



# ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

**April 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](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**

**Sunday, April 7**

9:30 a.m. — Abelardo & Norma Angeles (Gochan Family)  
Intentions of William John Schultz (Family)  
11:30 a.m.— Gerard Burke (Eileen Byrnes & Family)  
People of the Parish

**Monday, April 8**

9:00 a.m.—Augustine Alenchery

**Tuesday, April 9**

9:00 a.m.—

**Wednesday, April 10**

9:00 a.m.—

**Thursday, April 11**

9:00 a.m.— Anna Byrnes (Family)

**Saturday, April 13**

5:30 p.m.— Ed Mears (CDA Ct. St. Gerard #1920)

**Sunday, April 14**

9:30 a.m.— Mary Ellen Vecchio (Jen Satalino)  
Joselito C. Ella (Harry & Luz Gaviola)  
11:30 a.m.— People of the Parish

**Whoever is begotten by God  
conquers the world,  
and the victory that conquers the world  
is our faith.** 1John 5:4

# STEWARDSHIP

## GIVING to our parish as an act of worship

**Parish Sacrificial Giving Summary**  
**Last Week's Collection: \$23,457 (Easter)**  
(includes *Faith Direct*)  
**Last Year's Collection: \$10,722**  
**Thank You!**

**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.

Rest  
in  
Peace



Gerard W. Burke

**Good News Reflection****Faith, trust, and peace are possible for all through the merciful heart of Christ**

Divine Mercy Sunday is one of the Church's most inspiring and comforting feast days. In today's Gospel, Christ's compassion and love shine when he appeared to his disciples in the locked Upper Room on that first Easter evening after he rose from the dead.

Frightened and confused, his friends were shaken following the traumatic events they had just experienced, and they huddled in fear and confusion. They had received a report that Jesus had risen and was alive! What would Jesus say to them now? Would he be angry with their denials, betrayal, and fear?

When our Lord appeared to them, he immediately put them at ease with his words of grace, "Peace be with you." He gifted them with the Holy Spirit and gave them the power and mission to forgive sins.

Thomas, who missed the first appearance of Jesus, was filled with questions and doubts. Jesus showed much patience and compassion, just as he did with the other disciples, and he continues to do for us. Jesus greeted him with peace and offered Thomas another chance, the experience of touching his wounds to help him believe,

which won his heart for Christ.

Although Jesus affirms faith without sight, sometimes even the most passionate and faith-filled souls experience fear, doubts, failures, confusion, and setbacks. God's unlimited mercy and love are unstoppable; he will continue pursuing souls and giving them more opportunities to trust in him and experiences to win their hearts. At the heart of the Divine Mercy Chaplet, a powerful prayer was offered by Jesus to St. Faustina, which has seen many miracles unfold and brought people to conversion:

*Eternal Father, I offer You the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your Dearly Beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world. For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world. Jesus, I trust in You.*

**Questions for Personal Reflection:** Do you only feel at peace when things are going the way you want them to? How do you feel God's peace in difficult times? Is there someone who needs mercy and forgiveness from you?

**Questions for Community Faith Sharing:** How does society's tendency towards lack of faith affect your faith and inner peace? How do the Sacraments of Penance and Holy Eucharist give you the peace of Christ? How can you offer the peace of Christ to others?



Jesus sends his followers into the world to influence the world just as his Father sent him. Our influence grows when we empower other people to go and use their gifts and abilities. In this message we will look at how to responsibly influence others by giving them power and authority to act.

Empowering others brings exponential growth. We want to empower the next generation with the Gospel.

Look at others in your life, especially young people you have influence over and begin giving them opportunities to succeed. God believes in you and sees your abilities.

**Small Groups** are about life change, and small groups promote life change at a fundamental level.

Small groups are for everybody. Whether new to the faith or 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, don't worry. 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.



Small groups are where we grow. If you're interested in life change, new life for you and those you love, join one of our small groups for a five-week series. Talk to someone at the Welcome Desk; call the Parish office at 631-585-8760; email us at [rectory@abvmcentereach.com](mailto:rectory@abvmcentereach.com) or fill in the form below and drop it off at the Welcome Desk. We'll call you. We're here to help!

Yes, I'm interested in a Small Group

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

### **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).





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.

### ***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**



**SAVE THE DATE**  
**Assumption**  
**Vacation Bible School 2024**  
**July 22<sup>nd</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup>**



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. The Outreach Office is open on Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday from 10AM to 1PM.

**PANTRY NEEDS:** Paper Towels, Kleenex, Household Cleaner, Bar Soap, Liquid Hand Soap, Cooking Oil, Mayonnaise, Ketchup, Mustard, Coffee, Fruit Juice, Muffin Mix, Pancake Mix, Syrup, Rice, Pasta Sauce, Canned Tomatoes, Baked Beans, Peanut Butter, Jelly.



The **Catholic Ministries Appeal** is an Island-wide effort by our Church to support the critically important services and programs that serve more than 600,000 people every year. 100% of every dollar raised is

RESTRICTED to the ministries of the Appeal. Through the Catholic Ministries Appeal, we can provide pastoral care to those in need on Long Island. This year our parish goal is \$56,600. Parishes who make their goal receive a rebate from the diocese, amounting to 20% of the actual goal. Last year we got back \$11,200. Use your phone camera to scan the QR Code to donate.



If you have not already contributed, please prayerfully consider joining with me as One Faith, Family and Community, and make a gift to the 2024 Catholic Ministries Appeal. Please remember no gift is too small, and all gifts make a difference in someone's life! The pledge you make will be billed for the next 10 months if you like to do so or you can pay it off in full amount. Thank you very much for your generous heart in Serving Others.

GIVE BACK TO YOUR COMMUNITY

**1ST ANNUAL  
BLOOD DRIVE**

OB DAVIS FUNERAL HOMES  
2326 MIDDLE COUNTRY RD  
CENTEREACH NY 11720

April 17th 2024 | 9am to 3pm

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 631-585-8888



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

07 April 2024

## WORD OF THE WEEK

### Annunciation \ə-nĕn-sē-ā-shĕn\

From Latin, “to bring news,” the angelic proclamation to Mary of Nazareth that she would be the mother of Jesus. Mary’s submission to this divine plan is simply given: “Let it be done to me according to your word” (Luke 1:38). Her “yes” is often referred to as Mary’s *fiat* (Latin for “let it be done”).

Pronunciation: <https://tinyurl.com/Take5-annunciation>

## CONTEXT

The mystery of the **Annunciation** reveals the depth of God’s love for us, and his desire to be in relationship with us.

—Henri Nouwen

The **Annunciation** is the revelation of the mystery of the Incarnation at the very beginning of its fulfillment.

—Pope John Paul II, *Redemptoris Mater*

The importance of the **Annunciation** is underscored by the fact that this is the first mystery of the Rosary and is celebrated by the Angelus as well.

—David Bryan

## WHY IT MATTERS

Unlike many saving acts that are unilaterally achieved by the divine will, in the **Annunciation** a woman is invited to participate in the saving event that has consequences for all people and all time. Mary’s yes is universal and limitless. At the **Annunciation**, Mary perfectly consents to God’s will, then bears the Son, and is filled with the Spirit, which, as theologian Hans Urs von Balthasar notes, is wholly trinitarian.

From Pope Paul VI’s *Marialis Cultus* (“Devotion to Mary”): [The **Annunciation** observance] was and is a joint one of Christ and of the Blessed Virgin: of the Word, who becomes Son of Mary, and of the Virgin, who becomes Mother of God.

## RELATED WORDS

Hyperdulia | Assumption | Immaculate Conception

## QUESTION OF THE WEEK

### What do I need to know about Mary?

There is the biblical Mary of Nazareth, who fulfills Isaiah’s Emmanuel prophecy by giving birth to a child who is “God with us.” Her Magnificat canticle foreshadows Jesus’ proclamation that the mighty will be brought down while the poor are lifted up. Mary plays other noteworthy roles: advocating for a miracle at Cana, being present at the cross, and participating in the Spirit’s reception at Pentecost. Finally, as Mary is the first disciple of her son, she is the ideal model for all of us.

The church teaches four doctrines about Mary. Two declarations declare her a virgin as well as the Mother of God. Two later doctrines teach that Mary was conceived immaculately (sinless) and that, at the point of death, was assumed body and soul to heaven.

Devotionally, Mary plays a large role in popular piety. Her icon has been venerated since the early centuries in the East. By means of the Rosary, litanies, and pilgrimage, people of many lands feel a special closeness to the mother of Jesus who is mother to all.

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

## REFLECTION OF THE WEEK

SOLEMNITY OF THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD (APRIL 8)

### The three best words

Mary is the mother of the church and the model of all Christians. At the message of an angel, she believed beyond all reason and offered her life in service of God’s plan. Her response, “let it be,” is the answer of every disciple who trusts in God’s word to make all things new. In the season of Lent, God invites us to believe that we, too, are called to that service.

READINGS: Isaiah 7:10-14; 8:10; Hebrews 10:4-10; Luke 1:26-38 (545 <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/040824.cfm>). “*May it be done to me according to your word.*”

## FAITH IN ACTION

Though we are sinners, we must live in hope of God’s forgiveness and trust that God will work through us to bring about the fulfillment of an eternal plan to save the world.