



ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

December 21, 2025



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 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)

Monday, December 22

9:00 a.m.—Otto Wolz
People of the Parish

Tuesday, December 23

9:00 a.m.— Ronaldo Onate (Gochan Family)
Eugene O'Connor (Ed Uy & Family)
Michael Canale (Dan, Patty & Family)

Wednesday, December 24

9:00 a.m.— Pedro Camacho (Family)
3:30 p.m.—Christmas Eve
5:30 p.m.—Christmas Eve
10:00 p.m.—Christmas Eve

Thursday, December 25

9:30 a.m.— Christmas Day
11:30 a.m.—Christmas Day

Saturday, December 27

5:30 p.m.— Julia & Felix Bravo (Cecilia Cortes)
Barbara Schalzer (Barbara & Ginny CDA)

Sunday, December 28

9:30 a.m.— Dr. Elisa Valisno, Frank Valisno & Gloria Roque (Aida, Tonypet & Arnold)
Fortunata Musacchia (Josephine Scala & Sal Calamonicì)
11:30 a.m. — Joseph Pacula (Eileen Dorrian & Timothy Meyers)
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.



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.



STEWARDSHIP GIVING to our parish as an act of worship

Parish Sacrificial Giving Summary

Last Week's Collection: \$11,016
(includes Faith Direct)

Last Year's Collection: \$12,341

Thank You!

Rest
in
Peace



Deceased Brothers &
Sisters of Our Parish

December 21, 2025

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Is 7:10-14 | Rom 1:1-7 | Mt 1:18-24

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

Throughout my life, I have had a litany of requests for God. I have asked for mundane and ultimately inconsequential favors and also for guidance in much more important matters. But I have often hesitated to ask for the deepest desires of my heart. Those requests feel too big, too impossible, and possibly too selfish — as though asking these things would take away from God's ability to provide for others. But in thinking this way, I am putting limits on a limitless God. In today's first reading, the Lord speaks to Ahaz and tells him to ask for a sign — "let it be deep as the netherworld, or high as the sky!" When Ahaz refuses, God speaks through the prophet Isaiah to deliver the most impossible promise — that "the virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel." God wants to give us everything we need to be close to him, so much so that he sent his Son to open the pathway to eternal life with him. God *wants* us to ask for him to do the impossible because he longs to give generously to us.

GO EVANGELIZE**PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT**

God brings about his plan of salvation in an extraordinary way: The virgin Mary conceives Jesus in her womb through the power of the Holy Spirit. Although God does all the spiritual heavy lifting here, notice that our Gospel tells us that he also desired and asked for Joseph's cooperation. "Do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home," the angel tells Joseph. The Gospel tells us that Joseph "did as the angel of the Lord commanded him." In our work of evangelization, God does the heavy lifting: it's God who moves the hearts of others to seek him. But the amazing thing is that God still wants us to be part of the way his plan unfolds. We, too, cooperate with God's work of sharing the faith and bringing salvation to others by our actions and obedience.

PRAY

As we begin this final week of Advent, the Church continues to pray with the O Antiphons, which we hear in the hymn, "O Come, O Come Emmanuel." Listen to the refrain, which speaks of Israel's immense longing to be set free and for her savior to appear. As you reflect on the first reading and upon this hymn, bring your own deepest desires to the Lord. Spend some time in prayer asking for what you need to draw closer to God.



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WEEK FOUR – Do You Feel God is Approachable?: Matthew 1:18-24

We can have peace in our lives because God is with us in the person of Jesus Christ, who has saved us from our sins. God is always offering us his peace and extending his peace. His greatest peace offering was sending his Son into the world to save us from our sins. In this message we will look at how accepting the presence and plan of God brings peace into our lives.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think Joseph was going to divorce Mary?
2. What keeps you from having peace with God?
3. Why do our sins get in the way of having peace with God?
4. Jesus is Emmanuel, God with us. How does God's presence bring peace, especially when we recognize he has come to us?
5. Who can you invite to Christmas Eve Mass so they will have peace with God?



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-



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!



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.'



We have spent the last four weeks reflecting on the concept of "Missing Peace" and exploring how we can attain the peace that God offers us. This peace is not merely the absence of conflicts or problems; it is a deep and abiding peace that nothing and no one can take away. May the peace of the Lord be with you.

Simply ask the Lord to be your light and to guide your way. Whatever challenges you may be facing, ask Jesus to illuminate your next steps. This world can often seem dark, and that darkness can overwhelm our minds and hearts. God's invitation to us this Christmas is to step out of that darkness and walk in His light. He calls us to follow His ways, embracing His peace and truth.

Always remember, peace is not the absence of troubles and problems; it is the presence of God. And that is what Christmas is all about. Have a Merry and Blessed Christmas! -Fr Joe

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!



ASSUMPTION FAITH FORMATION

CLASSES RESUME ON

TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2026

after Christmas and New Year Recess



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

SPROUTS

Children's Ministry for
ages four to fifth grade on
Sundays during 9:30 AM Mass

IS ON BREAK AND WE WILL BE BACK ON SUNDAY JANUARY 11TH

VISION

CAFE

COFFEE CONVERSATION COMMUNITY

After
9:30 AM & 11:30 AM
Masses

in the Parish Center Hall

Cafe will be closed on December 28th and January 4th

Sunday, Dec 21, 2025

Oh, what a beautiful morning!

Today we name the Messiah “O Radiant Dawn, Sun of Justice, Splendor of Eternal Light!” Anyone whose morning commute includes a sunrise or who has risen early to watch the sun come up knows why primitive peoples and even our oh-so-sophisticated selves find godliness in a sunrise. At the Easter Vigil we sang “May the Morning Star which never sets find this flame still burning!” While Christmas lights have been shining for weeks, today we can think of them explicitly as a reminder of God’s gift of Light to the waiting world. We remember poet Gerard Manley Hopkins’ wonderful “Oh!” at the sight of “God’s grandeur” and this great renewal: “Oh, morning, at the brown brink eastward, springs / Because the Holy Ghost over the bent / World broods with warm breast and with ah! bright wings.”

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (O RADIANT DAWN)

Isaiah 7:10-14; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-24 (10). “O Radiant Dawn, splendor of eternal light, sun of justice: come, shine on those who dwell in darkness.”

Monday, Dec 22, 2025

A real superpower

Remember when we were kids and we used to play king of the hill? It was an important part of our social learning that the strongest among us would dominate. The same game is played out in world politics as nations rise and fall. The story of Christmas reminds us that Jesus is the world’s only real superpower, though the nations play their games of supremacy for a time. History reduces all empires to dust, but the reign of God endures forever. “Christ has dominion over all creatures,” says Doctor of the Church Saint Cyril of Alexandria, “a dominion not seized by violence nor usurped but His, by essence and by nature.” Pay homage to the King of All by humbly serving others as he would.

ADVENT WEEKDAY (O KING OF ALL NATIONS)

1 Samuel 1:24-28; Luke 1:46-56 (198). “O King of all nations and keystone of the Church; come and save man, whom you formed from the dust!”

Tuesday, Dec 23, 2025

Embrace the gift of love

We end our observance of the O Antiphons today with praise for Emmanuel, our savior. “God is not distant: he is ‘Emmanuel,’ God-with-us. He is no stranger: he has a face, the face of Jesus,” proclaims Pope Benedict XVI in his 2010 Christmas address. “This message is ever new, ever surprising, for it surpasses even our most daring hope.” The one who is to come satisfies all of our greatest longings. We need look no further. All our fretting and straining for answers comes to an end with the birth of Christ. Are we ready for such good news? Can we let go of all the things we often think will bring us happiness—money, recognition, power, beauty, health—and embrace the simple, searing gift of love?

ADVENT WEEKDAY (O EMMANUEL)

Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24; Luke 1:57-66 (199). “O Emmanuel, our King and Giver of Law: come to save us, Lord our God!”

Wednesday, Dec 24, 2025

Final preparations

It is no accident that scripture references the birth of John the Baptist on the day before we commemorate the birth of Jesus. John represents the culmination of Jewish prophetic hope for the Messiah, and his birth offers a fitting climax to the Advent season. John’s father, Zechariah, sings praises on the occasion of his son’s

birth. Zechariah’s song, or canticle, is recited daily during the morning prayer of the church’s Liturgy of the Hours. It serves as a lovely closing refrain to the Advent season, our time to prepare for the coming of the Lord. Have you made yourself ready to be guided by God’s compassion “into the way of peace”?

ADVENT WEEKDAY

Morning: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Luke 1:67-79 (200).

“You will go before the Lord to prepare his way.”

Thursday, Dec 25, 2025

Live in the moment of Christmas

Today we celebrate the day God entered God’s own creation by becoming human. How can we authentically honor this day? One way is to notice and truly relish our own experience of being human. So often we hurry through the hours, heedless of the many sensations to be enjoyed. This Christmas may we wake up appreciating the delicious warmth of our beds, the sparkle of our decorations, the aroma of our holiday meals, the laughter of family and friends gathered, the words and music of Christmas liturgy, the taste of the Word made flesh, the glory of the child in the manger, the everlasting embrace of love. At the end of the day, we will know something of what Emily Dickinson meant when she wrote, “To live is so startling it leaves little time for anything else.”

SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

(CHRISTMAS)

Night: Isaiah 9:1-6; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14 (14); Day: Isaiah 52:7-10; Hebrews 1:1-6; John 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14 (16).

“Today a Savior is born for us, Christ the Lord.”

Friday, Dec 26, 2025

The power and the glory

Saint Stephen’s Day, commemorating the first Christian martyr, is celebrated the day after Christmas, serving as a reminder that just as the naked cross looms above the empty tomb, so also its shadow falls across the crib—Jesus’ and our own. It is into human experience that the Christ is born, an experience that knows death, violence, and cruelty but a humanity also capable of love so true as to lay down life for a friend. Stephen was “filled with grace and power.” It was a power we often forget we possess. It is the power of love, our greatest gift, that gives us the wisdom and strength to endure the worst that life can bring. How will you use your power in the coming year?

FEAST OF STEPHEN, FIRST MARTYR

Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Matthew 10:17-22 (696). “Stephen, filled with grace and power, was working great wonders and signs among the people.”

Saturday, Dec 27, 2025

Lend an ear

When we receive a piece of news, often our first impulse is to think, “I can’t wait to tell ... !” We are social creatures, hardwired to live in community with other people, sharing our sorrows and our joys. Moreover, sharing has mathematical properties: It divides and multiplies. When we share bad news, our burden is lessened, and when we share good news, our happiness increases. Of course, the reverse is also true: When we don’t have someone with whom to share our stories, sorrows increase and joys are diminished. As Saint Teresa of Calcutta once observed, “Loneliness is the most terrible poverty.” Who do you know to be lonely? Take time to listen to their good news.

FEAST OF JOHN, APOSTLE, EVANGELIST

1 John 1:1-4; John 20:1a, 2-8 (697). “We are writing this so that our joy may be complete.”

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



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