



ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

February 19, 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, February 19

9:30 a.m. — Peter & Christina Bergman (Uy Family)
Juanito Lagasca (Uy Family)

11:30 a.m.— People of the Parish

Monday, February 20

9:00 a.m. — Abelardo & Norma Angeles (Family)
Intentions of Fr. Joseph Alenchrey (CDA
Ct. St. Gerard #1920)

Tuesday, February 21

9:00 a.m. — Michael Kennedy (Kennedy Family)
Delia Ilvento (Maureen & John Dalton)

Ash Wednesday, February 22

7:30 a.m.— Scripture Service

12:00 p.m.—Mass

4:00 p.m.— Scripture Service

7:00 p.m.— Mass

Thursday, February 23

9:00 a.m. — Jane Hall
Intentions of Maria DeVito (Josephine
Scala)

Friday, February 24

9:00 a.m. —Pat Galioto (Larry & Ginny)
Armando Perez (Ferrer Family)

Saturday, February 25

5:30 p.m.— Domenica Bellavia (Pat Rivers)
Thanksgiving for CDA Ct. St. Gerard
#1920

Sunday, February 26

9:30 a.m.— Bill & Jake Scott (Campbell Family)
Scott Pinto (Campbell Family)

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 web-
site 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.

STEWARDSHIP GIVING to our parish as an act of worship

Parish Sacrificial Giving Summary
Last Week's Collection \$9,062

(includes Faith Direct)

Last Year's Collection \$7,920

Thank You!

Rest
in
Peace



Kevin Rivers

Good News Reflection**How to open the door of love with mercy**

Mercy is the key to understanding this Sunday's Gospel reading. Think of love as the front door to people's hearts. When they close it, mercy is the love that sneaks in through the back door.

In ancient times, if someone gouged another person in the eye, the victim could gather his clan and punish him by wiping out his aggressor's clan. So God gave his people a law that brought them closer to love: If someone hurts your eye, you may do nothing more than the same to him. It was still unloving, but at least it was fair.

When Jesus came onto the scene, he raised the standards: If someone hurts you, don't play fair; give that person love. When people sin against us, they don't understand that they're closing their hearts to God and his love. But if we give them love, we give them God through a back door.

This does not mean we are to remain in harm's way. But if we continue to give them love -- even if only from afar -- we bring God and his healing into the situation.

If someone steals from you or demands something from you unjustly, you can't stop his greed but you can stop him from sinning against you: Let it go, give it to him. And as an act of generous love, give him more! I know it doesn't feel right, but this is what Jesus says is right. Divinely right.

If someone asks you to do a chore for her because she's lazy, prevent it from becoming a sin of cruelty; gladly do what she asks and volunteer to do more.

This plan of Jesus demonstrates, through us, that God's love is superior to everything else. It proves that love conquers evil. This is what it means to be perfect. Perfection in the Bible means the fullness of love -- complete, unlimited, merciful love.

Questions for Personal Reflection:

Think of a time when God showed you mercy even though you didn't deserve his love. What did it feel like when he gave you his love anyway? How did it change you? Who is currently sinning against you? What good deeds can you do simply and easily even before he or she asks for forgiveness?

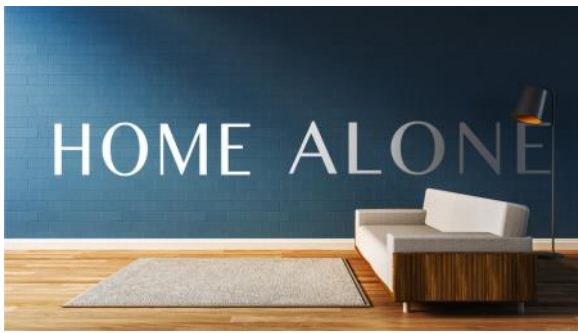
Questions for Community Faith Sharing:

Describe a time when you did a good deed to someone who caused you difficulties. What kind of impact did your efforts make? If you're not aware of good results yet, how did it help you experience God's love? How can stopping an abuse be done as an act of love?

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ASH WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE
February 22, 2023
Scripture Service: 7:30am, Mass: 12:00noon, Mass: 7:00pm
Scripture Service: 4:00pm



We live in the most technologically connected culture in the history of the world. God created us to be in relationship with one another; yet, loneliness still affects each of us at one point or another.

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. The Old and New Testaments return again and again to God's law of love, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." But we often make the mistake from the beginning of failing to have a healthy and proper way of loving ourselves,

which then gets projected onto others. This week, we reflect on how to best take care of our body and spirit in ways that reflect God's love.

Today, ask God to reveal to you what a healthy, humble, and holy kind of love for yourself looks like.



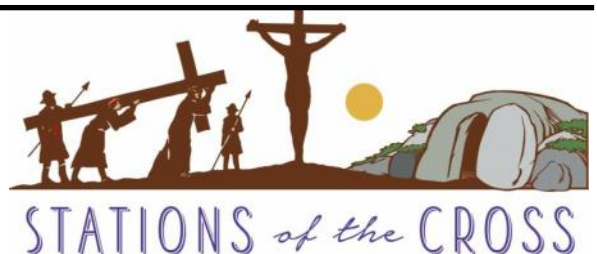
We have wounds and they need to be healed. We have wounds from broken relationships. We have wounds from insults and attacks on our heart. We have wounds on our souls from our own personal sin. We have wounds from attacks on our identity from evil. Wounds do not make us abnormal; they make us normal. They are the result of living in a fallen and broken world. Yet, we often feel embarrassed and ashamed of our wounds. We deny them or wish they would go away.

That is all the bad news. The Good News is that Jesus came to heal us. Jesus describes his mission as coming to heal us and make us whole. He brings salvation. Salvation does not mean that he came simply to save us from hell but to salvage us and make us whole. Jesus comes to heal our minds, hearts, souls, emotions and relationships. He heals people who recognize their need for healing. Jesus comes to heal us and then sends us to be an instrument of healing for others.

In this series we will look at our need for healing and how we can open up our hearts and our lives so that the Healer can set us free. In all our hurts and wounds, Jesus uses them to see our need for him and to draw closer to him.

Fridays of Lent

Season of Lent is here this week. It is a wonderful time of prayer, reflection, fasting, almsgiving and Stations of the Cross. We are having **Masses on Fridays at 9:00 AM followed by Stations of the Cross during Lent** (Feb 24th to Mar 31st.)



Parish Social Ministry


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. If you or someone you know can use our services, please call us at 631 585-8760 x2 or by email to outreach@abvmcentereach.com. We are happy to assist people of all faiths. The Outreach Office is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 10 AM to 1 PM. **Pantry Needs: Dishwashing Liquid, Laundry Detergent, Kleenex, Mustard, Ketchup, Mayonnaise, Muffin Mix, Oatmeal, Baked Beans, Canned Vegetables, Peanut Butter, Jelly & Canned Chicken.**



SAVE THE DATE



Vacation
Bible School 2023
July 31st to Aug 4th

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.



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 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.

Sunday, Feb 19, 2023**Kindness and care, from beginning to end**

Sometimes you have to do things for yourself. Mathilda Beasley (1833-1903), of Creole and Native American parents, founded a Franciscan community of color in Savannah with little help from normal church channels. Her sisters cared for orphaned black children, continuing the work until things ran out: money, housing, and the health of Mother Beasley. Though the community was suppressed, Mother Beasley was the third founder of an order of black sisters in the United States, after Elizabeth Lange and Henriette Delille. God measures our efforts, not our success.

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

TODAY'S READINGS: Leviticus 19:1-2, 17-18; 1 Corinthians 3:16-23; Matthew 5:38-48 (79). *"For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in the eyes of God."*

Monday, Feb 20, 2023**Either part of the problem, or . . .**

Imagine being a lifelong Catholic—yet being refused admittance to a Catholic school. Or being asked to move to the back of the church at Mass because of your race. Professor Thomas Wyatt Turner (1877-1978) experienced plenty of discrimination, which is why he helped found the NAACP in 1909 as well as the Federated Colored Catholics in 1924. The latter group pledged their services to the church "for whatever good they were able to effect in the solution of the problems facing the group in church and country." On this World Day of Social Justice, be part of the solution.

TODAY'S READINGS: Sirach 1:1-10; Mark 9:14-29 (341). *"Why could we not drive the spirit out?" [Jesus] said to them, "This kind can only come out through prayer."*

Tuesday, Feb 21, 2023**Climb to holiness**

Dante Alighieri, writing *The Divine Comedy*, paid Peter Damian the great honor of placing him in one of the highest circles of Paradise. In fact, Peter is the first of two important monastic figures to greet Dante in "seventh heaven," the other being Saint Benedict of Nursia. Both represent this heavenly level: spiritual contemplatives who've lived a life of temperance and prayer. Dante has Peter and Benedict climbing up and down a golden ladder, reminiscent of the "[Ladder of Humility](#)" (12 steps) described in the Benedictine Rule and the "[Ladder of Divine Ascent](#)" (30 steps) written by monastic Saint John Climacus. If you need to build a Lenten practice, step up to the task tomorrow.

MEMORIAL OF PETER DAMIAN, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

TODAY'S READINGS: Sirach 2:1-11; Mark 9:30-37 (342). *"If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all."*

Wednesday, Feb 22, 2023**Out of the ashes**

Happy Ash Wednesday! Yes, it can be a cause for celebration. Best known as the first day of Lent, this day remains sacred to Catholic communities in the West as a day of solemnity following the Carnival season, capped off yesterday with Mardi Gras ("Fat Tuesday"). Though most often associated with revelry and excess, the season just completed is also a holy one. Carnival is full of Catholic symbolism and festive acknowledgement of God and creation, in keeping with the church year and its marking of spiritual times and seasons. Now, as we enter a period of fasting and abstinence, let's remember to continue seeking God's

goodness in the rich traditions of the faith. Don't forget to stop by church for ashes today!

ASH WEDNESDAY; DAY OF FASTING AND ABSTINENCE

TODAY'S READINGS: Joel 2:12-18; 2 Corinthians 5:20—6:2; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18 (219). *"For our sake he made him to be sin who did not know sin, so that we might become the righteousness of God in him."*

Thursday, Feb 23, 2023**Emulate those who stood firm**

Polycarp was a bishop, and his death the church's first recorded martyrdom. He was born in 69, just a few years after Peter and Paul were executed, and Roman authorities burned him to death after what one account calls a "witty conversation" between Polycarp and Statius Quadratus, Roman proconsul. Polycarp became one of what would turn out to be a flood of Christians who have been put to death, and continue to be so, for not renouncing their faith. Sometimes "not renouncing" means publicly living Christian ethics against pressure; sometimes it means stating one's belief in words. Strive to be a courageous witness for faith, as those who came before us have been.

MEMORIAL OF POLYCARP, BISHOP, MARTYR

TODAY'S READINGS: Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Luke 9:22-25 (220). *"What profit is there for one to gain the whole world yet lose or forfeit himself?"*

Friday, Feb 24, 2023**Fast approaching**

The practice of fasting during Lent finds its genesis in our Lord's journey into the desert where he fasted and prayed for 40 days and nights in preparation to begin his public ministry (Matthew 4:1-2; Luke 4:1-3). We observe the 40 days of Lent in imitation of Christ's time in the desert. We walk into the desert with Christ and fast so as to have the strength to do good and avoid evil, with the help of God's grace. We strive to atone for our sins and purify our lives in preparation for the celebration of Christ's glorious rising from the tomb.

FRIDAY AFTER ASH WEDNESDAY; DAY OF ABSTINENCE

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 58:1-9a; Matthew 9:14-15 (221). *"This, rather, is the fasting that I wish: . . . Clothing the naked when you see them, and not turning your back on your own."*

Saturday, Feb 25, 2023**What's on your bookshelf?**

It is often said that Lent is a time to take spiritual inventory and do a "spring cleanup" as we renew our baptismal promises. The conjunction of Lent with Black History Month and Catholic Press Month affords us an unprecedented opportunity to take spiritual inventory of our bookshelves, too! What books do we have from the black Catholic community that can enrich us, expand our spiritual horizons, and even challenge us? This Lent, consider picking up *Uncommon Faithfulness: The Black Catholic Experience* (2009) or *Black Catholic Studies Reader: History and Theology* (2021). Make one of these books or a similar one part of your Lenten renewal.

SATURDAY AFTER ASH WEDNESDAY

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 58:9b-14; Luke 5:27-32 (222). *"Then the LORD will guide you always and give you plenty even on the parched land."*

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



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