



# ASSUMPTION

## of the Blessed Virgin Mary

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



## February 21, 2021

### **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](http://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



# Mass Intentions for the week

## Sunday, February 21st

- 7:30 a.m. — Tiri Paeper (Mark & Lisa Traxler)
- 9:30 a.m. — Anna Joseph Alenchery (M/M Zabbara)  
Maria & Inacio DeSousa (Family)
- 11:30 a.m. — People of the Parish

## Monday, February 22nd

- 9:00 a.m. — Joseph Francis Nugent (M/M Passanisi)

## Tuesday, February 23rd

- 9:00 a.m. — Guillermo Rodas (Sandra Albanese)

## Wednesday, February 24th

- 9:00 a.m. — Ann & Ralph Cirone (Family)

## Thursday, February 25th

- 9:00 a.m. — Joseph Nugent (Maureen & Sheila)

## Friday, February 26th

- 9:00 a.m. — Verius Paul (Children)

## Saturday, February 27th

- 5:30 p.m. — Robert Stingo

## Sunday, February 28th

- 7:30 a.m. — Ralph Cirone (Catholic War Veterans)
- 9:30 a.m. — Thomas Murphy (Diane Melfi)
- 11:30 a.m. — People of the Parish



Dennis Quirk  
Jonathan Marchal  
Pietro Lipari



## Time, Talent & Treasure

Fostering Stewardship  
as a Way of Life

Parish Sacrificial Giving Summary  
(Regular Sunday Offering)

Last Week's Collection \$8,695  
(includes *Faith Direct*)

Last Year's Collection \$9,134  
*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 a.m.

## Middle School Ministry (MSM)

Middle School Ministry is on Thursday nights from 7:00 PM to 8:45 PM. All Middle Schoolers (6<sup>th</sup> thru 8<sup>th</sup>) 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****Wrestling with temptation**

This Sunday's Gospel reading shows us the first thing that Jesus did after his baptismal anointing in the Jordan River: He wrestled with temptation.

His baptism had marked the moment of his complete surrender to the Father's will. As he arose from the water, he left behind his old life and began a new life of ministry.



The Father responded by telling him that he was very pleased, and the Holy Spirit filled his humanness. Jesus as God already had the Holy Spirit (one-hundred percent, he and the Spirit were the same God), but Jesus the Son, who was also fully human, now came fully alive in the Spirit. We can imagine how this experience in the Jordan River gave him the feeling of an elated spiritual high. And the next thing that happens is an attack of the devil.

The same pattern repeats itself in our lives. As soon as we experience new growth in our faith, or a new purpose for our faith with a calling to do the Father's

will in a wonderful new work of God's kingdom, we run smack into a situation that tests the strength and sincerity of our faith. However, if this didn't happen, how would we know that our faith is strong enough for our daily needs? How would we find out that we've spiritually matured? How would we know that we are ready to make a significant difference for the kingdom of God?

Sometimes without consciously thinking it, we decide that new growth isn't worth the aftermath. If we're going to be tested, and if we fear that we might lose our battle against evil, wouldn't it be better not to grow, not to partner with Christ in serving God's kingdom, not to aim for spiritual highs?

Well, that's another temptation!

Lent is the perfect time to examine the temptations that we face every day and turn them into new growth that will strengthen our faith.

Every time we face a sin and seek God's forgiveness, we become stronger. And if we take it a step farther by walking into the confessional with it, we also receive powerful graces directly from Jesus, through the priest, that will render temptations much more powerless.

And this makes us more useful to God in the mission of conquering evil in the world and helping his kingdom spread into the lives of the people around us.

Think of temptations as blessings in disguise: Use them as opportunities to purify your life, become more like Jesus, and grow powerful in the faith.

**Questions for Personal Reflection:**

How well do you recognize temptation? How quickly do you rely on the faith that God has given you to say no to the devil's tricks? What temptation are you saying yes to right now? Are you willing to give it up as your Lenten sacrifice?

**Questions for Community Faith Sharing:**

Describe a time when you experienced a spiritual high and then faced a strong temptation. How did you handle it? What role did (or will) Jesus play in overcoming this temptation?



# METANOIA

A journey of **CONVERSION** during this upcoming season of Lent.

## An online study series on ZOOM

on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 - 8:30 PM beginning Feb. 24<sup>th</sup>

Metanoia means conversion, but it is much more than that. It means to change, to repent, to turn, to think differently. Metanoia is an ongoing process. As Christians, we are to live a life of metanoia.

The purpose of this series is to assist us in this ongoing metanoia. I believe Jesus invites everyone to a deeper, more profound conversion - a metanoia - that moves us from something to someone, as metanoia ultimately turns us to Jesus.

Most people understand the word “conversion” to mean the act of converting from one religion to another, or a significant and powerful event, a conversion experience, that causes a person to grow deeper in their faith. But conversion is for everyone at all times.

As you walk through this series, I will continually be praying that you may come to understand how everyone is in constant need of metanoia and that this truth is a source of hope and encouragement, especially during this time of the pandemic. I pray that we all might continually experience this metanoia and seek the transformative grace of the Holy Spirit.

We will gather virtually on the Zoom platform on Wednesday evenings from 7:00 to 8:30 PM. The schedule will be like this: After every one sign in via the link sent to you every week, we begin with introductions for about 10 minutes. We will then watch the video together and go to our breakout rooms for small groups for sharing and discussion. About 8:15, we will be back in our main room again for large group sharing and final prayer. I hope this allows us to come together as people of faith to prepare ourselves during this lent for the great feast of Easter, which provides us with new life and hope.

To signup, please visit our parish website [www.abvmcentereach.com/metanoia](http://www.abvmcentereach.com/metanoia). I hope to see you all on the Zoom.

Fr. Joe

## Worship with your talent



This is an opportunity to worship with your talent and help the parish community worship better by volunteering to help with live stream cameras and projecting lyrics and scriptures on the screen at Mass on the weekend and on special occasions. Training will be provided. Those who like to work with the camera and/or computer, please contact Fr. Joseph at [jalenchery@abvmcentereach.com](mailto:jalenchery@abvmcentereach.com)



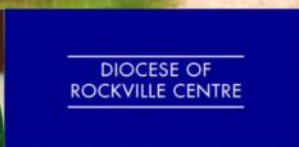
### Parish Social Ministry (Outreach) Program

The Outreach Food Pantry is available for individuals and families that are struggling to stretch their food budget. We can also refer those needing assistance to any program appropriate to their needs. Appointments can be made by calling 631 585-8760 x2. The Outreach Office is open Monday through Friday from 10 AM to 12 PM.

**Pantry Needs: Noodles, Kleenex, Household Cleaner, Dishwashing Liquid, Mayonnaise, Salad Dressing, Razors, Toothbrushes, Fruit Juice, Icing**



## 2021 CATHOLIC MINISTRIS APPEAL



This year our parish goal is \$57,400. Your generosity provides us with an excellent opportunity to reach out to those in need by supporting the many programs run by our diocese. In particular, the CMA enables our Catholic community on LI to support the work of Catholic Charities, our Catholic Regional Schools, programs for ongoing formation and training of lay leaders as well as our deacons; our seminary which trains men for the priesthood as well as various pastoral offices which provide excellent resources throughout the diocese.

In addition, parishes who make their goal receive a rebate from the diocese, amounting to 20% of the actual goal. Please ask the Lord how you might participate. Your pledge is payable over a ten-month period of time.



Please prayerfully consider supporting our parish with electronic donations through *Faith Direct*. You are helping our church be more efficient, and have a steady, predictable cash flow to support the works that are important to you, throughout the year. Signing up is easy! Visit [faithdirect.net/NY563](http://faithdirect.net/NY563) or download the **Faith Direct app** and search for the parish with the parish code (NY563). Thank you for your continued support of our parish family!

# FORMED

PICK OF THE WEEK

February 21, 2021

WATCH

### THE WILD GOOSE: EPISODE 10 THE SPIRIT AND THE DESERT

Sometimes we might feel like we're stuck in spiritual deserts. In this episode of The Wild Goose, Fr. Dave Pivonka shares how the Holy Spirit is present even in these times of desolation.



Our parish subscribes to a revolutionary online platform which provides the best in Catholic audio talks, movies, e-books, and video-based studies. It is, **free of charge**. Simply type in [abvmcentereach.formed.org](http://abvmcentereach.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](http://app.formed.org). Our parish code is P8DGQ8.

**Sunday, Feb 21, 2021**

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

**Doing the rite thing**

Today, some of our neighbors are going to make a countercultural choice. They're going to sign the Book of the Elect, signaling their decision to be baptized, confirmed, and to receive First Eucharist at this year's Easter Vigil. These Elect have been studying for months or years to embrace the life of the church. Why would anyone make this choice in the 21st century? For some, it may have begun as intellectual curiosity. For others, it's a journey of the heart. For all, it's what they've seen in folks like us that make Catholic Christianity an inspiring choice. Let's help keep the inspiration going!

TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 9:8-15; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:12-15 (23). *"The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."*

**Monday, Feb 22, 2021**

FEAST OF THE CHAIR OF PETER, APOSTLE

**Recognize the chair**

Jesus loved us so much that he entrusted us to someone he trusted deeply. In fact, in the Gospel of John, Jesus asked Peter three times if his devotion was assured. He named him "rock" so he would be a solid foundation upon which to build the church, and for 2,000 years Peter's successors have had the responsibility of tending his sheep. Today we celebrate the seat of the pope's authority as Christ's representative on Earth, the protector Jesus wanted for his flock. Ask the Holy Spirit to always guide the one who sits in Peter's chair.

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Peter 5:1-4; Matthew 16:13-19 (535). *"I will give you the keys to the Kingdom of heaven."*

**Tuesday, Feb 23, 2021**

MEMORIAL OF POLYCARP, BISHOP, MARTYR

**Words to live forever by**

Polycarp's death in 155 is one of the first accounts of Christian martyrdom in a public arena. The elderly bishop was resolute and serene even as he was burned and stabbed before a frenzied crowd. Included in the accounts is the two hours of prayer Polycarp began upon his arrest, so powerful it unnerved his Roman guards. But Polycarp was also an Apostolic Father, specifically a disciple of Saint John the Evangelist. Thus, he had firsthand knowledge of John's words from Jesus: "Everyone who lives and believes in me will never die."

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 55:10-11; Matthew 6:7-15 (225). *"Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."*

**Wednesday, Feb 24, 2021**

LENTEN WEEKDAY

**A good day to make amends**

We are one week into this Lenten season, so perhaps it is time to have a conversation with our Lord. Imagine you are walking with Jesus, side by side, and he asks you, "Is there any person you think of who you have hurt or judged, or any action that comes to mind that you know was wrong? Anything you repent?" You take a moment, and standing next to him, you feel his love for you. Regret and sorrow arise as you admit the mistakes that come to

mind. You ask for the grace to make amends in whatever way possible. Find a way today to make something right.

TODAY'S READINGS: Jonah 3:1-10; Luke 11:29-32 (226). *"At the preaching of Jonah they repented, and there is something greater than Jonah here."*

**Thursday, Feb 25, 2021**

LENTEN WEEKDAY

**Has prayer moved you?**

It is tempting to think about prayer in a transactional way: I ask, therefore God gives. Today's gospel may even appear to encourage this form of thought: "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find." But Catholic teaching urges us to see God's response to prayer broadly. Pope Francis explains: "Prayer always transforms reality: if things around us do not change, at least our hearts are changed. Jesus promised the gift of the Holy Spirit to every man and woman who prays." If you have a prayer that seems unanswered, consider how your heart was moved by the mere act of praying.

TODAY'S READINGS: Esther C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Matthew 7:7-12 (227). *"For everyone who asks, receives; and the one who seeks, finds."*

**Friday, Feb 26, 2021**

LENTEN WEEKDAY; DAY OF ABSTINENCE

**The low rumble within**

Anger is one of our human "passions," the Catechism of the Catholic Church instructs, neither good nor bad in and of itself. Anger can provide us with helpful information that we feel wronged by someone or something. It may be intense or a low rumble within. Lent is an opportunity to become still, listen to our anger, and examine its source. How might we invite God into these rough spaces for healing? Desiring healing does not disregard hurt or suffering; rather we seek to "unhook" from anger to live in peace. Unhooking might mean talking with a loved one who hurt us. It might mean protesting against injustice. It might mean forgiving ourselves. What might be rumbling within your heart?

TODAY'S READINGS: Ezekiel 18:21-28; Matthew 5:20-26 (228). *"Go first and be reconciled."*

**Saturday, Feb 27, 2021**

LENTEN WEEKDAY

**Agree to disagree**

There is no more timely message for our divided age of partisan politics than "love your enemies." But how is that even possible? One perspective that some find helpful is that "you don't have to like someone to love them." Love in this context is not a warm, fuzzy feeling but a decision to treat with respect, to "do unto others." A tall order, but it does help to remove the expectation that we have to become fast friends with those we oppose. And maybe it will lead to a time when we can see difficult folks as people with whom we happen to disagree, rather than mortal enemies. Jesus was all about reconciliation. Let's take up the mantle.

TODAY'S READINGS: Deuteronomy 26:16-19; Matthew 5:43-48 (229). *"But I say to you, love your enemies."*

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



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