



# ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

**February 5, 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](http://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, February 5**

9:30 a.m. — Diane Pozzi (Lorraine Amato)  
Leo Gustavo Cortes (Olivier Family)  
11:30 a.m.— People of the Parish

**Monday, February 6**

9:00 a.m. — Intention of Debbie Carney (Quinn)  
Maria Teresa Castro-Sario (Emma Ella)

**Tuesday, February 7**

9:00 a.m. — Verius Paul (Children)  
Johnny D. Conner Jr. (Christine Meyer)

**Wednesday, February 8**

9:00 a.m.— Maria & Inacio de Sousa (Family)  
Josephine Uy (Gochan Family)

**Thursday, February 9**

9:00 a.m. — Anthony Romano (Family)  
Dias Family (Family)

**Saturday, February 11**

5:30 p.m.—Olga Vieira (Ferrerira Family)  
Dennis Quirk (Lucy Quirk)

**Sunday, February 12**

9:30 a.m.— Marilyn Huether (Melissa & Anthony Ferrara)  
Loretta Bengtson (Maureen & Sheila)  
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 6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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 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.



**STEWARDSHIP**  
**GIVING to our parish as an act of worship**

**Parish Sacrificial Giving Summary**  
**Last Week’s Collection \$9,599**

(includes Faith Direct)

Last Year’s Collection \$12,537

**Thank You!**

Rest  
in  
Peace

Paul Brazezicke  
Gregory Stenger

**Good News Reflection****Season the world with your faith**

This Sunday, Jesus tells us: "You are the salt of the earth." What does it mean to be salt? Think about what salt does. It adds flavor to foods that lack sufficient taste.

Jesus also raises the point that if we lose our flavor, how can it be restored? The answer is: Only by letting God renew us.

In your baptism, you were made flavorful -- alive with God's love, peace, joy, etc. Fruitful Christians are those who evangelize by adding the seasoning of God's life -- God's love, peace, joy, etc. -- to the lives of the people around them.

But beware of trying too hard! What happens when food is over-salted? It tastes horrible. No matter how good our intentions might be, if we come on too strong, we do more harm than good.



People are much more likely to turn to Jesus if they first experience his love from us, and his peace in how we treat them, and his joy in the way we live our lives. They need to discover that Jesus loves them just the way they are, that he is gentle but sincere when inviting them to grow spiritually, and that he can help them turn hardships and troubles into blessings and joys.

Jesus also tells us to be a light that others cannot help but notice -- but not a light that blinds. To flavor the lives of others with the presence of Jesus, we have to let his light shine in us. We have to be so lit up by Christ that others cannot help but notice.

Additionally, Jesus says that we have to be a city. We cannot evangelize alone. A "city" is a group of Christians: a parish, a family, a church organization. Being Christian means being in community. When our light is joined to the light of others, our collective glow is much more effective in revealing Christ to the world. Why? Because non-believers learn that the love of Christ is real when they see us living in love with each other: unconditionally, generously, with a servant's heart (see Acts 2:42-47).

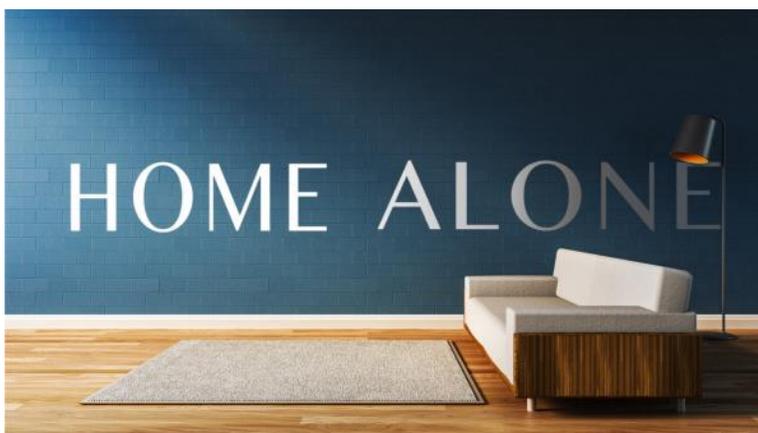
We are the light of Christ for each other. We are seasoning for each other. Without each other, our light dims, our flavor fades, and we become useless to God's kingdom.

**Questions for Personal Reflection:**

In what ways have you over-salted someone by trying too hard or too often to evangelize? What were the results? What will you do to rectify this? What obstructs the light of Christ within you? What in you needs to change so that the people around you can see him better?

**Questions for Community Faith Sharing:**

What clues help us identify people whose lives are lacking the full flavor of Jesus' love? How could their lives be seasoned with the love of Jesus that is in you? And in your parish?



This is the first week of our new message series called, “Home Alone.” We live in the most technologically connected culture in the history of the world. And yet, polls and studies show that loneliness is one of the greatest struggles and problems of our age. God created us to be in relationship with one another; yet, loneliness still affects each of us at one point or another.

Even though loneliness affects our human condition, the fact is that we are never

alone. God is always present and with us. God did not make us to be alone, but to be full of purpose and joy through meaningful relationships with God, other people, and even our own self. To counteract our feelings of loneliness and lack of identity, Jesus tells his followers they are the “salt of the earth” and “light of the world.”

Today, spend some time in prayer asking God to strengthen your relationships and give you grace to be hopeful and at peace even when you feel alone.

### ***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.



**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](mailto:rptak@abvmcentereach.com) to sign up.

**SMALL  
GROUPS**

**Sprouts**

Sprouts is a children’s ministry for ages three and up on Sundays after 9:30 am Mass during Coffee in the Courtyard. We are ready to hear and be part of the stories our youngest disciples of our parish are living and

to invite them to the most incredible adventure of their lives, reminding them week after week, year after year, that our Father is madly after their hearts.

### Parish Social Ministry Program Annual Report 2022

This is a summary of the assistance we were able to provide our clients in 2022. Our Program was able to do this thanks to the continued generosity of our parishioners who donated money, gift cards and food, We are especially blessed with a dedicated group of volunteers who assist our clients and make them feel welcome.



Households Assisted: Number of households receiving food, toiletries, paper goods and cleaning products from the food pantry. This includes regular assistance given throughout the year as well as our Thanksgiving and Christmas Basket drives.

New Clients: This is the number of new families that joined our program in 2022.

Individuals Assisted: This shows how many people our program has assisted, also including information from our Thanksgiving and Christmas Basket drives.

Households	New Clients	Children	Adults	Seniors	Total Individuals Assisted
475	24	455	1069	196	1720

Financial Assistance: In addition to providing assistance from our food pantry, the Outreach Program also provides financial assistance to our clients. This includes assistance with rent, utilities and other expenses, as well as gift cards to various stores in the area. These numbers also include information from our Thanksgiving and Christmas Basket drives.

Rental Assistance	Other Assistance	Gift Cards	Total Financial Assistance
400	745	6890	8035

**Pantry Needs: Paper Towels, Toilet Paper, Kleenex, Dishwashing Liquid, Laundry Detergent, Household Cleaner, Cooking Oil, Mayonnaise, Ketchup, Mustard, Salad Dressing, Liquid Hand Soap and Fruit Juice.**



**Did you know a 401k can help our Parish do God's work?**

You worked hard for your 401k, IRA or other retirement plan. If you leave it to anyone besides a spouse, a good portion of that savings may go to taxes. But if you leave it to our Parish, the entire value will be put to good use because we are a tax-exempt organization. Simply fill out a *change of beneficiary form* and name our parish as a full or partial beneficiary. To learn more contact Barbara Kilarjian at 516-678-5800 ext. 257 or [bkilarjian@drvc.org](mailto:bkilarjian@drvc.org). **Thank you for considering this meaningful parish gift!**



**Coffee  
in the  
Courtyard**

in the plaza between the church and the parish center

Coffee  
Conversations  
Community

**After  
9:30 AM  
& 11:30 AM  
Masses**



Please prayerfully consider supporting our parish with electronic donations through *Faith Direct*. 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!



**Sunday, Feb 05, 2023****Lord, hold the center together**

Author and black Catholic educator Therese Wilson Favors wrote some rousing words for today's observance, the National Day of Prayer for the African American Family: "At times when the strain of life is heaviest within our families, 'holding-on power' is needed. Perseverance is the glue squeezed out from the soul and spoken in prayer at the midnight hour. Perseverance is the spiritual machine needed to break down the mountain and push through from weakness to strength. Lord, let me hold on just a little bit longer." Pray for black families and all families vulnerable to social forces that embattle them.

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 58:7-10; 1 Corinthians 2:1-5; Matthew 5:13-16 (73). *"Your vindication shall go before you, and the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard."*

**Monday, Feb 06, 2023****Be nourished by his rain**

Almost 350 years before the second atomic bomb was dropped on the Japanese city of Nagasaki, it was the site of another tragedy—the place where 26 Christian martyrs were crucified on a hill, now known as Holy Mountain. The best known of the martyrs was Brother Paul Miki, a native Japanese member of the Jesuit order. While hanging on his cross, he continued to preach, expressing thanks to God that he was dying for teaching the doctrine of Christ and urging his listeners to "ask Christ to help you to become happy." He said he hoped his blood would fall as "fruitful rain." May his gentle words and brave witness nourish your prayer today.

MEMORIAL OF PAUL MIKI AND COMPANIONS, MARTYRS  
TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 1:1-19; Mark 6:53-56 (329). *"They laid the sick in the marketplaces and begged him that they might touch only the tassel on his cloak."*

**Tuesday, Feb 07, 2023****How to help a good cause**

Six individuals are in line to become the first African-American saint: Sister Thea Bowman, Julia Greeley, Mother Mary Lange, Mother Henriette Delille, Father Augustus Tolton, and Pierre Toussaint. The first three have the title "servant of God," indicating their canonization cause has been launched. The latter three have the title "venerable," meaning the pope recognizes their heroic virtue. Next would come beatification, allowing candidates to be called "blessed"; it includes the church's confirmation that they are in heaven—evidenced by at least two miracles from their intercession (unless they're martyred). Finally, comes canonization. [Learn about these six](#) and seek their intercession year-round.

TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 1:20-2:4a; Mark 7:1-13 (330). *"God created man in his image; in the divine image he created him; male and female he created them."*

**Wednesday, Feb 08, 2023****Saintly guidance to help end modern-day slavery**

This day marks the International Day of Prayer and Awareness Against Human Trafficking—also the feast of the first and only black woman saint in modern times: the Sudanese nun Josephine Bakhita. Kidnapped into slavery as a child by Arab traffickers in the late 19th century, she was converted to Islam before eventually being left in the care of Canossian Sisters in Italy. Her freedom soon came, and she lived out her later life as a Catholic and

eventually a nun. Today, an estimated 50 million people live in modern-day slavery. Christians are among the greatest combatants of the trade, and Saint Josephine was named the patron of survivors when she was canonized in 2000. May her faith continue to inspire those working to end the scourge, and may we join their efforts.

MEMORIAL OF JOSEPHINE BAKHITA, RELIGIOUS

TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 2:4b-9, 15-17; Mark 7:14-23 (331). *"When you send forth your spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the earth."*

**Thursday, Feb 09, 2023****Seeing Adam's rib with fresh eyes**

Traditionally, today's first reading has been used as a cudgel to keep women in divinely sanctioned inferiority. In the past century, scholars have looked differently at Genesis. Eve being created last doesn't imply inferiority, they say; human creation came after the rest of creation and traditionally was seen as implying superiority (which is actually another idea now under question). Also, many say a "partner" for Adam would imply equal status. Scripture interpretation depends heavily on the culture and on who is doing the interpreting. May the Holy Spirit inspire each one of us to advance human dignity.

TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 2:18-25; Mark 7:24-30 (332). *"This one, at last, is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh."*

**Friday, Feb 10, 2023****Togetherness has its virtue**

Saint Scholastica (480-543) is the patron of Benedictine nuns and sisters. Along with her brother Saint Benedict of Nursia, she helped establish a rule for monastic living that emphasized prayer, work, and peace. Contemporary Benedictine women continue to follow this ancient set of precepts. The vision of monastic life, as expressed in the 2022 Centennial Prayer of the Benedictine Federation of Saint Scholastica is to "see Christ at the heart of all creation and at the center of our common life" and "share the peace of Christ, show the love of Christ, and make Christ known in our world." In what ways does your own life within family and community give witness to the peace and love of Christ?

MEMORIAL OF SCHOLASTICA, RELIGIOUS  
TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 3:1-8; Mark 7:31-37 (333). *"[Jesus] has done all things well."*

**Saturday, Feb 11, 2023****Our hands, God's hands**

Today is World Day of the Sick, an observation introduced by Pope John Paul II as a way for believers to serve those suffering from illnesses. "Because Your hands, which touch the suffering flesh of Christ," said the sainted pope, "can be a sign of the merciful hands of the Father." Today and every day we pray for and care for the sick in our lives. On this day last year Pope Francis stated, "The ministry of consolation is a task for every baptized person, mindful of the word of Jesus: 'I was sick and you visited me.'"

TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 3:9-24; Mark 8:1-10 (334). *"My heart is moved with pity for the crowd."*

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



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