



# ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

**August 25, 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



**Mass Intentions  
for the week**

**Sunday, August 25**

9:30 a.m. — Mary James (Angus & Joan Johnson)  
 Celia Angeles Tagud (Gochan Family)  
 11:30 a.m.— Thomas Engel (Joseph & Arlene Angland)  
 People of the Parish

**Monday, August 26**

9:00 a.m.—Heather Robinson (Robert & Donna Vanhorn)

**Tuesday, August 27**

9:00 a.m.— Augustine Alenchery (Nick & Patti  
 Campanelli)  
 Peter & Marjorie Gochan (Gochan Family)

**Wednesday, August 28**

9:00 a.m.— Marie A. Kerwick (Elizabeth Leverock)

**Thursday, August 29**

9:00 a.m.— Dawn Hearne (Family)

**Saturday, August 31**

5:30 p.m.— Charles Ruf (Pat Rivers)  
 Thomas Engel (Elizabeth Leverock)

**Sunday, September 1**

9:30 a.m.— Abelardo & Norma Angeles (Gochan  
 Family)  
 Michelle Lea Cintron & Richard Martin Sr.  
 (Martin Family)  
 11:30 a.m.—Carmen Jeanbattiste (Family)  
 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.

**for we walk by faith, not by sight.**  
*2Cor. 5:7*

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

**Parish Sacrificial Giving Summary**  
 Last Week’s Collection: \$9,974  
 (includes *Faith Direct*)  
 Last Year’s Collection: \$9,670  
**Thank You!**

Rest  
 in  
 Peace



Kathleen Mary Meyer



**Good News Reflection*****Eat My Body, Drink My Blood, Have Eternal Life.***

Being a Christian has always been a challenge, both in the past and present. Two thousand years ago, in a shocking revelation, Jesus told His disciples, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you; he who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.” This was a hard teaching, and many of His disciples couldn’t accept it, so they chose to walk away. Yet Jesus remained steadfast in His message, refusing to water it down or change it. Only those who were convinced that Jesus was who He said He was stayed with Him.



People then started disputing His claim, crying, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?” Did those who walked away realize that Jesus was not a mere man? Yes, He was fully man like they were, but He was (and is) also fully God and capable of anything! Didn’t they already see His miracles? This should have revealed His divinity. They knew Jesus as a kind, humble, compassionate, and wise teacher, so what happened? Did they think He went crazy?

They needed to open their minds and hearts to listen, trust, and believe. What Jesus proclaimed about eating His body and drinking His blood was beyond human reason. He assured them His words were “in spirit and life,” but they refused to be open to the working of the Spirit to enlighten their hearts. They needed to lean on the assistance of the Holy Spirit to unlock and embrace this mystery of faith. Belief in the profound supernatural nature of the Eucharist is a pure gift of grace from God the Father. Jesus offers Himself – Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity – as the way to eternal life, but He gives us free will to accept or reject this gift. True Catholic teaching delights in and celebrates the gift of the Real Presence.

**Questions for Personal Reflection:** What Catholic teachings do you find difficult to accept? Have you ever been tempted to walk away, and what drew you back?

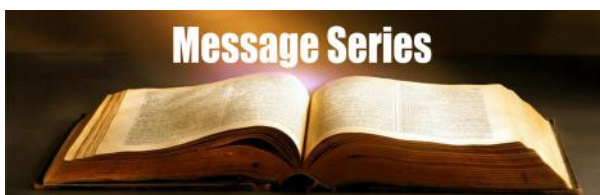
**Questions for Community Faith Sharing:** How does the Real Presence in the Eucharist affect you? How does receiving the Eucharist help you share Christ with others?



In July, Fr. Fitzgerald, arriving with only \$400 to start the new parish, rented a small summer bungalow on Wood Road. He offered his first Sunday Mass in Centereach on July 10, 1955. His temporary church was the local Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) hall, a Quonset hut on Middle Country Road, where Sunday Masses would be offered until the present church was completed in 1958. Here we are in 2024-25, celebrating 70 years as a parish. Time goes so fast. I am sure some of you remember when the parish was established, and how it grew through trials and struggles, all through these years. We are kicking it off our 70th Anniversary celebrations with a **“Community**

**Block Party”** on Saturday, September 14<sup>th</sup> from 12pm to 4pm. Please stop by the Welcome Desk or stop at a Welcome Team Member to let them know if you are able to volunteer to help that day, bring a dessert for the dessert table, or if you can join us in celebrating with our Parish Community. **Everyone is Welcome,**

*On a personal note:* As I mentioned at one of the masses two weeks ago, I am going through some serious health issues. I have started the therapy treatment, but as a lot of you know personally or through your loved ones or your friends, how it goes. It has its ups and downs. Infections happen, side effects happen. But with all these, I know Our God is stronger. The scripture passage that guides and strengthens me is “Do not be afraid.” Isaiah 41:10. I believe the Lord has brought me to this point, and he WILL see me through it or like a beautiful song, says, “We will worship through it”. Thank you very much for your prayers - Fr. Joe



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.

### **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. Please leave your name and email at the Welcome Desk or contact the Office at [rectory@abvmcentereach.com](mailto:rectory@abvmcentereach.com).





# Assumption Faith Formation Registration 2024-25



Begins on July 29<sup>th</sup> and ends on September 9<sup>th</sup>  
Register online at [www.abvmcentereach.com](http://www.abvmcentereach.com)

## BLESSING OF BACKPACKS



**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup> 9:30 AM MASS**

Join us to worship together at Mass as we celebrate the beginning of the new school year. Students of all ages are invited for a special blessing at the 9:30 AM Mass.



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

in the parish center

On Summer  
Break for  
August

Will be back  
on Sunday,  
September 8

### SPROUTS

*Children's Liturgy of the Word*

During 9:30 AM Mass

All children ages FOUR to FIFTH grade  
are Welcome.



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: Shampoo, Conditioner, Liquid Hand Soap, Deodorant, Household Cleaner, Cooking Oil, Ketchup, Mayonnaise, Mustard, Muffin Mix, Coffee, Hot Chocolate, Cereal, Syrup, Dry Soup Mix, Snacks, Baked Beans, Canned Tomatoes, Pasta Sauce, Canned Carrots, Canned Potatoes, Canned Chicken, Jelly.**



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

## Remember Our Parish in Your Will

we often do not realize how helpful it is to the parish that serves our spiritual needs when a person decides to share his/her resources as a way of saying "thank you" for all that has been provided. Most assuredly, a gift to the parish in your will or trust affirms your continued commitment to the parish's life and works.

Making this gift is easy. You can instruct your attorney to use this wording: "I hereby give, devise and bequeath to Assumption of the BVM parish, with offices at 20 Chestnut St., Centereach, NY 11720, the sum of \$ \_\_\_ to be used for its most urgent needs." As an alternative, you can make a gift of what remains in your estate or living trust after all other

bequests and expenses have been paid: "I hereby give, devise and bequeath to Assumption of the BVM parish, with offices at 20 Chestnut St., Centereach, NY 11720, all the rest, residue and remainder of my estate (trust) to be used for its most urgent needs." For more information about remembering the parish in your will or living trust, contact Fr. Joseph at 631-585-8760 or [jalenchery@abvmcentereach.com](mailto:jalenchery@abvmcentereach.com) or Barbara Kilarjian at 516-678-5800 x 257.



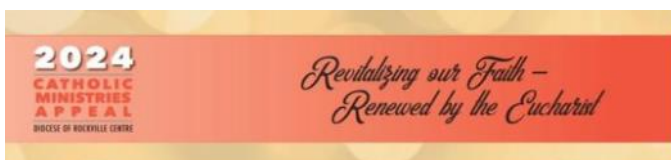
## Assumption Prayer Team

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**



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 RE-



STRICTED 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. We have \$46,120 pledged; that means we have some way to go. Use your phone camera to scan the QR Code to donate or pick up a brochure at the welcome desk. The pledge you make will be billed for the next 5 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.





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

25 August 2024

## WORD OF THE WEEK

### Baptism *\ˈbap-ˈti-zəm\*

One of three sacraments of Initiation, along with Confirmation and First Eucharist. **Baptism**, which means “dipping,” involves immersion into or pouring of water over a prospective church member to inaugurate the journey of faith. In **Baptism**, Christians believe one dies to sin and lives for Christ, imbued with the Holy Spirit.

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

### CONTEXT

If we beheld a soul after **Baptism** with the eyes of faith, we would see angels taking their watch around it.  
—*Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton*

**Baptism** is the end of the Old Testament, and the beginning of the New.  
—*Saint Cyril of Jerusalem*

### WHY IT MATTERS

In the Early Church, new members were received into the church at the Easter Vigil by means of the three initiating sacraments. Much later, infant **Baptism** became the norm due to fear of death, and emphasis of **Baptism's** role in cleansing the soul of original sin obscured its foundation to bring new members into the church and endow them with the Holy Spirit. More recently restored rites make **Baptism's** purpose and unity with Confirmation and Eucharist more visible.

In *Developmental Disabilities and Sacramental Access: New Paradigms for Sacramental Encounter*, Father Paul J. Wadell, C.P. explains: “Questions about who should receive [the sacraments] are answered not through our own sense of appropriateness but by discerning the overriding intention of God. The question is not whom do we invite to fellowship with Christ, but who is God seeking.”

### RELATED WORDS

Confirmation | Eucharist | Original Sin

## QUESTION OF THE WEEK

### What is Baptism?

Too often, **Baptism** is imagined as “blessed insurance” for the afterlife. Yet the church doesn’t teach that **Baptism** gets us into heaven nor does it slam the door on the unbaptized. If not a guarantee of salvation, then what does **Baptism** do? In Saint Paul’s theology, **Baptism** unites us with Christ, imbues us with the Spirit, and makes us church. Deep respect for this sacrament includes not re-baptizing Protestants who join us in full communion.

Bathing rituals have an ancient legacy. Before the gospel era, converts were received into Judaism through circumcision, **Baptism**, and Temple sacrifice. The **Baptism** of John explicitly added repentance to the rite. John’s **Baptism** was available to Jews and Gentiles alike and didn’t make one Jewish—or Christian. Jesus accepts **Baptism** from John to identify himself with humanity’s sin, which John is anxious to wash away. In our embrace of this sacrament, we identify ourselves with Christ in the conversion of heart, mind, and life. Close identification with Christ remains the work of a lifetime. **Baptism** inaugurates the journey.

—*Alice Camille, from Questions Catholics Ask*  
[www.vocationnetwork.org/en/blog/questions\\_catholics\\_ask/](http://www.vocationnetwork.org/en/blog/questions_catholics_ask/)

## REFLECTION OF THE WEEK

MEMORIAL OF SAINT MONICA (AUGUST 27)

### Hope triumphs

Saint Monica is the patron saint of disappointing children. As wild and profligate as the eventual Saint Augustine, her son, was during most of Saint Monica’s life, she did live to see him **baptized**. He eventually became one of the world’s greatest Christian thinkers. Through all her child’s misdeeds Saint Monica remained faithful and hopeful.

READINGS: 2 Thessalonians 2:1-3A, 14-17; Matthew 23:23-26 (426) <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/082724.cfm>. “Our Lord Jesus Christ ... has given us ... good hope through his grace.”

### FAITH IN ACTION

Like Saint Monica, witness Christian faith and hope, and perhaps it will inspire the young people in your life to do the same.