gifts we traverse afar." Nowhere in the gospels does it claim there are three kings. They are magi, hereditary priests of the ancient Medes and Persians. At least the carol gets one thing right: this wise group does bear gifts. Gold symbolizes wealth and power. Frankincense, used in prayer, represents the divine Presence. Myrrh prepares bodies for burial. It's an ominous sign that would make a startling gift. . . . But they were appropriate honors for the King of the Universe, the Divine Son, and the crucified Lord.

We also bear Jesus gifts at every Eucharist: bread, wine, and our financial sacrifice. "Made by human hands," these gifts are transformed and returned to us as the Body and Blood of Christ, and then redistributed for those in need.

More gifts come to us by way of this shared Table. Grace pours out on the assembly. Grace forgives sin, and rescues us from every evil. This is one gift you don't want to put at the bottom of a closet.

—*Alice Camille, from Questions Catholics Ask* <https://tinyurl.com/QCA-presentation-gifts>

REFLECTION OF THE WEEK

SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD (JANUARY 7)

Remember our migrant roots

America was once renowned as the land where people could come to breathe freely. Scripture reminds us of the considerable gifts that migrant people bring with them. Whether king or commoner, each person offers what they have to make the community more dynamic.

READINGS: saiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6; Matthew 2:1-12 ([20 https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/010724.cfm](https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/010724.cfm)).

"Raise your eyes and look about; they all gather and come to you."

FAITH IN ACTION

Let's welcome the newcomer and remember that the infant Jesus was once a migrant, too.