



ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

August 24, 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

**Sunday, August 24**

9:30 a.m.— Peter & Marjorie Gochan (Gochan Family)

Maria & Inacio DeSousa (Alves Family)

11:30 a.m. Virginia McGonigle

People of the Parish

Monday, August 25

9:00 a.m.—Lucy Quirk (Josephine Scala)

Tuesday, August 26

9:00 a.m.— Bernard Danna (Valerie Carter)

Wednesday, August 27

9:00 a.m.— Liz Kopsick-Hames (Maryann Valero)

Thursday, August 28

9:00 a.m.— Dawn Hearne (Rose Picariello)

Saturday, August 30

5:30 p.m.—Carol Wilkinson (Fran & Norma)

Sunday, August 31

9:30 a.m.— Jake Scott (Family)

Mary Piarino (Angus & Joan Johnson)

11:30 a.m. — Lucy Quirk (Rosary Altar Society)

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 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



Dennis M. Vasquez

"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: \$10,167

(includes *Faith Direct*)

Last Year's Collection: \$9,974

Thank You!



August 24, 2025

 Written by
 THE
 FAITHFUL
 DISCIPLE

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 66:18-21 | Heb 12:5-7, 11-13 | Lk 13:22-30

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

Have you ever felt as though God is punishing you? Throughout the course of our lives, we experience what might seem like a barrage of hardships. This battering down of our interior and exterior fortresses over time can test our faith and weaken our resolve. If you find yourself in this position, read today's passage from Hebrews again: "Do not disdain the discipline of the Lord," St. Paul reminds us, "for whom the Lord loves, he disciplines." In our human nature, we may find these "disciplines" painful (and rightfully so). But Paul urges us to shift our mindset, recognizing that just as a good father disciplines his children for their greater good, so our heavenly Father does the same for us. Paul goes on to explain that we may consider every trial we endure in this sense, as a loving "discipline" — a sign of the Lord's attention and desire for our sanctity.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Modern society loves the concept of a God who is soft, inviting, sweet, and tender. Of course, our Lord in his goodness and mercy can be described by those adjectives. But today's Gospel reminds us of an equally important characteristic of the Lord: He is the supreme and final judge, and at the final judgment we will be held accountable for our lives. In the end, we will stand before the Lord, and he will put all things in proper order. Will it be glorious, loving, and merciful? Yes. Painful and piercing? Perhaps. Our Lord's love knows no bounds, and he withholds his mercy from no one. It is precisely from this place of perfect love and profound mercy that rightful judgment emerges. May we live a life worthy of welcome when we meet him face to face.

REFLECT

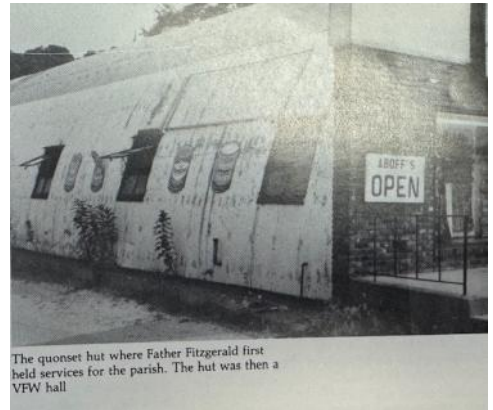
In addition to accepting the discipline that the Lord sends our way, we can engage in voluntary practices to strengthen our spiritual lives. These practices are necessary, as Jesus tells us that many "will not be strong enough" to enter through the narrow gate that leads to life. Our second reading exhorts us to "strengthen [our] drooping hands and [our] weak knees." What spiritual disciplines have you found helpful to foster your growth in holiness? What areas are weak or need strengthening?

70 years of Blessings

In 1955, Archbishop Molloy of Brooklyn proudly appointed Rev. Francis A. Fitzgerald as Centereach's very first pastor, beginning a remarkable journey with just \$400. He rented a cozy bungalow on Wood Road and celebrated his inaugural Sunday Mass on July 10, 1955, at the local Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) hall. What an exciting time it was, as Mass continued there until the beautiful new church was completed in 1958!



We joyfully celebrate the 70th anniversary of our beloved parish, the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary! We honor the countless generations who dedicated their time, talent, and resources to create this wonderful community where we come together to give thanks to God for His abundant blessings. Many of us can think back to our parents or grandparents who helped in various ways to make this parish family a reality. It is inspiring to consider the enthusiasm and pride they must have felt in building this parish for themselves and future generations, and it fills us with hope for all that lies ahead!



I would like to express my gratitude to all our beloved parishioners, both past and present, for their dedication and love for our parish family as we celebrate this significant milestone. We have been blessed for seventy years, and we pray that these blessings continue as we look forward to serving future generations.

Unless the driving force behind a church is biblical, the health and growth of the church will never reach the potential that God intended. The purposes we create on our own will never be as complete as the five that God has divinely established for us. Our programs may be negotiable, but evangelization, worship, fellowship, discipleship, and ministry are not. All of these purposes are found in two key passages in the Gospel of Matthew:

The Great Commandment (Matthew 22:37-40): Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."



The Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20): "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Keeping this purpose at the forefront, we developed our mission statement: "Love God. Serve Others. Grow Disciples." You matter; you belong. May God bless us as we maintain this focus on our journey forward with confidence and hope.—Fr Joe

Thank You!

On Saturday, August 23rd, we joyfully celebrated the 70th Anniversary of our cherished parish! It was truly an uplifting occasion, filled with gratitude for God's blessings on both our past and present generations. This heartwarming event was made possible by the dedication and generosity of countless individuals. I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to our amazing anniversary committee, our kind sponsors, local businesses, and all the enthusiastic volunteers who invested their time

and energy to make this celebration a great success. As we look to the future, may the Lord's blessings continue to enrich our vibrant Catholic community. Here's to many more years of faith, fellowship, and love!



**GROUPS START IN SEPTEMBER
REGISTRATION OPEN**

**Register at the Welcome Desk
or Online at abvmcentereach.com**

Assumption Small Groups is where our large church gets small. Groups are 6-12 people who meet to discuss faith, go deeper in the weekly message, and support one another in their relationship with Christ. We learn in rows, but we grow in circles. Small Groups provide our members the opportunity to meet in a smaller group and grow in their faith. This is the place to care for others and be cared for; a place to impact our community and the world.

Share your Faith with others as they share their Faith with you. Small Groups help us grow. Small Groups are about new life. Join a Small Group and see Jesus change your life! Let this be your call to action. Join a small group, and just watch how much Jesus can change your life! Now is the time! Let's continue our journey of faith together!

Here are some of the testimonies from small group members:

"Small Groups gave me a better understanding of my faith." "I feel like I belong to our Parish again."

"I've made new friends in faith!"

Talk to someone about small groups? Call Nick Gigante or Dan Callahan or Andres & Sandra (Spanish).

Leave a message at **631-585-8760**

Los Grupos Comienzan en Septiembre - INSCRIPCIÓN ABIERTA

Comparte tu fe con otros mientras ellos comparten su fe contigo.

Los Grupos Pequeños nos ayudan a crecer. Los Grupos Pequeños son acerca de una nueva vida. ¡Únete a un Grupo Pequeño y verás cómo Jesús cambia tu vida! Que este sea tu llamado a la acción. Únete a un grupo pequeño y observa cuánto Jesús puede cambiar tu vida. ¡Ahora es el momento! Continuemos juntos nuestro camino de fe.

"Los Grupos Pequeños me dieron una mejor comprensión de mi fe." "Siento que pertenezco nuevamente a nuestra parroquia." "¡He hecho nuevos amigos en la fe!"

Contacto: Andrés y Sandra (en español) Correo electrónico: rectory@abvmcentereach.com



Faith Formation

K to 8th Grade Registration 2025-26 OPEN

Register online at abvmcentereach.com

Registration ends on September 8th



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: Toilet Paper, Razors, Bar Soap, Dishwashing Liquid, Mayonnaise, Salad Dressing, Jell-O Mix, Coffee, Hot Chocolate, Fruit Juice, Rice-A-Roni, Pancake Mix, Syrup, Snacks, Baked Beans, Canned Chili, Canned Tomatoes, Canned Carrots, Canned Peas, Canned Chicken, Jelly.



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 website along with your prayer request, so we can pray together as a parish family.

Bereavement Support

St Joseph's Church

45 Church St., Ronkonkoma, NY 11779

Starting on September 9th and
will end on November 4th

The group is for the recently bereaved or those who are still struggling with an unresolved loss.

We will begin a nine-week-day program in
Carew Hall (lower level of the Church)

Space is limited, so if you are interested in joining,
please call Michele Nappi, at 631-588-8456 or
email michele@stjorok.org as soon as possible.

There is a one time registration fee of \$25.00



*It's time to do something different ...
Do something life changing...
Live your best life in love!*

Attend an upcoming WWME experience!

Sept. 19-21, 2025

Friday evening—Sunday afternoon

**The Seminary of the Immaculate Conception
Huntington, NY**

APPLY by
Aug. 29, 2025

Scan QR to apply
Additional info or help with
application??
Call: 646-642-7463
Visit: www.wwme.org
Email: jimmy.bernice.acevedo@wwme.org



Worldwide Marriage Encounter

The Worldwide Marriage Encounter experience
is a heart haven that helps you listen, share, and connect more deeply.
There's no group discussion.

It's just about the two of you learning to be the best, most loving and thriving couple you can be.

Living your best life in love



FAITH DIRECT®
inspiring secure giving®

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, Aug 24, 2025**The only way to make an impression on God**

A teacher asked his class for examples of words that describe the current crop of college students. He expected to hear “highly educated” or “sophisticated” but was surprised at the honesty of a young woman who responded “entitlement. We think everything is owed to us.” An overstatement, yet such an attitude can often be attached to a particular social class, race, gender, ethnicity, or nationality. But scripture makes it clear that simply being a member of a chosen race or having rank upon rank of wealthy, noble, or accomplished ancestors makes no impression on God. Only one thing does: goodness.

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Isaiah 66:18-21; Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13; Luke 13:22-30 (123).

“They shall proclaim my glory among the nations.”

Monday, Aug 25, 2025**Of icons and idols**

The First Council of Nicaea, convened on this day in 325, condemned the Arian heresy and affirmed both the divinity of Christ and the Trinitarian nature of God through the Nicene Creed. Four centuries later, the Second Council of Nicaea addressed the Iconoclastic Controversy, condemning the destruction of religious images. The council affirmed the legitimacy of displaying and venerating icons as a way to connect with Christ and the saints, while carefully distinguishing between *veneration*, which honors the person represented, and *worship*, which belongs to God alone. These ancient debates—about who God is and how we approach the divine—echo throughout salvation history. Idolatry, the act of placing anything above God, remains a constant temptation. Consider using religious art as you take time to examine your own life. What false idols might stand between you and God?

1 Thessalonians 1:1-5, 8b-10; Matthew 23:13-22 (425). *“Blind fools, which is greater, the gold, or the temple that made the gold sacred?”*

Tuesday, Aug 26, 2025**Duty to imitate**

To share the gospel is to share a part of yourself. Your life experience brings the word of God to life. We are the living word—witnesses to the gospel in our everyday actions. When you share yourself with others through acts of love, the gospel becomes more real—not only for those you encounter, but for you as well. As Saint Augustine reminds us: “It is the highest duty of religion to imitate Him whom you adore.”

1 Thessalonians 2:1-8; Matthew 23:23-26 (426). *“We were determined to share with you not only the Gospel of God, but our very selves as well.”*

Wednesday, Aug 27, 2025**In her own words**

In the early centuries of the church, women’s importance was often tied to the social standing of the men in their lives, and their stories were told through a male voice. Saint Monica’s story comes to us through the writings of her son, Saint Augustine of Hippo. He described Monica as a model of womanly virtue: hard working, persevering, submissive, and holy. Yet we know nothing about Monica in her own words. We do not even know if she could write. Monica, like many women, past and present, lacked the social power to speak for themselves. Perhaps today we can

entrust to her saintly patronage all the people who struggle to find—or to be heard in—their own voice.

MEMORIAL OF MONICA

1 Thessalonians 2:9-13; Matthew 23:27-32 (427). *“You received it not as the word of men, but as it truly is, the word of God.”*

Thursday, Aug 28, 2025**Be inspired by a good book**

Looking for a good book? Try Augustine’s *Confessions*, a classic of literature by one of the greatest thinkers of all time. Augustine’s account of his search for God contains all the elements of a great adventure story: exotic locations, decadence and dissolution, complicated maternal relationship, philosophical and theological struggles, despair and confusion, and finally a profound religious experience: “No further would I read; nor needed I: for instantly at the end of this sentence, by a light as it were of serenity infused into my heart, all the darkness of doubt vanished away.” Augustine’s search for the only source of true peace is our search, too. “You have made us for yourself, O Lord,” he wrote, “and our hearts are restless until they rest in you.”

MEMORIAL OF AUGUSTINE, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

1 Thessalonians 3:7-13; Matthew 24:42-51 (428). *“May the Lord make you increase and abound in love.”*

Friday, Aug 29, 2025**Sin doesn’t get the last word**

We tend to divide up people into good guys and bad guys. Yet the truth about any given person defies those categories. Just think if you were to be permanently judged and labeled based on a particularly bad day when all your weak points showed up like yellow dandelions on a green lawn. Take Herod for instance, one of the villains of the gospel stories. Despite his bad behavior, Mark presents him as having a heart with at least a reasonable potential for goodness. As *Just Mercy* author Bryan Stevenson says, “Each of us is more than the worst thing we’ve ever done.” And our Christian faith teaches that everyone is worthy of our compassion. Indeed, as Jesus said in one of Saint Faustina’s visions: “The greater the sinner, the greater the right he has to my mercy.”

MEMORIAL OF THE PASSION OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

1 Thessalonians 4:1-8; Mark 6:17-29 (429/634). *“God did not call us to impurity but to holiness.”*

Saturday, Aug 30, 2025**A prayer that speaks to all**

Saturdays are not only the traditional day to honor the Blessed Virgin Mary but also the day of the week to pray the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary, the preeminent “Marian” prayer. In prayerfully meditating on the events of the Annunciation of Gabriel to Mary, the Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth, the Birth of Jesus, the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple, and the Finding of Jesus in the Temple, we “weave our intentions, thoughts, imagination, emotions, and desire for union with Christ,” says Alice Camille in her award-winning article for VISION Vocation Network, *“Full of grace: Reclaiming the Rosary.”* The Rosary is a prayer that speaks to everyone as the church but also to each person as an individual. What is it saying to you today?

MEMORIAL OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

1 Thessalonians 4:9-11; Matthew 25:14-30 (430). *“Well done, my good and faithful servant.”*

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



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