



# ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

**February 18, 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](http://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](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.

**Sunday, February 18**

9:30 a.m. — Mariano Ruivo (Ana Paula Goncalves)  
Marie Claude Casimir (Children)

11:30 a.m.—People of the Parish

**Monday, February 19**

9:00 a.m.— Anna Pober (Family)

**Tuesday, February 20**

9:00 a.m. — Abelardo & Norma Angeles (Gochan Family)  
Harold Russell (Family)

**Wednesday, February 21**

9:00 a.m.

**Thursday, February 22**

9:00 a.m.. — Jane P Hall (Susan Buquicchio)  
Fernando Goncalves (Ana-Paula Goncalves)

**Friday, February 23**

9:00 a.m.. — Gregory Pinto (Gochan Family)

**Saturday, February 24**

5:30 p.m.— Jane Giacomini (Pat Rivers)  
Joyce Lamb (Pat Cheeseman))

**Sunday, February 25**

9:30 a.m.— Alaide Goncalves (Ana Paula Goncalves)  
Janet French (Joan Reid)


11:30 a.m.—People of the Parish

*Remember not the events of the past,  
the things of long ago consider not;  
see, I am doing something new!*  
Isaiah 43:18-19

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

**Parish Sacrificial Giving Summary**  
**Last Week’s Collection: \$8,752**  
*(includes Faith Direct)*  
**Last Year’s Collection: \$9,062**  
**Thank You!**

*Rest  
in  
Peace*



Theresa Eby  
Michael J Russano  
Ann Connolly

## ***Good News Reflection***

### ***Wrestling with temptation***

This Sunday's Gospel reading shows us the first thing that Jesus did after his baptismal anointing in the Jordan River: He wrestled with temptation.

His baptism had marked the moment of his complete surrender to the Father's will. As he arose from the water, he left behind his old life and began a new life of ministry.

The Father responded by telling him that he was very pleased, and the Holy Spirit filled his humanness. Jesus as God already had the Holy Spirit (one-hundred percent, he and the Spirit were the same God), but Jesus the Son, who was also fully human, now came fully alive in the Spirit. We can imagine how this experience in the Jordan River gave him the feeling of an elated spiritual high. And the next thing that happens is an attack of the devil.



The same pattern repeats itself in our lives. As soon as we experience new growth in our faith, or a new purpose for our faith with a calling to do the Father's will in a wonderful new work of God's kingdom, we run smack into a situation that tests the strength and sincerity of our faith. However, if this didn't happen, how would we know that our faith is strong enough for our daily needs? How would we find out that we've spiritually matured? How would we know that we are ready to make a significant difference for the kingdom of God?

Sometimes without consciously thinking it, we decide that new growth isn't worth the aftermath. If we're going to be tested, and if we fear that we might lose our battle against evil, wouldn't it be better not to grow, not to partner with Christ in serving God's kingdom, not to aim for spiritual highs?

Well, that's another temptation!

Lent is the perfect time to examine the temptations that we face every day and turn them into new growth that will strengthen our faith.

Every time we face a sin and seek God's forgiveness, we become stronger. And if we take it a step farther by walking into the confessional with it, we also receive powerful graces directly from Jesus, through the priest, that will render temptations much more powerless. And this makes us more useful to God in the mission of conquering evil in the world and helping his kingdom spread into the lives of the people around us.

Think of temptations as blessings in disguise: Use them as opportunities to purify your life, become more like Jesus, and grow powerful in the faith.

**Questions for Personal Reflection:** How well do you recognize temptation? How quickly do you rely on the faith that God has given you to say no to the devil's tricks? What temptation are you saying yes to right now? Are you willing to give it up as your Lenten sacrifice?

**Questions for Community Faith Sharing:** Describe a time when you experienced a spiritual high and then faced a strong temptation. How did you handle it? What role did (or will) Jesus play in overcoming this temptation?

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A stack of folded clothes in various colors (blue, white, red) is shown on the left. A white sign with the word 'DONATE' and a red heart symbol is placed on top of the clothes. To the right, white text on a dark purple background reads: 'Clothing Drive', 'Serve Others by donating new or gently used clothes', and 'Weekend of Feb. 24-25'.

## BRAND NEW MESSAGE SERIES FOR LENT

rebuilt  
FAITHFORTY  
DAILY EXERCISES FOR  
REBUILDING OUR FAITH,  
ONE DAY AT A TIME**Week Two: Serve****Scripture: Mark 1:12–15; Matthew 4:8–10**

Jesus is tempted out in the wilderness. Matthew tells us that the third temptation is to worship and serve the devil. Jesus responds that we are only to serve the Lord. We will all serve someone or something. By choosing to serve God and his people we become more like Christ. In this message we will look at how to grow as servants of the Lord.

Serving at home, at work and in our church helps us to become more like Christ. Read the section on serving. Identify ways they can serve more easily.

***Rebuilt Faith***, written by Fr. Michael White and Tom Corcoran proposes five simple steps to learn (or relearn) more about our Catholic faith and deepen our relationship with God. Rebuilding and renewing our faith starts with a nagging feeling that we want more connectedness, community, and purpose. That's the spark that leads to a flame that burns brightly around Jesus, the foundation of living and growing in faith. Rebuilt Faith will be the theme of our weekend message series (homilies) throughout Lent. It will also be the focus of all our small group discussions this season. We're also encouraging parishioners to read the book this Lent and make a commitment to a small group experience in Lent.

**Small groups** are about life change, and small groups promote life change at a fundamental level that rarely happens in a weekend congregation. That's why growing our small group program is one of our primary goals for this Lenten season at Assumption.

Small groups are for everybody. Whether new to the faith, you can partake in or lead a group in person or online. If you're skeptical about whether you really need religious faith in your life, or if you're having that feeling something is missing, and you need more, or maybe you're just feeling stuck and don't know where to start, don't worry. When you join a small group, you'll receive a free copy of Rebuilt Faith, which is strategically designed with daily readings over the course of six weeks to help you develop your faith. We all know somebody who is skeptical, and you may even know somebody who may just be on the brink of giving themselves entirely to Christ. Let this be your call to action to join a small group, and just watch how much Jesus can change your life for the better.

It's time to begin a transformative journey. If you're already part of a small group, consider taking that next step in becoming a leader. Guiding others in their faith journey not only deepens your own understanding but also contributes to the growth within our community.



# 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 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. For information contact the Faith Formation Office.



## FRIDAYS OF LENT

### Mass at 9:00 AM

followed by

### Stations of Cross

### Daily Practice

“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](mailto:rectory@abvmcentereach.com).



### 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](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!



## 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: Paper Towels, Toilet Paper, Dishwashing Liquid, Laundry Detergent, Household Cleaner, Toothbrushes, Shampoo, Deodorant, Cooking Oil, Mayonnaise, Fruit Juice, Coffee, Tea, Snacks, Pancake Mix, Syrup, Rice-a-Roni, Ramen Soup Mix, Jelly, Pet Food.**

## CLOTHING DRIVE

Our Mission statement is Love God, Serve Others and Grow Disciples. The season of Lent is a perfect time to look back into our lives and try to live the way God wants us to live. In that we can see, Serving Others is particularly important. During this Lent we are going to discuss how we can serve others better and how important it is to grow in our faith. We can serve others in so many ways. But, as a Lenten sacrifice, on the weekend of February 24-25<sup>th</sup> we are having a clothing drive for new or gently used clothes. I am sure if we look into our closets, we will find new or, like new coats, shirts, pants, jackets etc. that we can donate. This is an opportunity to help the people who need it the most. We will accept new undergarments and socks too.



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



Coffee  
*in the*  
Courtyard

in the Parish Center Hall

Coffee  
Conversations  
Community

After  
9:30 AM  
& 11:30 AM  
Masses



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

18 February 2024

## WORD OF THE WEEK

### Papacy \ˈpā-pə-sē\

The office of the bishop of Rome, familiarly known as the pope; the term of a pope's reign; a succession of popes; the church's system of government with the pope as first among equals with authority over all other bishops.

*Pronunciation:* <https://tinyurl.com/Take5-papacy>

### CONTEXT

One of the main challenges of the **papacy** is to judge all tasks in the light of the gospel to avoid transforming ecclesiastical jurisdiction into political power.

—*Father Jean-Marie Tillard, O.P.*

We cannot dispute that the **papacy** itself, purely as a human institution, is unique.

—*Paul Johnson in The Papacy*

Since God has given us the **papacy**, let us enjoy it.

—*Attributed to Pope Leo X, known for lavish living, patronage of the arts, and abuse of papal power*

### WHY IT MATTERS

Since the first century, the bishop of the local church in Rome has been understood to possess the "Chair of Peter," which endows great authority and carries the role of special keeper of the church's mission.

The power of the **papacy** stems from Jesus' choice to set Peter in authority over the rest: "You are Peter and upon this rock I will build my church." (Matthew 16:18). Papal primacy and the role of the pope as Vicar of Christ and pastor of the whole Church, with "full, supreme and universal power over the Church" was confirmed at numerous ecumenical councils, including Vatican II (*Lumen gentium*, 22).

### RELATED WORDS

Pope | Pontiff | Vicar of Christ | Curia | Hierarchy

## QUESTION OF THE WEEK

### What are the qualifications for being pope?

The vast majority of popes were ordained. Priesthood is a plus, topped off with a hearty Roman education at a pontifical institute. Doing time in highly visible chanceries in large cities increases your chances. Attaining the status of bishop and cardinal tremendously increases your odds even though neither position is canonically required.

Medieval and renaissance popes had the advantages of coming from princely or aristocratic Roman families, but never mind if you don't have a fine pedigree. Sixtus V was the son of a laundress, and Pius X the child of a seamstress. A few popes were renowned preachers like the Franciscan Sixtus IV, and others were lawyers, professors, and poets. But just as many had their beginnings as monks, anchorites, and even a hermit (Celestine V, but he abdicated to return to his hermitage after six months).

Though being extraordinarily wicked hasn't always been a deal-breaker, more than a few popes were martyred or popularly acclaimed as saints. Holiness is a great asset. Wanting to be pope probably isn't.

—*Alice Camille, from Questions Catholics Ask* <http://tinyurl.com/QCA-papal-qualifications>

## REFLECTION OF THE WEEK

CHAIR OF PETER, APOSTLE (FEBRUARY 22)

### Power well exercised

The feast of the Chair of Peter honors the unity of the worldwide church and its teaching authority. This authority has given popes the ability to speak out for human rights and against injustice, which they have done with increasing frequency in the past century.

READINGS: 1 Peter 5:1-4; Matthew 16:13-19 (535 <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/022224.cfm>). "Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven."

### FAITH IN ACTION

Dip into the social teachings from recent popes <http://tinyurl.com/social-encyclicals> and be amazed by their thinking on labor, preferential option for the poor, human dignity, economic justice, and care of creation.