



ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

December 28, 2025

Our Mission

Love God.

Serve Others. Grow Disciples.

You Matter! + You Belong!

HAPPY
New Year
2026

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 28

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

Monday, December 29

9:00 a.m.—

Tuesday, December 30

9:00 a.m.—

Wednesday, December 31

9:00 a.m.—

Thursday, January 1

9:00 a.m.— People of the Parish

Saturday, January 3

5:30 p.m.— Barbara Schnalzer (CDA Ct. St. Gerard #1920)
Grace Bartolomeo (Nancy Dentrone)

Sunday, January 4

9:30 a.m.—
11:30 a.m.— People of the Parish

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.



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: \$9,970
(includes Faith Direct)

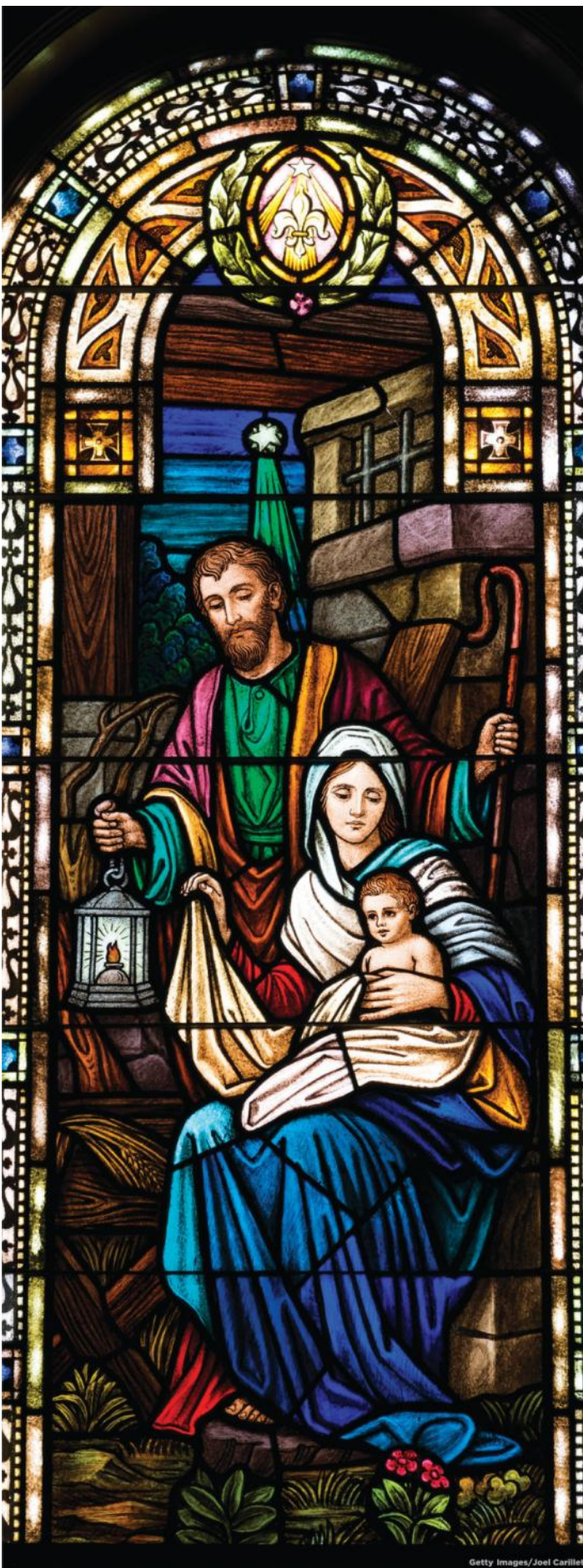
Last Year's Collection: \$8,344

Thank You!

Rest
in
Peace



Deceased Brothers &
Sisters of Our Parish



December 28, 2025

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 | Col 3:12-21 | Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

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

In his Angelus address on the Feast of the Holy Family in 2001, St. John Paul II shared this with those gathered: “If we aspire to a deeper understanding of Jesus’ life and mission, we must draw close to the mystery of the Holy Family of Nazareth to observe and listen.” Following in the footsteps of the Holy Family in today’s Scripture, we find ourselves in quiet Bethlehem, just after the departure of the Magi. The angel of the Lord appears to Joseph in a dream, this time with a warning: “Rise, take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you. Herod is going to search for the child to destroy him.” They trust in God and their response is immediate. It is easy for us to imagine the Holy Family as different from ourselves — holier and more spiritual. Certainly, that’s true. They were holy but they were also fully human, which means that what they attained is possible for each of us. Let us try to imitate them in this holiness.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

It’s easy to glamorize the life of Joseph, Mary, and Jesus, but in reality, the cross was with them long before the crucifixion. From the moment of the Annunciation, there would be trials, temptations, and sufferings. But each time, they respond with immediate obedience and deep trust. In doing so, they give us all a perfect example of what the Christian life should look like: a life motivated by love and always listening for the voice of God, ready to respond in an instant. As we accompany others on this journey of faith, we also must listen deeply to them in order to help them in discerning the Spirit’s movement in their lives. As we hone the spiritual muscle of attentive listening, we grow in our ability to respond to God and to God’s action in our lives, and to help others do the same.

REFLECT

Most of us will never hear from an angel in the middle of the night telling us to walk hundreds of miles with our baby in tow. But every single one of us will be — has been — called. Let us pray to the Holy Family for an increase in the virtues of obedience and trust, so that we can respond to God’s call in our lives.

Brand new Message series begins on January 4, 2026

Simplify

**Decluttering our lives to focus on what's important,
to build better relationships and to connect with God.**

The New Year is the perfect opportunity to declutter our lives. We can establish rhythms and form habits that help us get rid of junk. Cleaning out closets, reorganizing the garage or the basement, eliminating what is obsolete or unused in the household. Great projects for this time of year for sure, but often there's more clutter in our lives that can be easy to miss and difficult to eliminate. Many of us have cluttered calendars with a multiplication of unnecessary commitments. Distracted and lacking focus we can find ourselves mentally cluttered. And we might even experience emotional clutter as we carry around the baggage of broken relationships or past hurts. Cleaning out the clutter can provide space to breathe, to focus on what's important, to build better relationships, to connect with God.

Through this series we'll offer uplifting insight from Scripture and lots of practical steps you can take to simplify your life.

Remember not the events of the past, the things of long ago consider not;

See, I am doing something new! In the wilderness I make a way, in the wasteland, rivers.

Isaiah 43:18-19



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.'

Small Groups are where our large church gets small. Groups are 6-10 people who meet usually once a week for 90 minutes to discuss faith, go deeper in the weekly message, and support one another in their relationship with Christ. This is the place to care for others and be cared for; Assumption small groups are open to accept more people anytime during the year to help your faith journey. If you would like to join a small group, you can sign up today for the Lenten Small groups begins on the first week of Lent by stopping by the Welcome Desk or email the Office at rectory@abvmcentereach.com.


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



Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Thursday, January 1, 2026

Mass 9:00 AM

Prayer Connection



On our parish website, you'll find the "Prayer Wall" button. Here, you can submit your prayer intentions, either publicly or anonymously, and our Prayer Team will pray for you. By sharing your intentions, you allow our parish family to join in prayer together. We invite you to fill out your information along with your prayer request.



Drug Crisis Assistance

Are you or someone you know having family or interpersonal problems due to drinking ALCOHOL and/or using DRUGS? CATHOLIC CHARITIES / Talbot House, a Chemical Dependence Crisis Center, located in Bohemia provides withdrawal and stabilization services on a voluntary basis to males and females over the age of 18, who are seeking to stop and/or withdraw from alcohol and/or other drug use. For more information, please call: 631-589-4144. Talbot House staff is available 24/7. Each call is confidential. Sliding scale fees, Medicaid, Medicare, and other third-party insurance accepted.



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!



Thank You
FOR
GIVING
GENEROUSLY

Thank you to everyone who donated to our Christmas Drive for the Assumption Parish Social Ministry. Your generous contributions allowed us to provide nearly 60 families with a wonderful Christmas dinner. Additionally, all families with young children received gift cards to purchase presents for their kids. The families we serve were extremely grateful for everything they received. Thank you once again for making this Christmas joyful for our neighbors in need!

ASSUMPTION FAITH FORMATION

CLASSES RESUME ON

MONDAY, JANUARY 26, 2026

after Christmas and New Year Recess



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 28, 2025

Take notice of the poor among us

On the walls of the North American headquarters of the Divine Word Missionaries there is a painting from China that depicts the Holy Family living as Chinese peasants. What's especially interesting is that the painting shows them to be *poor*. In their small hut some paint is peeling from the walls, clothes are patched, and the table has seen better days. While Saint Joseph was probably not desperately poor, he and his family belonged to the vast majority of people who were outside the small elite who controlled most of the wealth and pulled the strings in ancient Palestine. So when Jesus talked about bringing Good News to the poor, he was talking about a whole lot of people, including his own family. What can you do to uplift the poor in your own family and beyond?

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH

Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14; Colossians 3:12-21 or 3:12-17; Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23 (17). *"Whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus."*

Monday, Dec 29, 2025

Boundaries will set us free

The Russian composer Igor Stravinsky once wrote, "The more constraints one imposes, the more one frees one's self." It may sound paradoxical, but boundaries are necessary in life as well as in art. They provide a structure, a space in which we can most fully explore what it means to live and work and create. Far from restricting our freedom, limits actually give us our freedom. How is this so? Recall a time when you gave yourself unlimited time to finish a project. Did you? Our loving creator gave us commandments for this very reason. They are the constraints that allow us to learn fully who we are—and who God is.

FIFTH DAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

1 John 2:3-11; Luke 2:22-35 (202). *"The way we may be sure that we know Jesus is to keep his commandments."*

Tuesday, Dec 30, 2025

A matter of importance

"The world and its enticement are passing away." These words from scripture evoke the dualism so much favored by certain New Testament writers, reflecting a mode of thought in which there continues a never-ending battle between good and evil, the world of darkness and the world of light. Christians believe that the battle is won, the world is redeemed. Yet anyone who has lived long enough knows that redeemed as "the world" may be, it is foolish to expect that worldly things provide us with all we need. This is what Saint Paul means when he speaks of the "things that really matter." We, too, in moments of clarity—after a close call with illness or death—come to recognize what is most important to us. And they are rarely the things that occupy most of our time, energy, or worry. Take time today to reflect on what truly matters in your life.

SIXTH DAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

1 John 2:12-17; Luke 2:36-40 (203). *"Do not love the world or the things of the world. ... the world and its enticement are passing away."*

Wednesday, Dec 31, 2025

In with the new

Just before midnight most people will be awake and anticipating the end of one year and the beginning of a new one. But when

scripture talks about endings and beginnings, it means more than putting up a new calendar. The last hour means a new world is about to begin. God has done something new in Jesus. We are reborn to new life through him. "Consider all the past as nothing," says Saint Francis de Sales, "and say, like David; 'Now I begin to love my God.'" How will you begin to love your God tonight, tomorrow, and every day?

SEVENTH DAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

1 John 2:18-21; John 1:1-18 (204). *"It is the last hour."*

Thursday, Jan 01, 2026

Peace offering

In a world torn by hateful discourse, violence, and war, we have been given the Prince of Peace to show us how to live in harmony. God's peace begins within us and then extends to our families, workplaces, schools, churches, marketplaces, and halls of government. We can begin spreading peace with a simple prayer, like the one found in the Book of Numbers: "The LORD bless you and keep you! The LORD let his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you! The LORD look upon you kindly and give you peace!" With our hearts set on God's peace we can begin to take steps to resolve the small and large conflicts in our lives. What a welcome gift that would be at the start of this new year.

OCTAVE DAY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD; SOLEMNITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD

Numbers 6:22-27; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:16-21 (18). *"When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son,"*

Friday, Jan 02, 2026

Divine revelations

In sin we reject part of our humanity—the humanity of the Garden of Eden, where there is no shame or guilt but an open acceptance of God's love. Fortunately for us, God meets our rejection by continually offering to restore our humanity and share in his divinity. As Saint Basil the Great points out, "It did not suffice God merely to call us back to life, but he has also granted us the dignity of His Godhead." The love God holds for us is so unchangeable it not only brings us back from death and sin but also shows us a path to sharing in God's divinity. That is a truth worth remembering.

MEMORIAL OF BASIL THE GREAT AND GREGORY NAZIANZEN, BISHOPS, DOCTORS OF THE CHURCH

1 John 2:22-28; John 1:19-28 (205). *"Let what you heard from the beginning remain in you."*

Saturday, Jan 03, 2026

What's in a name?

In the gospels the name of Jesus carries lots of weight. God gave Jesus his name, which means "salvation," before Jesus was conceived. People healed in the name of Jesus. Jesus was present to those who gathered in his name. For his disciples their mission was to proclaim his name to all nations and bring the love of Christ to the world. Thus, living in the name said who you were, what you believed, and what you were to do. "Jesus is the way that you must walk, and the truth that you must believe, and the life that you must live," says Saint John Eudes. Consider what you can do each day to live more fully in the name of Jesus.

MEMORIAL OF THE MOST HOLY NAME OF JESUS

1 John 2:29-3:6; John 1:29-34 (206). *"Now I have seen and testified that he is the Son of God."*

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



© 2025 TrueQuest Communications. All rights reserved. Noncommercial reprints permitted with the following credit: Reprinted with permission from TakeFiveForFaith.com. Scripture citations from the New American Bible Revised Edition. Signup for free daily email available at TakeFiveForFaith.com/subscribe.