



ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

January 1, 2023

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

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, January 1

9:30 a.m. — Diane Pozzi (Lorraine Amato)
Marilyn Huether (Rich Thienel)

11:30 a.m.— People of the Parish

Monday, January 2

9:00 a.m. — Florence Talluto
Erlinda Matibag (Uy Family)

Tuesday, January 3

9:00 a.m. — Fr. Charles Srion
James Wrafter (Joann & Rick Arroyo)

Wednesday, January 4

9:00 a.m.— Joseph Hallinan
Living & Deceased Members of Rosary
Altar Society

Thursday, January 5

9:00 a.m. — Mary & Patrick McConnon
Marie Scottaline (Rose Picariello)

Saturday, January 7

5:30 p.m.—Eileen Pacula (Daughter-Eileen)
Diane Pozzi (Mattesi Family)

Sunday, January 8

9:30 a.m.— Iris Hernandez (sisters & cousins)
Ronald Bermudez (Nick & Patti
Campanelli)
11:30 a.m.—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.

ASSUMPTION YOUTH MINISTRY

Every Thursday 7:00PM - 8:30PM
in the Parish Center Hall

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

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

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 McMahan 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. Meetings are held on every first Tuesday of the month from September thru June.

*Remember not the events of the past,
the things of long ago consider not;
see, I am doing something new!*

Isaiah 43:18-19

STEWARDSHIP GIVING to our parish as an act of worship

Parish Sacrificial Giving Summary

Last Week’s Collection \$

(includes *Faith Direct*)24,694

Last Year’s Collection \$24,386

Thank You!

Rest
in
Peace



Frank Furnari

Good News Reflection**Consecrate the New Year to the Blessed Mother****HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

On this holy day, which includes an obligation to celebrate Mass because it's as important as Sunday, I pray that you will have a very Jesus-centered year in which your faith increases your joy as you receive his healing love and the gift of his emboldening strength to enable you to succeed in every difficulty. Today, let's consecrate the new year to the Mother of Christ, to her protection and help, asking God to make this a year of many blessings.



In the first reading, God teaches Moses how to pass blessings onto others. Today's responsorial Psalm includes a request for God to bless us. The second reading describes the greatest blessing we've received: our adoption by God the Father. As his children, we inherit all that belongs to him. He has made available to us eternal life and every blessing under the heavens and in heaven.

Blessings come to us all the time. Every breath and each heartbeat is a blessing of life. But would you like to be amazed by your blessings, like the people in today's Gospel reading who heard the testimony of the shepherds?

Such amazement is the awe we feel when we recognize the presence of Jesus and are truly conscious of what's happening. We are blessed whenever we see, do, hear, or feel something that is Jesus or comes from Jesus or reveals him to us. Thus, we're even blessed in situations that feel like curses, because he is there, guiding us through it!

To grow stronger in faith, we need to become more aware of our blessings. This requires keeping our eyes on Jesus. Admittedly, this is hard to do, but it's possible with decisive effort and the help of the Holy Spirit. Look past the problems: There is the victorious Jesus! Look past your emotional reactions to hardships: There is the peace of Christ! Look past the person who is sinning against you: There is Jesus comforting you!

Be awed by the fact that Jesus is always there and that everything good you do is a blessing from Jesus and also to Jesus. In hardships, we overcome evil by doing good to others with Jesus, which is also then a blessing to Jesus. In this, we become aware of the blessings of God's love, sympathy, and victory. And we'll find other blessings, too.

The next time someone fails to be good to you, stop expecting it from them and look for Jesus himself to give you what you need. As you improve at recognizing him, you'll become aware of his blessings even during the heat of the trial, and your faith will grow stronger.

In every situation, keep your eyes on Jesus to see his hand reaching toward you, blessing you.

Let us learn from Mary. She observed everything that happened and reflected on it to see what God would do. When Mary looked at the shepherds, did she see scruffy, stinky, unkempt strangers barging in? Of course not. Look at the scruffy people in your own life. How many blessings do you see?

May your New Year be filled with fully realized blessings!

Questions for Personal Reflection:

Count your blessings. Make a list of everything that's good in your life, including past blessings that give you warm, happy memories. The Lord has done great things for you. How does this reassure you today?

Questions for Community Faith Sharing:

What will you do this year to become more aware of God's blessings? In what ways has Mary revealed Jesus to you?



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.

2023

Jeremiah 29:11



Nocturnal Adoration

Come and be in the presence of the Lord who is present in the Holy Eucharist. Silent Adoration, readings and benediction.

Next Adoration is on
Friday, December 2
In the church 1:00—2:00 PM



Parish Offices will be closed
on Monday, January 2nd, 2023.

Small Group is where our large church gets small. Groups are 6-10 people who meet 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; a place to impact our community and the world. Assumption small groups are open to accept more people anytime during the year to help your faith journey. If you like to join a small group, stop by at the Welcome Desk in the church lobby on Sunday or email rptak@abvmcentereach.com to sign up.



 **Coffee** *in the* **Courtyard**
After 9:30 AM & 11:30 AM Masses
in the plaza between the church and the parish center

Will be on Recess
12/25/22
&
1/1/23
We will resume on
Sunday, January 8


Sprouts
Children's Ministry
after 9:30 AM Mass

Parish Social Ministry (Food Pantry)



Christmas Donations: Thank you to all made our Christmas Drive a huge success! Your donations allowed us to give Christmas baskets to 50 families in need that are living in our Parish. This includes numerous gift cards that allowed these families to buy Christmas gifts for their children. The generosity of our Parishioners is inspiring!

The Parish Social Ministry is happy to accept donations of gift cards throughout the year. We distribute gift cards to the families that we assist so they can buy needed items that are not available in our food pantry.

These include \$25 gift cards from supermarkets, stores such as Walmart and Target, and Quick Chek so they can purchase gas. Donations of non-perishable food and household items are always welcome. Each week we list items that are needed in the bulletin. If you choose to donate gift cards, either drop them off at the Welcome Desk or deliver them to the Parish Office. Food and household items may be placed in the bin by the Church entrance or the Parish Office.

Pantry Needs: Kleenex, Household Cleaner, Toothbrushes, Deodorant, Cooking Oil, Mustard, Mayonnaise, Tea, Canned Pasta, Canned Chicken, Pasta Sauce, Salad Dressing.



In person winter support group at **St Joseph's Church, 45 Church St, Ronkonkoma**. This group is a general bereavement support group for the newly bereaved. The group will meet on **Wednesdays from January 11 to March 8, 2023 from 11:00 am to 12:15 pm in the Parish Center**. There is a one-time registration fee of \$25.00 to pay the book used in the group. Interested individuals should call at the parish office 631-588-8456

This unique opportunity allows taxpayers to make charitable contributions through a direct IRA transfer. If you would like to make a gift using your IRA and if:

1. You are at least 70 1/2 years old on the date you make your gift
 2. Your IRA is a traditional (some Roth IRA's may qualify)
 3. You don't exceed your personal maximum of \$100,000 per year in qualified charitable distributions
2. Tax Saving Advantages:
1. QCDs are not included in your adjusted gross income.
 2. QCDs deliver a tax benefit while "regular" charitable donations might not since the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act almost doubled the standard deductions amounts.
 3. QCDs taken from your traditional IRA counts as a distribution for the required minimum distribution (RMD) rules. Therefore, you can donate all or part of your RMD that you would otherwise be forced to receive and pay taxes on.



VERY IMPORTANT!! Your gift must go directly from your IRA to the Charity. If you receive the money first then you'll be taxed on it like any other distribution.



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!



Sunday, Jan 01, 2023

And let it begin with me

"The world must be educated to love Peace, to build it up and defend it." With these words, Pope Paul VI in 1968 called us each to personal responsibility for keeping the peace. Since then, successive popes have related the quest for peace to fighting poverty, protecting creation, defeating racism, caring for migrants, supporting education, ensuring opportunities to work, and overcoming indifference. As the pandemic bloomed, Pope Francis described peace as cultivating a "culture of care." Building peace includes encountering people outside our typical social cocoons. It necessarily involves creating good politics and living with hope. Make peace your personal priority.

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

TODAY'S READINGS: Numbers 6:22-27; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:16-21 (18). *"The LORD look upon you kindly and give you peace!"*

Monday, Jan 02, 2023

Spirituality is a friendly endeavor

Is there anyone you regard as a "spiritual friend"? Someone with whom you share your Christian journey and who helps you grow in faith? Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen were two such friends who were monks together for a while and later both became bishops. They lived in a time—the fourth century—when there was great conflict and heresy, and the pair worked to keep the church united on the right path. Gregory wrote of their friendship: "We seemed to be two bodies with a single spirit ... Our single object and ambition was virtue, and a life of hope in the blessings that are to come ..." If it's true that you are the company you keep, choose wisely!

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

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 2:22-28; John 1:19-28 (205). *"Who are you, so we can give an answer to those who sent us?"*

Tuesday, Jan 03, 2023

The name above all others

The Most Holy Name of Jesus occurs in early January to signify the eight days since Jesus' birth—when, as a Jew, he was presented in the Temple and given a name. As the Bible reminds us, an angel told Joseph: "You shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." Today is also the main feast day of the Jesuit religious order, as their name derives from Jesus' name. Celebrate as [suggested by today's most famous Jesuit](#), Pope Francis: "It means thinking like him, loving like him, seeing like him, walking like him. It means doing what he did and with his same sentiments."

MEMORIAL OF THE MOST HOLY NAME OF JESUS

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 2:29—3:6; John 1:29-34 (206). *"Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world."*

Wednesday, Jan 04, 2023

Stand firm for justice

Today, the church celebrates the feast of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, the first person born in the future United States to be canonized, and the de facto founder of America's Catholic school system. Seton was also a voice of reason in a time of rampant contradiction in the realm of human rights. Though her family owned slaves, Seton apparently rejected the practice and spoke lovingly of African Americans. Though her order did not protest the

practice, and in some cases benefitted from the labor of enslaved individuals themselves, recent studies have found no evidence that Seton herself ever engaged in the practice—a rarity for her time and social class. Let's pray that a spirit of holy resistance will fill us all in the fight against injustice—in a world where up to 50 million people live in modern slavery.

MEMORIAL OF ELIZABETH ANN SETON, RELIGIOUS

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 3:7-10; John 1:35-42 (207). *"The person who acts in righteousness is righteous, just as he is righteous."*

Thursday, Jan 05, 2023

Live and learn—and pass it on

Education was of supreme importance to both Saint John Neumann (1811-60), who is memorialized today, and to scientist and devout Christian George Washington Carver, who died on Jan. 5, 1943. Both men obtained an education long before it was seen as a birthright. Both made enormous social contributions as a result: Neumann to faith development of the masses; Carver to applied agricultural science impacting the country in numerous ways. For them, cleverness was never an end in itself; they both believed their talents were given by God to serve others. How does *your* education serve others?

MEMORIAL OF JOHN NEUMANN, BISHOP

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 3:11-21; John 1:43-51 (208). *"Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel."*

Friday, Jan 06, 2023

The door will be opened

Born frail and weak in 1845 near Montreal and orphaned at 12 when both parents died, André Bessette tried a number of trades as a young man, none with much success. He was initially turned away when applying to the Congregation of Holy Cross but was finally accepted and given the humble task of doorkeeper, messenger, and laundry worker at Notre Dame College in Montreal. There he faithfully served for decades. His life of devotion and healing presence eventually attracted legions of visitors and 80,000 prayer requests mailed in each year. "When I joined this community, the superiors showed me the door, and I remained 40 years," he quipped near the end of his long life. Make yours a life of simple service and devotion—and a sense of humor won't hurt either!

MEMORIAL OF ANDRÉ BESSETTE, RELIGIOUS

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 5:5-13; Mark 1:7-11 or Luke 3:23-28 or 3:23, 31-34, 36, 38 (209). *"I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals."*

Saturday, Jan 07, 2023

Signs of life

All that water at the wedding feast of Cana was used, the story tells us, for "Jewish ceremonial washings." Such washings were prescribed by the Jewish *Halakha*, or body of laws derived from the Torah. The fact that Jesus turned pure water for cleansing into wine for drinking would have sent a powerful message of the true nature of "living water" to the wedding guests. That same message is transmitted to us as simple table wine becomes the blood of Christ at every Eucharist. Like the wedding guests at Cana, don't hesitate to drink deeply from the cup of life Jesus offers.

CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 5:14-21; John 2:1-11 (210). *"Jesus did this as the beginning of his signs at Cana in Galilee and so revealed his glory."*

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



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