



ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

July 20, 2025

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



Mass Intentions for the week

Sunday, July 20

9:30 a.m.— Maria & Inacio DeSousa (Alves Family)
Ray Ann McGill (Diane Melfi & Family)
11:30 a.m.— Dorothy Schneider
Arthur Santiago (Ed & Tita Uy)

Monday, July 21

9:00 a.m.— People of the Parish

Tuesday, July 22

9:00 a.m.— Jack Hayes (Linda & Steve Loverde)

Wednesday, July 23

9:00 a.m.— Louise Tandy (Pat Rivers)

Thursday, July 24

9:00 a.m.— Kevin Rivers (Pat Rivers)

Saturday, July 26

5:30 p.m.—

Sunday, July 27

9:30 a.m.— Peter & Marjorie Gochan (Gochan Family)
Harold Halpin (Marie Renahan)
11:30 a.m.— Catherine Holbrook Scheer (Elizabeth Paroly)
Joseph Pacula (Eileen Dorrian & Timothy Meyers)

We celebrate **EUCCHARIST**

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 each month 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.

Rest
in
Peace



Thomas Joseph Ross

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart,
and do not lean on your own understanding.
In all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will make straight your paths."

Proverbs 3:5-6

STEWARDSHIP

GIVING to our parish as an act of worship

Parish Sacrificial Giving Summary

Last Week's Collection: \$9,272
(includes *Faith Direct*)

Last Year's Collection: \$8,188

Thank You!



July 20, 2025

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Gn 18:1-10a | Col 1:24-28 | Lk 10:38-42

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

Are you a Martha or a Mary? How many times have we been presented with that question when we hear today's Gospel reading? At first ask, similar to many people, I would answer that I'm easily a Martha. I'm a perfectionist in many areas of my life, especially when it comes to my work or when I host dinner for friends and family. In those moments, I put a lot of pressure on myself to be the best I can be, to do the job well, and demonstrate the utmost hospitality. But as with Martha, too much focus on being "perfect" can cause worry and anxiety. But this year, hearing the story again, I realized something: There *are* times when I'm able to put those worries and anxieties aside and sit at the feet of Jesus just like Mary did, and I want to make that happen more often.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Although it has been several weeks since we celebrated the Sacred Triduum and we are back in Ordinary Time, the realization that I can be more like Mary than Martha has stayed with me. During the Triduum, we are asked by the Church to maintain a time of prayer, reverence, and, particularly on Holy Saturday, silence, as we reflect on Christ's death. This has always been the one time a year when I am able to find my "inner Mary" and sit at the feet of Christ. I thought the only way to do that was to completely shut myself off from everything, but that is not how God wants to be present in our lives. He wants to be with us always and seeks us where we are. With that realization, I learned that I can sit at his feet during my times of work or bustling as well. It can be as simple as listening to prayers on an app or praise and worship music while cooking dinner, or saying a prayer before I sit down to complete the next task at work and asking Jesus to be with me. This is a start to being more like Mary even during my busy periods. And by finding my inner "Mary," I find Jesus. So can you.

PRAY

Read through the Gospel again. Don't assume you have to stay stuck in the rhythm of being "Martha" when you know you long for a closer relationship with Jesus. Life is full of busyness and seemingly endless tasks, but being perfect will not bring calm. But inviting Jesus into those busy moments will. And when you do, Jesus will calm any anxieties you may have because you have "chosen the better part and it will not be taken from [you]."



ASSUMPTION ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

SATURDAY, AUGUST 23, 2025 11:30AM - 3:30 PM

- A large tent, tables and chairs will be provided for guests.
- Families to enjoy a petting zoo, face painting, games, bingo, raffle ticket and prizes are all included in your ticket price.

On **Saturday, August 23, 2025**, our parish family will celebrate its 70th Anniversary. The rain date will be Sunday, August 24, 2025. We hope you'll be able to join in the festivities. A great day of celebration has been planned, beginning with the celebration of the Eucharist at 10:00 a.m., followed by food and beverages, entertainment, games and fellowship on our church property. The celebration will be from 11:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Please note that no alcoholic beverages will be permitted.

The cost of the event will be \$15/person not to exceed \$40/household. A household includes two adults and two children (ages 3-12yrs old) living with them. Additional "guests" will be charged \$15/guest. To keep the price accessible to all, we've been seeking business and family sponsors to subsidize the event. We hope you'll be able to join us.

Since we must pre-order food/beverages, we must sell tickets in advance and will not be able to take "walk ins" on the day of the event. Therefore, if you wish to join in the fun, make sure you place **your reservation before July 25th** by filling out the form and sending it with your check, payable to Assumption Church. Please see the Ticket reservation form below

70th Anniversary Celebration Ticket Reservation Form

Household/Family Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Town/Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Number of adults attending _____

Number of children attending (ages 3 to 12) _____

Number of children under three are free _____

You may mail, drop it in the collection basket at Weekend Masses or bring it to the parish office during regular business hours. Please **mark "Registration Committee" on the envelope.**



Faith Tuesdays

Summer Ministry

July 8th, 15th, 29th, Aug 12th, 19th - 6:30pm - 7:30pm

Bible Buddy Tuesdays (2nd grade and younger) adopt a pet and learn stories in our Gardens of Grace series.

Bible Lego Tuesdays (3rd grade and older) enhance the Gardens of Grace series stories thru use of Legos.

Come learn about God's love and grace with our Gardens of Grace series. Each week we will walk through one of five special gardens written about in Scripture, each telling a part of God's wonderful message—from creation to redemption to eternity.



bereavement support

St. Joseph RC Church
45 Church Street
Ronkonkoma, NY 11779
631-588-8456
michele@stjoronk.org
Starting September 9th

We are starting a bereavement group for the recently bereaved or those who are still struggling with an unresolved loss. We will begin a nine-week-day program on Tuesdays, September 9th, and will end on November 4th. Meeting @ 2 pm in Carew Hall (lower level of the Church)

If you are struggling and do not feel you have made much progress, please consider joining the support group. The group will focus on helping you understand the grief process and your own individual reaction to loss. By learning coping strategies, you will be able to manage your grief better, and begin the critical process of adjusting to living in a world without the deceased. The group is not therapy but simply a discussion group where you will meet other people who have also suffered a loss. Through sharing of life experiences, you can learn from one another which will help in your grief journey.

Space is limited, so if you are interested in joining, please call Michele Nappi, Director of New Evangelization at 631 588-8456 or email michele@stjoronk.org ASAP.

You will be mailed a registration form. Please complete the form and return it to Michele by August 31st. Once we receive your registration form your seat is reserved. The only cost to you is a one-time registration fee of \$25 for which you will receive the book that will be used in the group.

If you know of anyone else who may benefit from such a group, please pass along this information.

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: Kleenex, Conditioner, Jell-O Mix, Coffee, Hot Chocolate, Fruit Juice, Shelf Stable Milk, Instant Potatoes, Snacks, Baked Beans, Canned Tomatoes, Canned Chili, Canned Carrots, Jelly, Canned Cat Food



Small Groups

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. Talk to someone at the Welcome Desk; email us at rectory@abvmcentereach.com or call 631-585-8760 and leave a message for Nick Gigante or Dan Callahan or Andres & Sandra (Spanish).

Testimony: "Joining a small group has been one of the most remarkable positive differences in my life"

Assumption Prayer Team

We pray for every request in the prayer Petition Books, from Adoremus and on our prayer wall on our website and those given to us in person. Prayer Petition Books are in the back of the church. When others pray for you, it can be very powerful and effective.

"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



Prayer Wall

On our parish website, you will find a button labeled "Prayer Wall." This is a space where you can submit your prayer intentions publicly or anonymously, and our Prayer Team will pray for them. As a parish family, we support each other through prayer. By sharing your prayer intentions, you allow many people to join in prayer for you. We invite you to fill out the information on the webpage along with your pray-

er request, so we can pray together as a parish family.



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!



Sunday, Jul 20, 2025

Sit for a spell

As essentially Christian and counter-intuitive as “love your enemies may be,” Jesus’ defending Mary’s “laziness” over her hard-working sister Martha seems even more outrageous and unfair! If Americans love and believe in anything, it is hard work. It’s what gives us identity. We define ourselves as a farmer, an attorney, a salesperson, and so on. So how can Jesus tell poor Martha, who could use a little help in the kitchen, that her sister has chosen the “better part”? Well, it’s a matter of priority. We can imagine Jesus saying, “Martha, I came to visit you, not your cuisine. I know you show love by your hard work, but you mean so much more to me than what you do. Come sit here with me.”

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Genesis 18:1-10a; Colossians 1:24-28; Luke 10:38-42 (108).

“Martha, Martha, you are anxious and worried about many things. There is need of only one thing.”

Monday, Jul 21, 2025

Begin a conversation with scripture

Sacred scripture is the living word of God, and the ancient monastic practice of *lectio divina* (Latin for “divine reading”) is a contemplative way of “conversing” with it. By narrowing in on certain passages, reading them slowly and repeatedly, noticing what stirs you, and reflecting prayerfully on it, you can grow closer in personal relationship with God. *Open Heart, Open Mind* by Trappist monk Father Thomas Keating, O.C.S.O. is a modern classic on the topic. Keating says the intention of the practice is nothing less than union with God. “When the presence of God emerges from our inmost being into our faculties, whether we walk down the street or drink a cup of soup, divine life is pouring into the world.” That’s a worthy life goal to set for ourselves.

Exodus 14:5-18; Matthew 12:38-42 (395). *“There is something greater than Solomon here.”*

Tuesday, Jul 22, 2025

Recommit to friendship

We seem to be coming closer to understanding Mary Magdalene as she was, not the reformed sinner (a role mistakenly ascribed to her first not in scripture but by Pope Gregory I in 591) but, as the Mass prayers and readings for her feast day remind us, the beloved friend of Jesus, the first witness of his Resurrection, and his first missionary. All the prayers in the Mass in her honor praise her memory as a close friend of Jesus, much like the Beloved Disciple in John’s gospel. Saint Thérèse of Lisieux says it is Magdalene’s “loving audacity that charms the Heart of Jesus.” We can celebrate Mary Magdalene by recommitting ourselves to our own audacious love for Jesus and our treasured friends.

FEAST OF MARY MAGDALENE

Song of Songs 3:1-4b; John 20:1-2, 11-18 (603). *“Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, ‘I have seen the Lord.’”*

Wednesday, Jul 23, 2025

Stories for the ages

Good preachers know that if they tell a story as part of a sermon, their listeners are more likely to remember the message. Such preachers take their lead from the master storyteller. Jesus used stories to help people understand what really matters in the divine life. Indeed, says 20th-century Catholic historian Father Edmund Campion, Catholics are born storytellers “who get their identity through their histories, which they see as salvation history linking

them to the saving actions of Christ.” What stories from your life link back to Christ? Think about how your actions will contribute to salvation history.

Exodus 16:1-5, 9-15; Matthew 13:1-9 (397). *“But some seed fell on rich soil, and produced fruit.”*

Thursday, Jul 24, 2025

Shake it up

The routine nature of daily life can cause our hearts to grow dull. And when we’re feeling dull, it’s hard to hear what God has to tell us. Yet it doesn’t take much to shake things up and get a new perspective. Just break out of a routine and do something different—take a new route to work, rearrange your furniture, clean out a junk drawer, or call an old friend you’ve been thinking about. God often talks to us in moments of surprise. “Whenever our interior life becomes caught up in its own interests and concerns, there is no longer room for others, no place for the poor,” says Pope Francis in *Evangelii Gaudium*. “Many fall prey to it, and end up resentful, angry, and listless. That is no way to live a dignified and fulfilled life; it is not God’s will for us, nor is it the life in the Spirit which has its source in the heart of the risen Christ.” So get out of your rut and you might even get a fresh message from God.

Exodus 19:1-2, 9-11, 16-20b; Matthew 13:10-17 (398). *“Gross is the heart of this people, they will hardly hear with their ears.”*

Friday, Jul 25, 2025

Forward and upward

Legend has it that Saint James was preaching the gospel in Spain when the Virgin Mary appeared to him and called him back to Judea, where he was beheaded by King Agrippa. His remains were then taken up and brought back to Spain, where they were buried at Compostela. A shrine to James was established there in the ninth century, and the Camino (Way) of Saint James to the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela became one of the most important pilgrimages in the world next to Jerusalem and Rome. In medieval times pilgrims along the Camino would say in a call and response to one another, “*Ultreia et suseia*,” meaning “forward and upward” as a show of strength and encouragement to continue the journey. Draw on the strength and hope of centuries of Christian pilgrims to continue your journey of faith.

FEAST OF JAMES, APOSTLE

2 Corinthians 4:7-15; Matthew 20:20-28 (605). *“The Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve.”*

Saturday, Jul 26, 2025

Pass it on

We know nothing for certain about the parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary, but it doesn’t matter. In the same way that we know God through his Son Jesus, we can know Anne and Joachim through their daughter Mary. It was through these two that Mary learned about prayer and work, family and community. It was Anne and Joachim who taught their daughter to love and trust God enough to say, “May it be done to me according to your word.” Faith, like the color of our eyes and hair, is passed down from generation to generation. Today may we remember that our words and actions will continue to reverberate for generations to come. Let us speak and act accordingly.

MEMORIAL OF JOACHIM AND ANNE, PARENTS OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Exodus 24:3-8; Matthew 13:24-30 (400). *“All that the LORD has said, we will heed and do.”*

Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time



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