



# ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

**March 26, 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, March 26**

9:30 a.m. — Frederick C. Lingen Jr. (Family)  
Intentions of Debbie Carney (Quinn)  
11:30 a.m.— People of the Parish

**Monday, March 27**

9:00 a.m. — Samantha R. Mulz (McGuinness Family)

**Tuesday, March 28**

9:00 a.m. — Fernando Pacheco Goncalves (Rose Picariello)

**Wednesday, March 29**

9:00 a.m.—John Houghton (Pat Houghton)

**Thursday, March 30**

9:00 a.m. — Mary Ross (Sharon Holliday)

**Friday, March 31**

9:00 a.m. — Mary Ross (Nancy Dentrone)

**Saturday, April 1**

5:30 p.m.— Catherine Molick (Family)  
Iris Hernandez (Sisters & Cousins)

**Sunday, April 2**

9:30 a.m.— Domenica Bellavia (Catherine LoCasto & Family)  
Intentions of Debbie Carney (Quinn)  
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.

Rest  
in  
Peace



Mary Ross  
Camille Rose James  
Liduvina Espino

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

**Parish Sacrificial Giving Summary**  
**Last Week’s Collection \$9,185**

(includes *Faith Direct*)

**Last Year’s Collection \$9,795**

**Thank You!**



## Good News Reflection

### ***The happy truth about the Lenten journey***

Lent is not about suffering and sacrifice. It's a corridor to new life. Good Friday is not about evil and pain and death. It's the door that Jesus opens to invite us into that new life.

Yes, suffering is part of the Lenten journey (which can be experienced at any time of the year). Yes, Lent includes the sacrifices of fasting and abstinence, almsgiving and extra time in church. But these are just vehicles for the trip.

God uses our sufferings (if we let him) to help us grow in compassion, persistence, and ministry. Our sacrifices help us learn discipline (which is discipleship) so that we can purify our will and grow stronger in holiness. But the trip is not the destination.

Lent is all about reaching the resurrection: renewing our faith, entering a new life free of old sins, reconciling damaged relationships, and living in the Spirit of God more than we ever did before.

Which day is more important to your faith: Good Friday or Easter Sunday? That horrid day on Calvary was absolutely necessary for Easter, but we are living in the resurrection! Catholics are an Easter people. This means that nothing bad can ever happen to us that will not be transformed into blessings if Jesus is the Lord of our lives.

He proved himself to be the Resurrection and the Life by displaying his power over life and death.

Now he wants to prove it again -- to you and to all those who are watching.

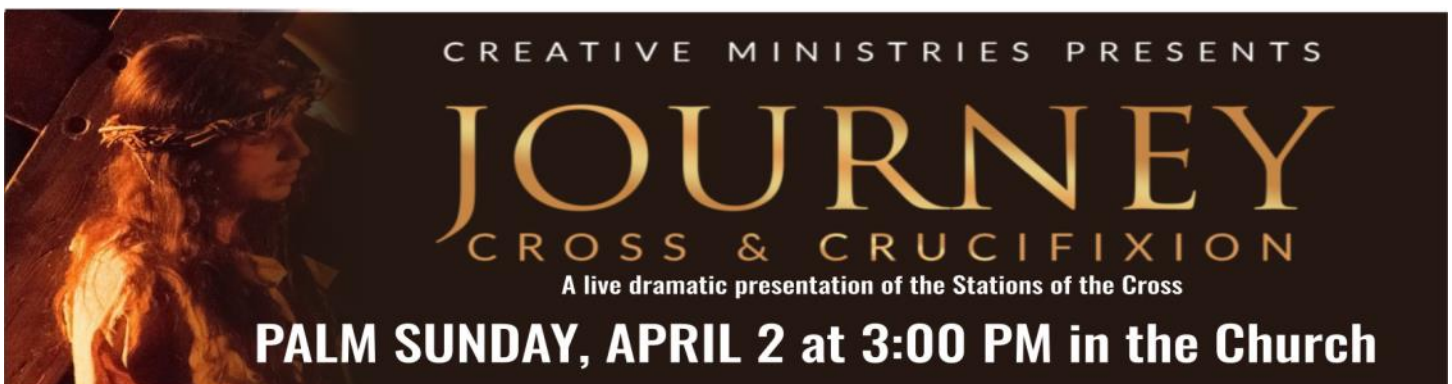
### **Questions for Personal Reflection:**

What needs to be resurrected in your life? What will you do this week to accept the death of what has ended so that you can prepare for the new life that Jesus is preparing for you?

### **Questions for Community Faith Sharing:**

1. We can personalize the first reading by understanding that God will open our graves (whatever is dead inside of us) and will place his Spirit of Life within us. How does the Holy Spirit help us discover healing and hope amidst our daily sufferings and dyings?
2. In the scripture from Romans, we are reminded again of the Holy Spirit within us. Since the Spirit is alive in you, what affect does this have on your Lenten journey? What is being purified, strengthened, and renewed?
3. In the Gospel, Jesus proves his power over death just before he enters Jerusalem and heads toward Calvary. How does this prove to you that your own sufferings and sacrifices will not lead to permanent disaster?

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CREATIVE MINISTRIES PRESENTS

# JOURNEY

CROSS & CRUCIFIXION

A live dramatic presentation of the Stations of the Cross

**PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 2 at 3:00 PM in the Church**



The ultimate pain or wound is death. It separates us from our loved ones and leads to grief and loss. Jesus came to heal the world of the pain of grief and death. The raising of Lazarus from the dead and his own resurrection prove that Jesus is the resurrection and the life. His healing can be so complete that it even conquers death.

Jesus accomplishes an incredibly miraculous healing with very little effort. All he does is pray a quick and simple prayer to his Father and tell Lazarus to come out.

Jesus is the resurrection and heals the wounds of death. Invite Jesus into grief of the loss of a loved one or the loss of a relationship.



*Communal Penance Service*  
(Sacrament of Reconciliation)

**Friday, March 31st, 7:00 PM**

All are invited

*As we face our wounds Jesus heals us.*

Come & join the fun

**EASTER EGG HUNT**

Sunday April 9 | After 9:30 AM Mass | 33 Crown Acres Rd  
Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church

Free Egg Hunt - Ages 2-12 - BYOB (*bring your own basket*)

Donations of plastic Eggs &/or Candy are very much appreciated,  
and please drop them off at the office by April 2



## Parish Social Ministry

The Outreach Food Pantry is available for individuals and families that are struggling to stretch their food budget. 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](mailto:outreach@abvmcentereach.com). The Outreach Office is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 10 AM to 1 PM. **Pantry Needs: Toilet Paper, Kleenex, Household Cleaner, Shampoo, Deodorant, Laundry Detergent, Mayonnaise, Mustard, Salad Dressing, Coffee, Fruit Juice, Hot Chocolate, Rice-a-Roni, Peanut Butter, Jelly, Dog Food, Cat Food.**



# Holy Week Services



## Holy Thursday – April 6<sup>th</sup>

9:00 a.m. – Morning Prayer

8:00 p.m. – Mass of the Lord's Supper



## Good Friday – April 7<sup>th</sup>

9:00 a.m. – Morning Prayer

3:00 p.m. – The Lord's Passion and Holy Communion

8:00 p.m. – Stations of the Cross



## Easter Vigil – April 8<sup>th</sup>

9:00 a.m. – Morning Prayer

8:00 p.m. – Easter Vigil



## Easter Sunday – April 9<sup>th</sup>

9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 1:00 p.m.



## Reconciliation Schedule

Friday, March 31<sup>st</sup> – 7:00 p.m., Parish Penance Service

Sat., April 1<sup>st</sup> – 4:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Mon., April 3<sup>rd</sup> – 11:00 to 12:00 p.m. & 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

**FAITH DIRECT**  
inspiring secure giving®

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!

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**Sunday, Mar 26, 2023****Hints of resurrection**

While the Hebrew scripture written before Jesus lived doesn't explicitly speak of resurrection in the same way it is spoken of after Jesus is raised from the dead, there are certainly rumors and whispers. Perhaps the most explicit references are in chapter 37 of Ezekiel, where God, working through the prophet, raises a valley of dry bones to new life and promises to restore them to the promised land after their captivity in Babylon centuries before Christ. Saint Jerome called the vision of the valley of bones a "simile" of the Resurrection to come. There's hope for these old bones yet!

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

TODAY'S READINGS: Ezekiel 37:12-14; Romans 8:8-11; John 11:1-45 (34). *"Then you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves and have you rise from them, O my people!"*

**Monday, Mar 27, 2023****A profile in courage**

In the last week of Women's History Month, here's another Catholic woman who made history: Servant of God Catherine de Hueck Doherty (1896-1985). Born wealthy in Russia, she escaped the Russian Revolution and fled to Canada. During the Great Depression, she founded Friendship House, a Catholic outreach movement to serve the poor and promote interracial friendship—a movement that started in Toronto and spread to Harlem, Chicago, Washington D.C., and Portland, Oregon. As a nation and a world community, we face trials comparable to the ones Doherty faced. She responded with courage, generosity, love, and gospel witness. Let us do the same!

LENTEN WEEKDAY

TODAY'S READINGS: Deuteronomy 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62; John 8:1-11 (251). *"Go, and from now on do not sin any more."*

**Tuesday, Mar 28, 2023****'Tis a gift to be simple**

Happy birthday to Saint John Neumann today—nicknamed the "little bishop" not only for his stature but for the humility that came from his Redemptorist vow of poverty, which he honored even after becoming bishop of Philadelphia. Neumann's simplicity invites rich reflection for Lent. "Our great mistake is that we allow ourselves to be deceived by the spirit of worldly shrewdness, the desire for fame, and the love of comfort," he wrote to a fellow priest. "The principles of faith fade out of our hearts in proportion as we allow the principles of the world to come in." Simplify your life to make more room for what feeds your faith.

LENTEN WEEKDAY

TODAY'S READINGS: Numbers 21:4-9; John 8:21-30 (252). *"You belong to this world, but I do not belong to this world."*

**Wednesday, Mar 29, 2023****Redemption is at hand**

Though they, along with other ancient societies, engaged in some forms of household slavery, Jews as a general rule frowned upon the institution. Slaves who were not Jewish were to be offered conversion to Judaism and if they became Jews, immediately freed. Jews were also required to redeem Jewish slaves from non-Jewish owners. Memory of their own captivity in Egypt and Babylonia loomed large, and they resented Jesus promising to free them. But when Jesus spoke of the truth setting Jews free, he was talking about another kind of enslavement, the kind we all fall

into through unskillful actions, behaviors, habits, compulsions. Look honestly at what might be restricting your inner freedom and ask Jesus to redeem you.

LENTEN WEEKDAY

TODAY'S READINGS: Daniel 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; John 8:31-42 (253).

*"We are descendants of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How can you say, 'You will become free'?"*

**Thursday, Mar 30, 2023****Help your unbelief**

Can a believer doubt? It can be a relief to learn that a whole school of thought among Catholic theologians asserts that doubt, while seemingly corrosive, can actually bolster faith in the end. Doubt can lead to exploration, which often leads to better understanding, greater clarity, or sometimes simply a willingness to not know, to live without all questions fully answered, leaning into religious practice with an open heart. Most would call that an adult faith.

What questions nag at you? Doubt, dig, and remain open to God.

LENTEN WEEKDAY

TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 17:3-9; John 8:51-59 (254). *"Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever keeps my word will never see death."*

**Friday, Mar 31, 2023****Miles to go**

Women's History Month concludes today, but the work of ensuring the rights of women continues. In a November 2022 press conference, Pope Francis acknowledged that more work needs to be done. "We have to tell the truth," the pope said. "The fight for women's rights is an ongoing fight." This includes equality in public life and also "equality of opportunities." How might we each open a door of opportunity for women in our own families, parishes, neighborhoods, schools, or offices?

LENTEN WEEKDAY; DAY OF ABSTINENCE

TODAY'S READINGS: Jeremiah 20:10-13; John 10:31-42 (255). *"If I do not perform my Father's works, do not believe me; but if I perform them, even if you do not believe me, believe the works."*

**Saturday, Apr 01, 2023****A well-traveled pilgrim helped shape Holy Week**

Holy Week begins tomorrow. It's in the description of Jesus' last week—immediately ahead of his death and Resurrection—that all four gospels resemble each other the most. The church's liturgical celebration of Holy Week, however, was a late development. Originally, Christians had only a single *Pascha* liturgy to observe Jesus' suffering, death, and Resurrection. Specific Holy Week liturgies for Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, and Good Friday grew from individual shrines in Jerusalem where each event occurred. Thanks to a detailed travel journal, written in 383 by a remarkable woman pilgrim to the Holy Land named Egeria, these liturgies began to take shape. As Holy Week begins, let's not only honor the women at the empty tomb but the woman who helped define Holy Week.

LENTEN WEEKDAY

TODAY'S READINGS: Ezekiel 37:21-28; John 11:45-56 (256). *"He prophesied that Jesus was going to die for the nation, and not only for the nation."*

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



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