



Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary RC Church

20 Chestnut Street, Centereach, NY 11720 · 631-585-8760 · www.abvmcentereach.com

*Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish is a welcoming community,
sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ through faith, prayer and the sacraments.*

December 15, 2019

We celebrate EUCHARIST

Saturdays: 5:30 PM

Sundays: 8:00, 9:30, 11:30 AM

Weekdays: 9:00 AM

We celebrate PENANCE

Saturdays: 4:00 – 5:00 PM and by appointment.

We celebrate BAPTISM

Usually the first and third Sundays each month. Meeting with Deacon Mike and attendance at class is required. Please contact the rectory during regular office hours to register.

We celebrate MARRIAGE

Make arrangements with the priest at least six months prior to the wedding. All are required by our Bishop to attend the Pre-Cana Conferences as part of the preparation.

Catholic Daughters of the America's (Court St. Gerard)

First Thursday of the month: Sept - June at 7:30 PM in the Parish Library. Contact Maria Calestini at flo815@optonline.net.

Catholic War Veterans

Second Saturday of the month: Sept - June at 10 AM in the Parish Library. Contact Richard Gallagher at popparich38@aol.com.

Communion for the Sick or Shut-ins

Contact the rectory during regular office hours.

Eucharistic Adoration

- First Friday of the month: 1:00 - 2:00 PM. - Nocturnal Adoration
- Third Friday of the month: 7:30-8:30 PM. - ADOREMUS

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.

Miraculous Medal Novena

Wednesdays following the 9:00 AM Mass.

Music Ministry

Our parish's Music Ministry seeks to lead and support our parish family in full, conscious, and active participation in the liturgy. Practices are on Wednesday, 6 – 7:30 PM, and Thursday, 6:30 – 8:00 PM. For further information call Rob at 516-523-1668.

Parish Social Ministry (Outreach)

Open Tuesday and Friday, 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Food pantry available. Will also try to help with referrals and advocacy. Call Outreach Office for appointment, 631-585-8760 x101.

RCIA

Provides for those who have never been baptized an adult process to experience the joy of our Catholic community; also prepares those who have been baptized but have not celebrated Eucharist and/or Confirmation to do so within an adult context. Anyone 18 and over is welcome. Contact the rectory office at 631-585-8760.

Religious Formation Office

Works with parents to share faith with our youngest members, grades 1-8. Contact the office for details at 631-588-6408. Office hours during school sessions: Mon. & Tues., 9 AM - 8 PM; Wed. 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM; Saturday 9:00 AM - Noon. Office is closed Thursday, Friday. Opened Sunday, 10:30 AM - 1:00 PM during class sessions. Check bulletin for summer hours.

Rosary Altar Society

A service-based women's organization that cares for the Church and promotes the spiritual life of its members. Contact the rectory for meeting dates and times.

Scouting (Cub Scout, Boy Scouts)

Contact Chantal Mears at Chantalmears@yahoo.com or 631-438-2468 or visit www.bsa356.com for more details.

Youth Ministry

- High School Ministry (AYM), Wednesdays: 7:30 - 9:00 PM
- Middle School Ministry (MSM), Thursdays, 7:00 - 8:45 PM

For further information, contact Renata 631-585-8760 or email rptak@abvmcentereach.com.

Rev. Joseph Alenchery, Pastor
Rev. Chris Aridas, Retired 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, December 15th

8:00 a.m. — Jim Hogan (Tony Roman)
9:30 a.m. — Amelia & Inacio DeSousa (Family)
11:30 a.m. — People of the Parish

Monday, December 16th

9:00 a.m. — Arnold Hoffmann (Wife & Children)

Tuesday, December 17th

9:00 a.m. — Lucyna & Joseph Vetrovec

Wednesday, December 18th

9:00 a.m. — Lucyna & Joseph Vetrovec

Thursday, December 19th

9:00 a.m. — Lucyna & Joseph Vetrovec

Friday, December 20th

9:00 a.m. — Otto Wolz

Saturday, December 21st

5:30 p.m. — Mary Sclafani (Daughter/Diane)

Sunday, December 22nd

8:00 a.m. — John Paeper (Tiri & Children)
9:30 a.m. — Peter & Marjorie Gochan (Family)
11:30 a.m. — People of the Parish

New parishioner? Moving out of the parish? Kindly fill out the form below and drop it in the collection basket or mail it to the rectory.

Name _____

Address _____

Town/Zip _____

Telephone _____

New Parishioner _____ Moving _____

Faith Formation

The ministry of the Word is a fundamental element of evangelization through all its stages, because it involves the proclamation of Jesus Christ, the eternal Word of God

Faith Formation Office Hours

Regular Office Hours: Monday and Tuesday 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. 3:00—8:00 p.m.); Wednesday 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.—7:30; Thursday & Friday - Closed; Saturday - 9:00 a.m. to 11; Sunday - 10:30 a.m. to Noon.

Middle School Ministry (MSM)

Middle School Ministry is on Thursday nights from 7:00 PM to 8:45 PM. All Middle Schoolers (6th thru 8th) are welcome.



Assumption Youth Ministry (AYM)

Assumption Youth Ministry welcomes all high Schoolers (9th thru 12th) on Wednesday nights from 7:30-9:00 PM. We gather in the Parish Center Hall. Bring your friends with you.



Capital Campaign Update

To date we have received pledges and/or one-time gifts from 371 families, bringing our total thus far to \$812,934. The BIG bump came from a very generous gift of \$100,000. To date more than 90% of the pledge total has been collected. Many thanks.

Thus far we have spent \$859,066 to complete all the projects. In addition, there was a \$65,000 fee for running the campaign over the four years. As mentioned previously, we "borrowed" \$200,000 from our savings to complete the parking lot. Everyone's continued participation, support and generosity are needed since everyone benefits from the upkeep of our church facilities. Please prayerfully consider how you can join in reaching our goal!



Time, Talent & Treasure Fostering Stewardship as a Way of Life

Parish Sacrificial Giving Summary (Regular Sunday Offering)

Last Week's Collection \$9,808 | Last Year's Collection \$10,308

(includes Faith Direct)

Thank You!

Good News Reflection***The joy that comes from being rescued by Christ***

Joy is the theme of the Third Sunday of Advent. As it says in the first reading, "Be strong, fear not! Here is your God, he comes with vindication to rescue you!" This is the reason for our joy. We have been ransomed from sin and its destruction; Jesus paid the price through his terrible sacrifice on the cross. This is why Jesus came to earth to be born as one of us: to rescue us from the horrors of an eternal separation from God and his love.



Compared to eternity, our current problems are little, very little indeed.

Joy comes from realizing that, because of Jesus, no sins against us and no destructive forces can do us permanent harm. In fact, God will make good use of everything for our benefit! He defeats evil by making blessings come from it.

Even the worst of times become huge blessings if we let them unite us to Jesus. With Christ and in imitation of how he suffered for the sake of others, we offer to others what our hardships have taught us, and thus our sufferings become ministries. Our sorrows find valuable meaning, which produces a joy that gets multiplied beyond measure.

In Christ we are crowned with everlasting joy. We feel his joy and gladness because of the good that will come and is already starting. Sorrow and mourning will flee away as we rise above our pain to rejoice in the goodness of joining in the ministry of Christ. And we are lifted up by a faithful and compassionate God.

As the second reading points out, we must be patient while we wait for the Lord to convert our trials into triumphs. To maintain an attitude of joy, we must remain firm in our faith, not doubting that the Lord is concerned about us. And we must not complain, because complaints mean that we think we know better than God does about how our problems should be resolved and how long it should take.

Joy comes from rejoicing in the good news that God really does care and is of course working on our behalf to produce many wonderful blessings from our sufferings, just like Jesus says in the Gospel reading: "Blessed is the one who takes no offense in me."

Questions for Personal Reflection:

What are you unhappy about? Can you find joy in the trial? -- because God will make good come out of the suffering if you want to use it for the benefit of others. Talk to Jesus about that today. What is he telling you? What hug is he giving you?

Questions for Community Faith Sharing:

Describe a time when you saw blessings come from your sufferings. If you could do it all over again, with the option of avoiding those particular troubles, would you? Why or why not?

Catholic Ministries Appeal (CMA)

This year our parish goal is \$57,400. Your generosity provides us with an excellent opportunity to reach out to those in need by supporting the many programs run by our diocese. In particular, the CMA enables our Catholic community on LI to support the work of Catholic Charities, our Catholic Regional Schools, programs for ongoing formation and training of lay leaders as well as our deacons; our seminary which trains men for the priesthood as well as various pastoral offices which provide excellent resources throughout the diocese.

In addition, parishes who make their goal receive a rebate from the diocese, amounting to 20% of the actual goal. Thus far we have collected \$57,928. Please ask the Lord how you might participate. Your pledge is payable over a ten-month period of time.



Coffee
in the
Courtyard

Moving inside
In the basement of the Church

Assumption Youth Ministries invite everyone to "Coffee in the Courtyard", on Sundays after the 9:30 AM Mass. Since the weather has changed into cold and rainy we are moving inside until the Spring. It is a great opportunity to meet people who we worship with, make new friends, and build a stronger community, in which we then become a stronger parish family. All are welcome!

Rest
in
Peace



Wilson Ortiz

GIVE THE GIFT OF CHRISTMAS to a child

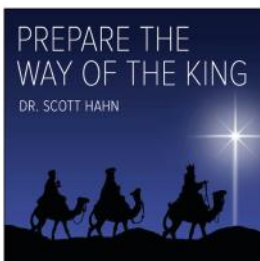
Please take a tag from the Giving Tree in the Lobby of the Church with information of a child living at the Lake House Shelter, wrap the gift and return it before December 22nd.



Don't Forget our Christmas Pageant, Sunday, December 15th, at 3:00 p.m. in the Church, followed by refreshments in the Parish Center. The production, done by our younger parishioners, from grades 1–5 will include the "living Nativity." Not to be missed!

FORMED

PICK OF THE WEEK



Prepare the Way of the King

Dr. Scott Hahn

The Greatest Gift We Can Ever Receive

Dr. Scott Hahn reveals what scholars know about the shepherds, the mysterious Magi, and King Herod. Your Advent journey will take on new meaning. This illuminating presentation is sure to help you grow in appreciation of the greatest gift ever given to mankind — Jesus Christ.

LISTEN ON
FORMED.ORG

POWERED BY THE AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE

Our parish subscribes to a revolutionary online platform which provides the best in Catholic audio talks, movies, e-books, and video-based studies. It is, **free of charge**. Simply type in abvmcentereach.formed.org on your browser. Once you have registered you'll have access to all the material on FORMED, again **free of charge**.

One Family In Mission

Stewardship Reflection

Reflecting on our recently completed Stewardship Appeal, it is clear to see that [insert parish name] is truly blessed. We are working together to create and sustain a community of belonging, where each individual's dignity and self-respect is strengthened by the solidarity of our shared faith, the respect and affection we have for one another, and our mutual dedication to our God-given mission.

With God's help we will continue to grow in discipleship. The willingness of our members to enter into sacrificial giving of time, talent, and treasure in response to our Stewardship Appeal speaks of our continuing gratitude for God's gifts.

May God continue to bless us as we share in His work

Stewardship Appeal Update

As our Stewardship Appeal draws to a close, 240 households have increased their offertory contribution. Assumption parish family is truly blessed with generous stewards. Thank you.

If you have not already done so, please return the Special Response form to indicate your new level of giving, and return to your regular envelope packet for succeeding weeks. If you are interested in receiving information on our Electronic Giving Program, please see below or contact the parish office.



Please prayerfully consider supporting our parish with electronic donations through *Faith Direct*. You are helping our church be more efficient, and have a steady, predictable cash flow to support the works that are important to you, throughout the year. Signing up is easy! Visit faith.direct/NY563 or download the **Faith Direct app** from ios or Android app store and search for the parish with the parish code (NY563). Thank you for your continued support of our parish family!

Outreach Needs for the Holidays

Pantry Needs: Boxed milk, canned sweet potatoes, coffee, tea, cake mix and icing, liquid hand soap, shampoo, dishwashing liquid and paper towels.

Gift Cards for Christmas: With Christmas just around the corner, we're getting ready to prepare Christmas baskets for our Outreach clients. Gift cards to local stores such as Walmart and Target are very helpful in providing those in need with the ability to purchase gifts for their children. In addition, the cards can also be used to provide a great Christmas dinner for our clients by allowing them the dignity to choose their favorite holiday foods.





CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

INDIVIDUAL CONFESSIONS

Saturday, December 21st - 4:00 - 5:00 pm

CHRISTMAS MASSES CHRISTMAS EVE

Tuesday, December 24

3:30 pm, 5:30 pm and Midnight

CHRISTMAS DAY

Wednesday, December 25

9:30 am, 11:30 am

SOLEMNITY OF MARY

Wednesday, January 1st

9:30 am, 11:30 am

ADO REMUS

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

WITH CONTEMPORARY AND TRADITIONAL MUSIC

Friday, December 20, 2019

7:30 - 8:30 PM

EVERY THIRD FRIDAY OF THE MONTH

PRAISE AND WORSHIP

SILENT ADORATION * BENEDICTION