



ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

December 14, 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, December 14

9:30 a.m.— Maria & Inacio DeSousa (Alves Family)
Oscar Lopez (Anna Lopez)
11:30 a.m. — Halina & Marian Wos (Terese & Bogdan)
People of the Parish

Monday, December 15

9:00 a.m.—Emperatriz Abellana Cariaso (Gochan Family)

Tuesday, December 16

9:00 a.m.— Rita Ohsiek (S. Bowler)

Wednesday, December 17

9:00 a.m.— Dr. David Silverhartz (S. Bowler)

Thursday, December 18

9:00 a.m.— Fr. Stephen Walsh (S. Bowler)
Judy Richter (Michele & Jerry Randall)

Saturday, December 20

5:30 p.m.— Arnie Hoffman (wife)
Michael Kennedy (Kennedy Family)

Sunday, December 21

9:30 a.m.— Kristie Cleary (Irene Zabbara)
Molly Drew & Timothy F. Connolly
(Connolly/Licari Family)
11:30 a.m. — Alfred & Tillie Plansker (Family)
Alberto Z. Sevilla (Harry & Luz Gaviola)

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.



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.



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: \$10,859
(includes Faith Direct)

Last Year's Collection: \$6,306

Thank You!

Rest
in
Peace



Deceased Brothers & Sisters of Our Parish



“Lord,
come and
save us.”

(Ps 146)

Getty Images/D-Kuhner

December 14, 2025

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Third Sunday of Advent

Is 35:1-6a, 10 | Jas 5:7-10 | Mt 11:2-11

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

One morning, I woke up feeling exhausted after a fitful night of sleep. I was achy and generally under the weather. Despite this, I made a to-do list because the day's work still needed to be accomplished. I was determined to not let this sickness interrupt my productivity, even though I *knew* I needed to rest. It occurred to me, then, that rest — and dependence on others and God — is sacred also. In today's psalm, we hear of the many ways the Lord provides: The *Lord* gives, the *Lord* raises, the *Lord* loves, the *Lord* protects, the *Lord* saves. We cannot accomplish our own salvation, but we can rest in the promise the Lord provides, and we can hope in the salvation offered in Christ. As we wait in joyful anticipation for the coming of Jesus at Christmas, let us find time to rest in his Word and his presence, trusting that our salvation does not depend on us and has already come to fruition in Christ.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

As we saw in our psalm, God is the one who takes initiative, who provides for our salvation. In our work to share the faith with others, sometimes our task is simply to help others become aware of the ways God is providing for them by pointing out the signs of his action in their lives. When the disciples of John came to Jesus asking if he was “the one who is to come” or whether they should “look for another,” Jesus reminds them of the evidence all around them: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, and the dead are raised. As we help others to see God's work in their lives, we are also leading them to greater faith and trust in him.

REST

We are more able to see the signs of God's providence in our lives when we take time to reflect. Make time to rest in God's presence this week. This could mean stopping into a chapel for a couple minutes of quiet prayer, reflecting on Scripture using *Lectio Divina*, or reading the story of Christ's nativity in the Gospel. These simple practices will prepare our hearts to recognize Christ's presence and goodness at each moment of our lives.



WEEK TWO – Inner Peace Scripture: Matthew 11:2-11

In the Gospel, John the Baptist sends his disciples to Jesus to ask if he is truly the Messiah. John had spent his life preparing the way for Jesus but now that he is in prison, he is agitated and lacks peace. He wonders if his work had been in vain. Jesus points to all the signs that he is the Messiah by the work he is doing. When we lack peace in our hearts we can turn to Jesus and see the good works he does and invite him to do the same for us.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. On a scale of 1-5, what is the level of peace in your soul right now? Why do you answer as you do?
2. What circumstances have the most significant capacity to disturb your peace?
3. What is a time that God spoke to you through your conscience and disturbed your peace for your good?
4. When have you had internal peace even when circumstances were out of control?
What gave you that sense of calm?
5. Read aloud Philippians 4:6-7. What requests do you have for God? What can you thank him for in advance?



Pushpay®

In today's digital age, it's essential to embrace technology that supports our mission of Christ while enhancing our operations, engagement, and offertory. We are excited to introduce Pushpay as our new platform for online dona-

tions and financial transactions. This transition is a significant step forward and will help us save resources as well!

We encourage you to prayerfully consider supporting our parish through electronic donations via Pushpay. Signing up is easy and takes only a couple of minutes. If you are transitioning from Faith Direct, you should have already received emails from Pushpay. Please make this transition as soon as possible. If you need assistance, feel free to con-





With one accord they continued
to gather together. Acts 2:46

Register at the Welcome Desk
or online at www.abvmcentereach.com

'We learn in rows, but grow in circles.'

Christmas at Assumption

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church
Crown Acres Rd. Centereach

Christmas Eve:

3:30 PM, 5:30 PM & 10:00 PM

There is NO midnight Mass

Christmas Carols begin 30 minutes before Christmas Eve Masses

Christmas Day:

9:30 AM & 11:30 AM



You are Invited!

Assumption Prayer Team

We pray for every request in the prayer Petition Books, from Adoremus 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

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COME JOIN US TO EMBRACE THE
**HISPANIC
COMMUNITY**

Come enjoy free food and connect with others
December 14th After 11:30am Mass
Assumption of The Blessed Virgin Mary Roman Catholic
Church
33 Crown Acres Rd, Centereach, NY 11720

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VEN CON NOSOTROS Y
ABRAZEMOS A NUESTRA
**COMUNIDAD
HISPANA**

¡Disfruta comida gratis mientras compartimos juntos!
Diciembre 14th despues de la Misa de 11:30am
Assumption of The Blessed Virgin Mary Roman Catholic
Church
33 Crown Acres Rd, Centereach, NY 11720

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, Toilet Paper, Conditioner, Deodorant, Dish-washing Liquid, Household Cleaner, Coffee, Tea, Fruit Juice, Pancake Mix, Syrup, Snacks, Canned Chili, Canned Tomatoes, Canned Pasta, Canned Chicken. Thank You!



With Christmas just around the corner, the Assumption Parish Social Ministry is getting ready to prepare Christmas baskets for our neighbors in need. Gift cards in the amount of \$25 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. We are also happy to accept non-perishable food items as well as supermarket gift cards. You can place gift cards in the collection basket at Mass or drop them off at the Parish Office. Food items can be placed in the collection bin by the main entrance to Church or they can be dropped off at the Parish

Office. Thank you for making this a happy Christmas for families in need!

ADOREMUS

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Friday, December 19, 2025 - 7:30 - 8:30 PM

in the church & LIVE Streaming

PRAISE AND WORSHIP * SILENT ADORATION * BENEDICTION

SPROUTS

Children's Liturgy of the Word

**Children's Ministry for ages
FOUR to FIFTH Grade on
Sundays during 9:30 AM Mass**

VISION CAFE

COFFEE CONVERSATION COMMUNITY

in the Parish Center Hall

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

Sunday, Dec 14, 2025**Examine the evidence**

When John the Baptist sends his disciples to Jesus to ask if he is the Messiah, Jesus doesn't give them a direct answer but suggests they look at what they see and evaluate for themselves: The blind see, the lame walk, the deaf hear, and the dead are raised. If someone as close to Jesus as John had to ask, we can forgive ourselves if at times we wonder about Jesus' saving power in our own lives. Like the disciples of John, we're challenged to figure out for ourselves by examining the evidence—in scripture, in prayer, and in our lives and the lives of loved ones. Jesus doesn't force himself on us; he trusts we have the smarts to see for ourselves.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11 (7). *"Go and tell John what you hear and see."*

Monday, Dec 15, 2025**A vision of hope**

Children and prophets see things others don't. The prophet Balaam saw beyond the injustice of his own generation to a time when the nation would be led by a great king who would arise in Israel. We too are called to see with that same prophetic clarity—the clear-eyed wonder of a child who perceives hope where others see only hardship. Consider the hope that comes with a little baby born in a manger as Saint Alphonsus describes it: "Mary invites all, rich and poor, just and sinners, to enter the cave of Bethlehem, to adore and to kiss the feet of her newborn Son. Go in, then, all ye devout souls; go and see the Creator of heaven and earth on a little hay, under the form of a little Infant; but so beautiful that he sheds all around rays of light. Now that he is born and is lying on the straw, the cave is no longer horrible, but is become a paradise."

ADVENT WEEKDAY

Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17a; Matthew 21:23-27 (187). *"I see him, though not now; I behold him, though not near."*

Tuesday, Dec 16, 2025**Permission to enter**

Today begins the traditional Mexican festival of Las Posadas, a commemoration of Mary and Joseph's journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem. Customarily neighbors gather together in a procession led by a child in angel's garb and statues of the Holy Family. Together they seek out shelter at three local houses, only to be accepted at the last, where the family hosts a celebration. Seeking to share the path of the Holy Family places one in the vulnerable position of begging entrance into another's home. Remember that vulnerability when you seek to enter the shelter of God's kingdom. For quick reference, think of Saint Augustine's answer to the question of the most essential elements of Christ's teaching: "The first is humility, the second is humility, and the third is humility."

ADVENT WEEKDAY; LAS POSADAS BEGINS

Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13; Matthew 21:28-32 (188). *"Jesus said to them, 'Amen, I say to you, tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the Kingdom of God before you.'"*

Wednesday, Dec 17, 2025**Give me an O!**

These days before Christmas are a time of final preparation for the celebration of Jesus' birth. To mark this time the church prays the "O Antiphons." An antiphon, from the Greek word for "responsively," is a short prayer after psalms or biblical songs. They come up in the Liturgy of the Hours, but you also pray a kind of antiphon every Sunday: the psalm response between the first and

second readings. We add the O Antiphons—so called because they all begin with "O"—to evening prayer to make this time before Christmas special. Drawn from Hebrew scripture, each of them helps us to understand Jesus. Time to get to know your Os.

ADVENT WEEKDAY (O WISDOM)

Genesis 49:2, 8-10; Matthew 1:1-17 (193). *"O Wisdom of our God Most High, guiding creation with power and love; come to teach us the path of knowledge!"*

Thursday, Dec 18, 2025**Power to the people**

The word *righteousness* may sound a little quaint these days, but the concept behind the word is central to an understanding of what God asks of us. The Hebrew word it corresponds to appears more than 500 times in the Old Testament, and the Greek word it corresponds to more than 200 times in the New Testament. Righteousness is chiefly concerned with ethical conduct: It implies faithfully keeping promises, treating people justly, and adhering to a high moral code. With justice of righteousness, "faith, hope, and charity are poured into our hearts," says the Catechism of the Catholic Church, "and obedience to the divine will is granted us." We have the power to be obedient to God's will; why not use it?

ADVENT WEEKDAY (O SACRED LORD)

Jeremiah 23:5-8; Matthew 1:18-25 (194). *"O Leader of the House of Israel, giver of the Law to Moses on Sinai: come to rescue us with your mighty power!"*

Friday, Dec 19, 2025**Where to find true royalty**

When it came time for the prophet Samuel to anoint a new king to replace Saul, God instructed Samuel to invite Jesse and his many sons to a sacrifice. When Jesse paraded his boys in review before the prophet, God told Samuel that not the oldest, the tallest, nor the most kingly looking were the leader God sought; the next king was to be David, the youngest and lowliest, whom Jesse left tending the flocks and did not even bother to bring along. "The Lord," God says, "does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." If you look past appearances to the hearts of others, you're likely to find true royalty, namely the Prince of Peace.

ADVENT WEEKDAY (O FLOWER OF JESSE'S STEM)

Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a; Luke 1:5-25 (195). *"O Root of Jesse's stem, sign of God's love for all his people: come to save us without delay!"*

Saturday, Dec 20, 2025**What's inside?**

Some years ago, Saint Teresa of Calcutta visited the neonatal intensive care unit of a Boston hospital. As she walked through the doors of the unit, the machines that usually hum and buzz and somehow stopped making noise, and every single baby fell silent. Mother Teresa stopped at each crib, spoke with the nurses and parents, had her picture taken holding a premature infant in the palm of her hand, and left. As the doors closed behind her, the usual cacophony of the unit resumed unabated. The calm that surrounded Mother Teresa was a reflection of the peace in her heart. Advent is a good time to notice our own interior state and how it's reflected in the world around us.

ADVENT WEEKDAY (O KEY OF DAVID)

Isaiah 7:10-14; Luke 1:26-38 (196). *"O Key of David, opening the gates of God's eternal Kingdom: come and free the prisoners of darkness!"*

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



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