



ASSUMPTION

of the Blessed Virgin Mary

A welcoming community sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ through faith, prayer and the sacraments.



November 8, 2020

We celebrate EUCHARIST

Saturdays: 5:30 PM
Sundays: 7:30, 9:30, 11:30 AM
Weekdays: 9:00 AM

We celebrate PENANCE

Saturdays: 4:00 – 5:00 PM and by appointment.

We celebrate BAPTISM

Usually the first and third Sundays each month. Meeting with Deacon Mike and attendance at class is required. Please contact the rectory during regular office hours to register.

We celebrate MARRIAGE

Make arrangements with the priest at least six months prior to the wedding. All are required by our Bishop to attend the Pre-Cana Conferences as part of the preparation.

Eucharistic Adoration

First Friday of the month: 1:00-2:00 PM - Nocturnal
Third Friday of the month: 7:30-8:30 PM - ADOREMUS

Miraculous Medal Novena

Wednesdays following the 9:00 AM Mass.

Communion for the Sick or Shut-ins

Contact the rectory during regular office hours.

Parish Social Ministry (Outreach)

Office hours, Monday to Friday, 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM.
Food pantry available. Will also try to help with referrals and advocacy. Call for appointment, 631-585-8760 x101.

RCIA

Provides for those who have never been baptized or those who have been baptized but have not celebrated Eucharist and/or Confirmation to experience the joy of our Catholic community, within an adult context. Anyone 18 and over is welcome. Contact the rectory office at 631-585-8760.

Faith Formation

Works with parents to share faith with our youngest members, grades 1-8. Contact the office for details at 631-588-6408.

Youth Ministry

- High School Ministry (AYM), Wednesdays: 7:30 - 9:00 PM
- Middle School Ministry (MSM), Thursdays, 7:00 - 8:45 PM

For further information, contact Renata 631-585-8760

Music Ministry

Our parish's Music Ministry seeks to lead and support our parish family in full, conscious, and active participation in the liturgy. For further information call Rob at 516-523-1668.

20 Chestnut Street, Centereach, NY 11720 631-585-8760 www.abvmcentereach.com

Rev. Joseph Alenchery, Pastor
Rev. Chris Aridas, Retired 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, November 8th

7:30 a.m. — All Souls
9:30 a.m. — All Souls
11:30 a.m. — People of the Parish

Monday, November 9th

9:00 a.m. — Anna Joseph Alenchery (C. Marinello)

Tuesday, November 10th

9:00 a.m. — Katherine Aridas (Rosary Altar Society)

Wednesday, November 11th

9:00 a.m. — Living and Deceased Members of the Rosary Altar Society

Thursday, November 12th

9:00 a.m. — Anna Joseph Alenchery (Henik Family)

Friday, November 13th

9:00 a.m. — David & Kathleen Worrell

Saturday, November 14th

5:30 p.m. — Kristina Mense (Elizabeth Grace)

Sunday, November 15th

7:30 a.m. — Vito Brancato (Catholic Daughters)
9:30 a.m. — Intention of Kristen Plantamura (Family)
11:30 a.m. — People of the Parish



Time, Talent & Treasure
Fostering Stewardship
as a Way of Life

Parish Sacrificial Giving Summary
(Regular Sunday Offering)

Last Week's Collection \$8,179
(includes *Faith Direct*)

Last Year's Collection \$11,023
Thank You!

Faith Formation

The ministry of the Word is a fundamental element of evangelization through all its stages, because it involves the proclamation of Jesus Christ, the eternal Word of God

Faith Formation Office Hours

Regular Office Hours: Monday to Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m; Friday - Closed; Saturday - 9:00 a.m. to 11. Saturday schedule begins when the classes begin.

Middle School Ministry (MSM)

Middle School Ministry is on Thursday nights from 7:00 PM to 8:45 PM. All Middle Schoolers (6th thru 8th) are welcome.



Assumption Youth Ministry (AYM)

Assumption Youth Ministry welcomes all high Schoolers (9th thru 12th) on Wednesday nights from 7:30-9:00 PM. We gather in the Parish Center Hall. Bring your friends with you.



Catholic Daughters of the America's (Court St. Gerard)

First Thursday of the month: Sept - June at 7:30 PM in the Parish Library. Contact Alexandria McMahon at tacjs43@aol.com.

Catholic War Veterans

Second Saturday of the month: Sept - June 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. Contact the rectory for meeting dates and times.

Scouting (Cub Scout, Boy Scouts)

Contact Chantal Mears at Chantalmears@yahoo.com or 631-438-2468 or visit www.bsa356.com for more details..

Good News Reflection**Trusting an illogical God**

This Sunday's Gospel reading shows us what it means to be truly foolish. We believe in Christ -- good! We pray -- good! We put time into our faith growth and we value opportunities for more faith formation -- very wise! And we say that we trust God -- wonderful!

But what happens when God doesn't answer our prayers fast enough? What if we need Christ's loving embrace or his protection from evil and yet we're suffering with no end in sight? Where is Jesus then?



Usually, God's timing is not ours. We think we have the right idea about how soon God should intervene when we ask for his help. Right now is a good time for it, right? Of course! But perhaps not from God's perspective. (Why do we want to leave God in charge anyway, if he doesn't see things our way, huh?)

When we despair over unanswered prayer, the reality behind it is that we're emotionally unprepared for any timing that's different from what we think it should be. The foolish bridesmaids thought the groom would arrive before their lamps burned out. They thought they understood the situation. Do we?

Furthermore, if God's plans are illogical -- if they don't make sense to us -- we distrust them. And then we get ourselves into the mess of trying to handle things apart from God.

We cannot trust our logic. We cannot trust our perception or our understanding of the situations we're in. The sooner we decide to enjoy the absurdity of being a Christian, the sooner we will find out that God's ways are awesomely much, much better than anything we can imagine!

Questions for Personal Reflection:

What have you resisted doing because it doesn't make sense? What can you do, where can you turn, to whom can you go for help in discerning whether or not it's God's plan for you?

Questions for Community Faith Sharing:

How do you know when an illogical plan is really what God wants you to do? What's happened in your life that has taught you to trust the Holy Spirit's surprises? Share a lesson you learned when you weren't ready for God's plan because you didn't believe it.

GIVING THANKS GIVING BACK

Thanksgiving DRIVE

Outreach Needs for Thanksgiving

Pantry Needs: Boxed Milk, Cranberry Sauce, Coffee, Tea, Hot Chocolate, Stuffing Mix, Bar Soap, Shampoo, Paper Towels

Gift Cards: With Thanksgiving just around the corner, we're getting ready to prepare our baskets. Gift cards to neighborhood markets will be very helpful in providing those

in need with a great Thanksgiving dinner, allowing them the dignity to choose their favorite holiday foods. Please drop off gift cards at the office or in the collection basket.



The **Catholic Ministries Appeal** is an Island-wide effort by our Church to support the critically important services and programs that serve more than 600,000 people every year. 100% of every dollar raised is RESTRICTED to the ministries of the Appeal.

To each of you who have already made a gift, please know that I am very grateful. I also want you to know that I believe so deeply in this program that I also contribute every year. I hope that those of you who have not yet had an opportunity to do so will seriously consider using the envelope that is included in your monthly packets next week, and include with the regular collection.

Through the Catholic Ministries Appeal, we can provide pastoral care to those in need on Long Island. This year our parish goal is \$56,200 and \$50,807.00 is pledged. We are short of \$5,393.00 of our goal. parishes who make their goal receive a rebate from the diocese, amounting to 20% of the actual goal. 90.6% of our goal is pledged so far.

If you have not already contributed, please prayerfully consider joining with me as One Faith, Family and Community, and make a gift to the 2020 Catholic Ministries Appeal. Please remember no gift is too small, and all gifts make a difference in someone's life!

FORMED®

PICK OF THE WEEK

November 8, 2020

WATCH

LUKAS STORYTELLER

Journey with Lukas and Noah as they recount the great stories of Jesus and the saints throughout history!



Simply type in abvmcentreach.formed.org on your browser. Once you have registered you'll have access to all the material on FORMED, again **free of charge**. You also can install FORMED through an app. Learn more at app.formed.org. Our parish code is P8DGQ8.

From the Pastor's Desk

Financial Report: September 2019 through August 2020

It's been quite a year with everything being topsy-turvy due to the pandemic that has plagued the entire world. Nevertheless, pandemic or no pandemic, I am responsible to making sure that the parish remains up to date as to our financial situation. What follows, therefore, is our parish's financial report from our last budget year. Rather than give a list of incomprehensible numbers, I've divided income/expenses into recognizable categories, e.g., Sunday collections, program fees, parish offices, etc. Hopefully this gives a clearer idea of where the money comes from and where it went. Note that such items as utilities, salaries, etc. have been divided proportionately into several categories, e.g., Parish Office, Faith Formation, Church, so that these items could be distributed to all areas depending upon a percentage of the total activity. For those interested in the exact amount of items,



I've listed a couple of our annual bills so you get a sense of how much must be spent just to keep the doors opened: gas, \$14,385; electric, \$23,900; water, \$5,374; insurance, \$65,750; garbage removal, \$3,654; grounds, \$17,835.

The goal, of course, is to have our operating expenses covered by our regular income without using our savings or interest to cover operating expenses. Operating expenses are just what the term indicates, i.e., what it costs to operate our day-to-day programs. Capital or extraordinary expenses—e.g., redoing the parking lot—are one-time costs covered by taking money from savings or having a capital campaign. They are not part of the operating expenses. As you can see from the Income/Expense chart, we had a deficit in terms of our operating budget. This was due, in part, to a continuing decrease in our parish's overall income, both collections and program fees as well as an overall increase in prices, insurance, etc. The ongoing pandemic which has plagued us since March played a large part in this decrease of income. Nevertheless, I would be remiss if I did not make it clear that using our savings to cover an operating deficit cannot be the accepted practice if we are to continue as a functioning parish entity.

That being said, our parish has done fairly well in light of the COVID outbreak which has hampered our ability to gather since March. Our income loss from the pandemic was substantial, e.g., no Easter collection other than what was mailed in to the parish. In addition, we had unexpected expenses as we tried to keep the parish together through live-streaming the masses (this required additional equipment and licenses) as well as the additional costs of cleaning the building repeatedly between masses and classes.

For the parish to thrive we have to raise the level of sacrificial giving. Thankfully, our online giving has increased over the past year. That being said, our growth and well-being as a parish cannot be maintained unless everyone who considers himself/herself a parishioner generously offers his/her sacrificial financial support even if he/she is unable to attend mass. (A special thank-you to the parishioners who though still unable to come to Sunday mass faithfully send in their envelopes to help support the parish.) If our parish is going to achieve a positive financial trajectory we have to be realistic in terms of parish support. One way of improving and stabilizing our financial situation would be for more families to participate in *Faith Direct*, our parish's eGiving program. This easy-to-use service allows families to have their parish offering deducted automatically from their account or charged to their credit card. It's a great way to "take a step" toward a stewardship way of life, which is one of the characteristics of discipleship. I myself use this for our weekly parish offering. You can get additional information by going to www.FaithDirect.net/NY563.

Finally, this past year we entered the fourth and final year of our parish's Capital Campaign. A successful campaign will eliminate the deficit that came from major repairs which had to be done, e.g., the parking lot. Many thanks to the 372 families/individuals who have made a pledge and/or one-time gift. Thus far we have \$805,808 in pledges and have received \$760,366 in paid pledges. This has allowed us to accomplish all the projects we anticipated, e.g., refurbishment of the church interior, a new roof, church AV system, repair outside windows and a new parking lot. To do this, we did have to dip into our savings. Fulfillment of your pledge, therefore, will replenish our small savings account which we need to maintain in case other unexpected and/or extraordinary repairs become necessary.

Together we rely on God's abundance. I personally remain convinced that the Lord has much more prepared for us than we are receiving. We cannot receive these additional gifts, however, without consciously moving in the direction of putting every part of our life under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. For that reason, our ongoing stewardship efforts will continue to help us appropriate all that the Lord wishes to offer. In the meantime, the Income/Expense chart gives us an idea of where we've been over the past fiscal year. If anyone wishes further information or explanation, do not hesitate to contact me at the rectory to set up an appointment.

| Income | | |
|--|-----------------|--|
| Amount our parishioners contributed | \$503,008 | Sunday, Christmas, Easter collections. |
| What the parish received from Catholic Ministries Appeal Rebate | \$13,400 | This is the diocesan rebate the parish receives because of your support of the Catholic Ministries Appeal. |
| What the parish collected from program fees | \$57,522 | Faith Formation, AYM, VBS, Adult Ed, etc. |
| What the parish received from auxiliary sources | \$31,963 | Baptisms, weddings, funerals, Outreach donations, bulletin income, candles, miscellaneous donations. |
| What the parish received for diocesan collections | \$13,032 | All the monies collected are given directly to the diocese. None stays in the parish. |
| Capital Gain & Extraordinary Revenue | \$86,898 | Non-operating revenue. This includes Capital Campaign, insurance claims, investment income. Note the diocese does not include these monies in determining operating surplus or deficit. |
| TOTAL received by the parish to carry on its mission, <i>excluding Capital Gain & Extraordinary Revenue.</i> | \$618,925 | “Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary parish is a welcoming community sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ through faith, prayer, and the sacraments.” |
| Expenses | | |
| What it costs to maintain our Rectory Office | \$174,174 | Includes salaries, utilities, supplies, etc. Also includes Outreach. |
| What it costs to maintain our Faith Formation programs | \$237,947 | Includes salaries, utilities, supplies, etc. used for the ongoing formation of our adults and children |
| What it costs to use our Church for liturgy | \$102,468 | Includes salaries, utilities, supplies, etc. |
| What it costs to maintain our priests' residence | \$47,607 | Includes food, utilities, maintenance |
| What our parish contributes to our Catholic Schools Subsidy | \$58,008 | The diocese taxes all parishes 12% of a parish's collections to support Catholic schools. |
| What our parish paid the diocese for services rendered/owed | \$52,540 | Diocesan assessment, Diocesan collections. |
| Capital improvement | \$100,657 | Not part of operating expense. Paying off the parking lot. |
| TOTAL Operating Expense: what the parish paid for personnel, goods, and services, <i>excluding capital expenses.</i> | \$672,744 | |
| Total operating surplus/deficit | \$53,819 | Does not include capital expenses or capital gains |



Please prayerfully consider supporting our parish with electronic donations through *Faith Direct*. Signing up is easy! Visit faithdirect.net/NY563. Thank you for your continued support of our parish family!

New Mass Schedule

Sat: 5:30 PM,

Sun: 7:30, 9:30, 11:30 AM