



ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

December 26, 2021

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
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, December 26th

7:30 a.m. — Eileen J. O'Rourke

Katie Montelione

9:30 a.m. — Abelardo & Norma Angeles (Family)

John Ricci (Palma Family)

11:30 a.m. — People of the Parish

Monday, December 27th

9:00 a.m. — Marianna Tutka

Fr. Douglas R. Arcoleo (Franciney Recca)

Tuesday, December 28th

9:00 a.m. — Dr. Elisa G & Francis G. Valisno

Diane Larkin (Maria & Tom Fess)

Wednesday, December 29th

9:00 a.m. — Marianna Tutka (Lucy Quirk)

Gloria G. Pedro (Josephine Scala)

Thursday, December 30th

9:00 a.m. — John & Dale Cahill (Mary Ross)

Jim Reilly (Reilly Family)

Friday, December 31st

9:00 a.m. — Chuck Sharp

Dorothy Polcyn (Virgilio Family)

Saturday, January 1st

9:00 a.m. — Peter Weinheimer (Reilly Family)

5:30 p.m. — Dawn Hearne (Pat Rivers)

Living & Deceased Members of Campanelli
& Lang Family

Sunday, January 2nd

7:30 a.m. — People of the Parish

9:30 a.m. — Marian & Halina Vos (Family)

Ronald Fregara (Lorraine & Family)

11:30 a.m. — Catherine Collins (Attracta)

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.

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.

ASSUMPTION YOUTH MINISTRY

Every Thursday 7:00PM - 8:30PM

in the Parish Center

All 6th - 8th & 9th - 12th graders are Welcome

P.S. Mask required for everyone inside the building

For more information please contact Renata Tutka-Ptak at 631-585-8760 ext. 105 or rptak@abvmcentereach.com

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 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..



Time, Talent & Treasure

Fostering Stewardship
as a Way of Life

Parish Sacrificial Giving Summary
(Regular Sunday Offering)

Last Week's Collection \$8,407
(includes Faith Direct)

Last Year's Collection \$8,067
Thank You!

Rest
in
Peace

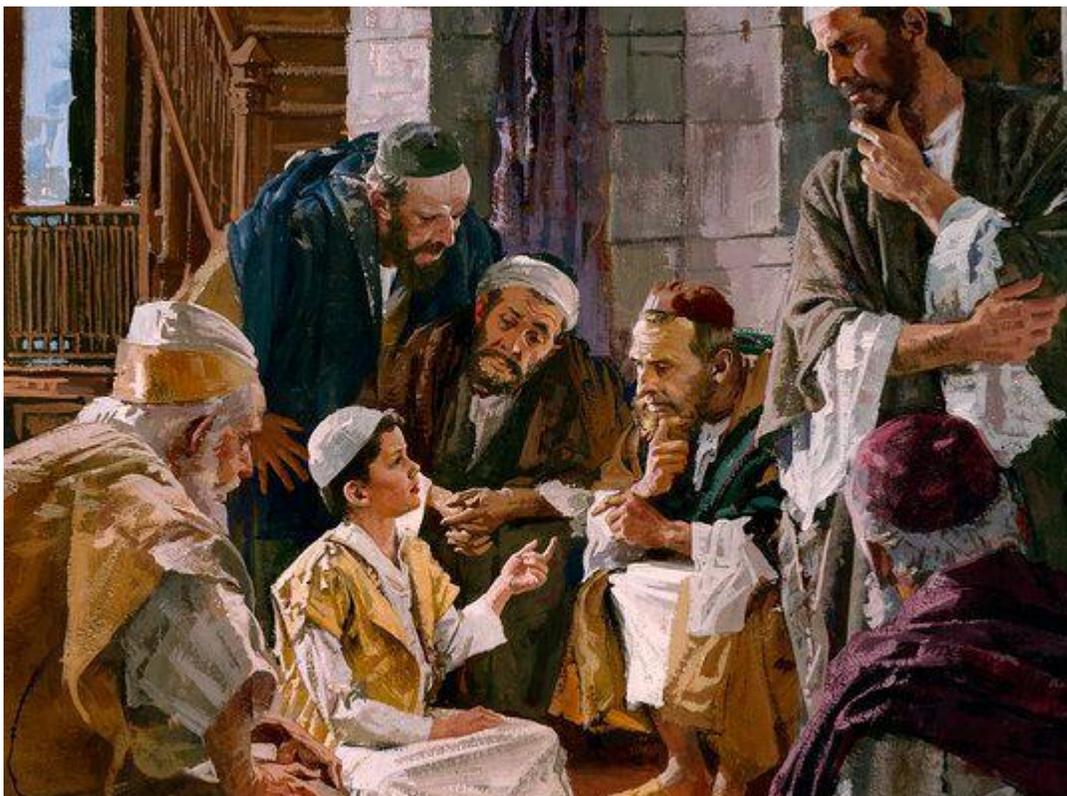


Deceased Brothers
and Sisters of our
Parish Family

Good News Reflection**Trusting the truths we don't understand**

"Joy mixed with drama marks the fifth [joyful] mystery," wrote Saint John Paul II in his encyclical on the Rosary, *Rosarium Virginis Mariae* (paragraph #20), as he reflected on today's Gospel story about Mary and Joseph losing the boy Jesus and finding him in the Temple. "Here he appears in his divine wisdom as he listens and raises questions, already in effect one who 'teaches'."

This scripture, he pointed out, reveals that Jesus was already wholly dedicated to his Father's affairs. That's the first part of the mystery: How early did he feel inspired to serve as the Son of God?



The second part of the mystery, John Paul II explained, is "the radical nature of the Gospel, in which even the closest of human relationships are challenged by the absolute demands of the Kingdom." Which relationships? Family relationships! In this scripture, Mary and Joseph faced the challenge that every parent experiences. They were "fearful and anxious," because they did not understand what was happening to their child.

Today, we are like Mary and Joseph in their moment of failing to understand the words of Jesus. His teachings challenge us to accept a more difficult life, a life of doing good to our enemies, taking a stand against injustices, standing up for Christian values, getting persecuted for it, turning the cheek and going the extra mile, a life of courageously adhering to the ways of God.

Our preference, when it's inconvenient or unpleasant to be so holy, is to rationalize and make excuses for any behavior that the world says is good and right but which contradicts the Church's scripture-based teachings. However, if we are sincere about following Christ, we are willing to do what is difficult. And it's usually in the doing that we begin to understand the benefits of becoming more like Christ.

Without this understanding, however, we have to trust that the words of Jesus are truth. Like Mary and Joseph, we need to ponder in our hearts what we do not understand and at the same time move forward in holy living. Then we discover the joy that comes from a life that's lived wholly in Christ.

On this Feast of the Holy Family, let us pray that Mary and Joseph will help us hear Jesus whenever our troubles or temptations get so distracting that we lose sight of him. Let us learn to recognize that Jesus is always present with us in his Holy Spirit, helping us, guiding us, and mercifully loving us, especially in the challenges we face.

Questions for Personal Reflection:

What teaching of the Church have you rationalized away so that you don't have to obey it? Or what teaching of Christ do you excuse yourself from? Assume that your disobedience is due to not understanding what is really being taught. What will you do to seek and gain a better understanding?

Questions for Faith Sharing:

How meaningful is the Holy Family to you? What is it about the relationships between Jesus, Mary and Joseph that appeals to you? What has this taught you about Christian living?



THE STORY OF YOUR LIFE

New Message Series begins on January 2, 2022

Stories appeal to us. We love stories and that is why we love movies and novels. We love stories because we are part of a larger story. The Scriptures tell the story of God and how he interacts with humanity through the course of salvation history. When we see our lives as a story and part of God’s larger story, it brings greater meaning to our life and our choices. God can use our stories to draw other people to him. Through this series we are trying to help our parish be more comfortable with their story and telling their story.



STEWARDSHIP — SUNDAY —

GIVING to our parish is an act of worship

Thank you very much for your commitment to our parish as we journey together rebuilding our parish by Loving God, Serving Others and Growing Disciples. This is just a gentle reminder to Plan, Pray, Commit and return your commitment card to the office by mail or by depositing it in the collection basket on Sunday with your worship offering.



Please prayerfully consider supporting our parish with electronic donations through *Faith Direct*. Signing up is easy! Visit 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!



Scan. Pay. Go.



For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Jeremiah 29:11



SOLEMNITY OF MARY MOTHER OF GOD

Saturday, January 1, 2022

Mass: 9:00 AM

Remember Our Parish in Your Will

we often do not realize how helpful it is to the parish that serves our spiritual needs when a person decides to share his/her resources as a way of saying “thank you” for all that has been provided. Most assuredly, a gift to the parish in your will or trust affirms your continued commitment to the parish’s life and works.

Making this gift is easy. You can instruct your attorney to use this wording: “I hereby give, devise and bequeath to Assumption of the BVM parish, with offices at 20 Chestnut St., Centereach, NY 11720, the sum of \$_____ to be used for its most urgent needs.” As an alternative, you can make a gift of what remains in your estate or living trust after all other bequests and expenses have been paid: “I hereby give, devise and bequeath to Assumption of the BVM parish, with offices at 20 Chestnut St., Centereach, NY 11720, all the rest, residue and remainder of my estate (trust) to be used for its most urgent needs.” For more information about remembering the parish in your will or living trust, contact Fr. Joseph at 631-585-8760 or jalenchery@abvmcentereach.com or Barbara Kilarjian at 516-678-5800 x 257.



Rectory Offices Closed

Due to Staff vacations, Rectory offices will be closed on the week after Christmas (Mon. to Fri. Dec. 27–31). Our office hours will resume on January 3, 2022.



Out of Christian charity, we ask that all comply with the NY State requirement to **WEAR MASKS** when participating in any activities on parish grounds until Jan. 15, 2022.



You are invited to “Coffee in the Courtyard”, on every Sunday after the 9:30 AM and 11:30 AM

Masses in the Parish Center Hall. **COFFEE IN THE COURTYARD will be CLOSED until the mask requirement is lifted.** Hang out with our fellow worshippers, spend a few minutes conversing with others, make new friends, and build a stronger community, in which we then become a stronger parish family. **All are welcome!**

Sunday, Dec 26, 2021

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

Bless the children

Holy families aren't necessarily picture-perfect. But they are faithful and consistent in their values and goals. Like Mary and Joseph and biblical parents before them, holy families consecrate their children early and often to the care of God. They do this by baptizing them and seeing to their sacramental preparation. They do this by praying for and with their little ones. They provide them a religious education and share faith-filled practices of compassion and charity. All the children in our lives look to us for love and acceptance, guidance and Christian example. Teach the children well.

TODAY'S READINGS: Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14; Colossians 3:12-21; Luke 2:41-52 (17A); or 1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28; 1 John 3:1-2, 21-24; Luke 2:41-52 (17C). *"Once the child is weaned, I will take him to appear before the LORD and to remain there forever."*

Monday, Dec 27, 2021

FEAST OF JOHN, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST

He lived to tell the tale

John the Apostle is credited with being the author of the Gospel of John. He is also believed to have been the "Beloved Disciple" of Jesus mentioned in that gospel and is presumed to have outlived the other apostles, perhaps being the only one to die of natural causes rather than martyrdom. Imagine being the last survivor, and the heartache he endured on losing his peers to violent deaths for their faith. Perhaps it was John's job to live to tell the story—"that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in his name"—as he says in his final line. Take John's mission to heart and embrace his good word today.

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 1:1-4; John 20:1a, 2-8 (697). *"Then the other disciple also went in, the one who had arrived at the tomb first, and he saw and believed."*

Tuesday, Dec 28, 2021

FEAST OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS, MARTYRS

Children deserve protection

Nowadays when we think of Christmas pageants, we envision adorable children in bathrobes dressed as shepherds. But in the Middle Ages, religious pageants were a serious business. The whole community gathered to enact mystery plays that told the stories of birth, death, resurrection, and the lives of the saints. It's from such a mystery play that we get the haunting words and melody of "The Coventry Carol"—a song about King Herod's slaughter of the Holy Innocents that asks plaintively, "What may we do to preserve . . . this poor youngling for whom we sing?" Pray today for children who continue to suffer and face certain death without our help.

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 1:5—2:2; Matthew 2:13-18 (698). *"A voice was heard in Ramah, sobbing and loud lamentation; Rachel weeping for her children."*

Wednesday, Dec 29, 2021

FIFTH DAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF NATIVITY OF THE LORD; MEMORIAL OF THOMAS BECKET, BISHOP, MARTYR

Choose God

Everyone must at times make the choice of serving God or something less. Today we remember Saint Thomas Becket, bishop of Canterbury. Thomas was faced with such a dilemma

when his friend the king, Henry II, continuously tried to interfere with church matters. Allowing the king to interfere with the church would have allowed Thomas to be in the king's good graces. Instead, Thomas chose to serve God above anything and anyone else, even at the cost of martyrdom. "When is constancy required," Thomas writes, "except under persecution. Are not friends then proved? If they always yield, how can they ever succeed? They must, one time or other, make a stand."

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 2:3-11; Luke 2:22-35 (202). *"And you yourself a sword will pierce so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed."*

Thursday, Dec 30, 2021

SIXTH DAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

Take your time to absorb Christmas

Today we continue as a church to honor the feast of our Savior's birth. It is day six in the octave of Christmas—the eight-day liturgical focus on the birth of Christ. The entrance of the Christ into human history is such a significant event that the church notes its magnitude by keeping our gaze on it through the specified readings, psalms, and prayers during these eight days. Take a moment today to allow the wonder of God-among-us to continue to sink in.

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 2:12-17; Luke 2:36-40 (203). *"She gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem."*

Friday, Dec 31, 2021

SEVENTH DAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

Out with the new, in with the old

The end of the year gives us pause to reflect on the past and change for the future. Typically, we find something new to embrace or resolve to do. But if it's true that there's really nothing new under the sun, then perhaps we should look to the old! This is exactly what the church does, as it moves into the new year, not with any newfound epiphany, but instead with a commitment to the very old-school value of peace. As we anticipate the World Day of Peace tomorrow, January 1, what are some deeply held and long-standing values that you would like to deepen during the coming year? How might you go old school?

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 2:18-21; John 1:1-18 (204). *"In the beginning was the Word."*

Saturday, Jan 01, 2022

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

Rocking with Mother Mary

People in every age have their particular way to celebrate the new year. These days we might change old eating habits to be healthier; get on track financially; spend more time with family. But maybe this year it could be about what young Catholics refer to as "rocking with Mary," that is, getting to know the mother of Jesus on a deeper level. Understanding her courage, strength, and faithfulness can help us realize our own potential as bearers of the Good News. On her feast day and in the days ahead, reflect on Mary and strive to imitate her in bringing Good News to the world.

TODAY'S READINGS: Numbers 6:22-27; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:16-21 (18). *"And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart."*

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



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