



# ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

**September 24, 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: Summer Hours M - Th 9:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.

Phone: 631-585-8760;  
Fax: 1-866-214-3365  
Faith Formation: 631-588-6408



**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.

**RECTORY OFFICE HOURS**  
**Monday to Friday**  
**9:00 AM to 2:00 PM**

**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

**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 631-585-3938.

**Catholic War Veterans**

Second Saturday of the month: Sept - June at 10 AM in the Parish Library. Contact Vincent Zecca, [papazecca@aol.com](mailto: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](mailto:rtbhuntington@yahoo.com) or Anita Wolf at [hwolf96@aol.com](mailto: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.

**Sunday, September 24**

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

11:30 a.m.— People of the Parish

**Monday, September 25**

9:00 a.m. — Maila P. Abania (Ed Uy & Family)  
Althea Lauro (Ed Uy & Family)

**Tuesday, September 26**

9:00 a.m. — Marilyn Huether (John & Dawn)  
Augustine Alenchery (Sharon Holliday)

**Wednesday, September 27**

9:00 a.m.— Augustine Alenchery (Rose Picariello)  
Nicholas Peragine (Rick & Joann Arroyo)

**Thursday, September 28**

9:00 a.m.. — Augustine Alenchery (Lucy Quirk)  
Jeanette Capanzo (Merola Family)

**Saturday, September 30**

5:30 p.m.— Beverley O’Keefe (Pat Rivers)  
Shirley Cardno (Dailey & Mendolia Family)

**Sunday, October 1**

9:30 a.m.— Jimmy Burns (Maureen Reilly)  
Andrew Marino (Patricia Kloiber & Family)  
11:30 a.m.— People of the Parish

**So whoever is in Christ is a new creation:  
the old things have passed away;  
behold, new things have come. 2Corinthians 5:17**

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

**Parish Sacrificial Giving Summary**  
**Last Week’s Collection: \$10,610**  
*(includes Faith Direct)*  
**Last Year’s Collection: \$11,153**  
**Thank You!**

Rest  
in  
Peace

Diana Mary  
DeRosa-Poliseno

## **Good News Reflection**

### **God's not fair!**

God's not fair! How many times have we felt that way? And it's true, at least by our standards. The parable in this Sunday's Gospel reading is a fine example of this.

The landowner seems to be very unfair. We can begin to understand him, however, if we think of this parable in terms of parenthood. A loving father cares about each of his children equally. Although he gives more attention to the child who needs it more, he loves the others just as much.

God the Father is like a vineyard owner who gives equally to all. Since we cannot earn our way into heaven, equal benefits are not an injustice to those who labored longer. Rather, God gives complete and perfect love even to those who only discovered, at the last minute, the value of having a relationship with him. He can do no less.

The first reading reminds us that as high as the heavens are above the earth, God's ways are greater than our ways and his thoughts are higher than our thoughts. We think that justice (fairness) means equal treatment, but that harkens back to the Old Testament concept of justice:

"an eye for an eye". Jesus raised justice to its highest level, which means being equally loving and kind to all, whether they deserve it or not.

We don't have to understand God's higher ways. We only have to be grateful that God loves us even when we are unloving. No matter how undeserving of his love we might be, he still gives us the same amount of love that he gives to the holiest of saints. He loves us as much as he loves Mary the Blessed Mother of Christ! "Am I not free to do as I wish with my own love?" he asks.

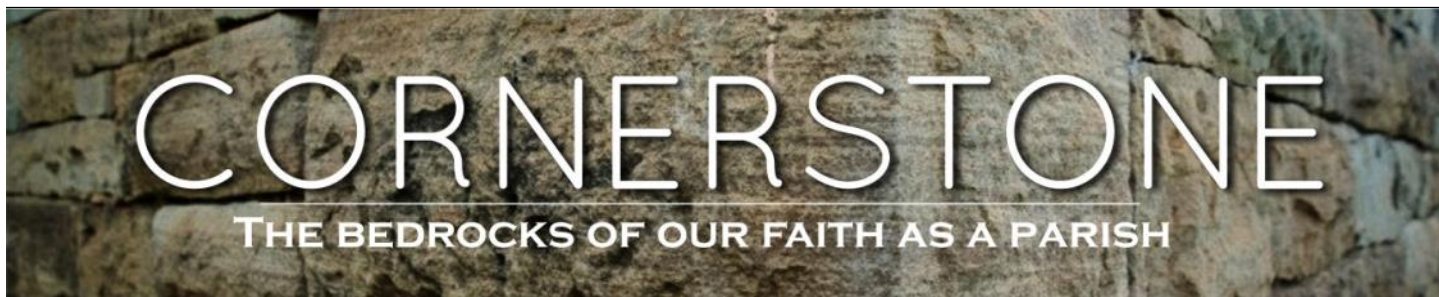
### **Questions for Personal Reflection:**

When have you felt undeserving of God's goodness? What evidence proves that he never stopped loving you? What did he do for you? How has your own opinion of yourself interfered with feeling his love?

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

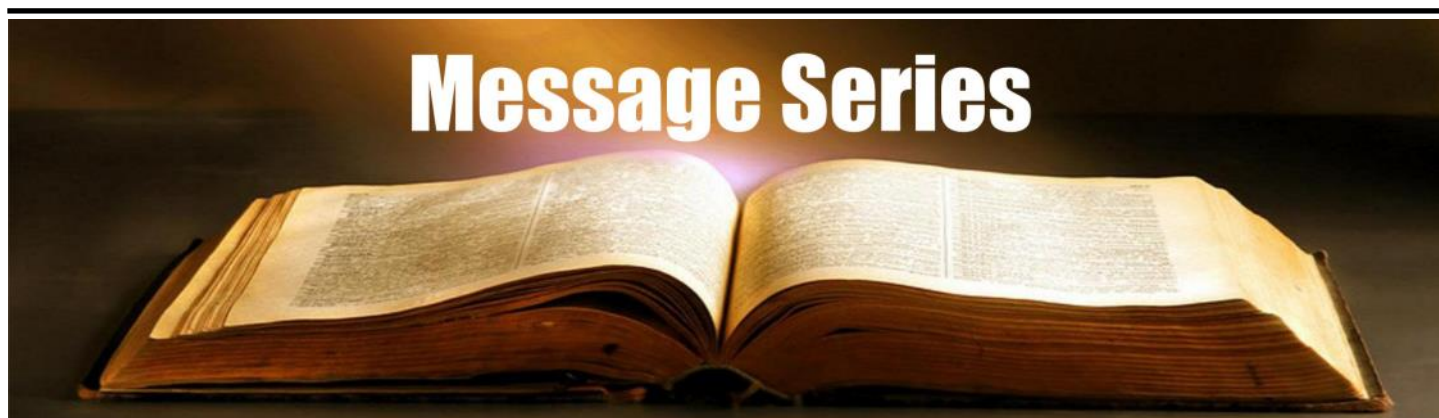
Share the story of a time when you saw something good happen to a "bad" or undeserving person, or a time when you prayed for something that you didn't get while an unfaithful person received it without turning to God for help. Despite the unfairness of this, why are you glad that you have known God's love? Can you also be glad for the blessings that unbelievers receive from God?





Jesus tells the parable of a landowner who hires laborers throughout the day. He brings more and more people on board as the day continues. This is an image of the church. It is to be a growing movement. As followers we must be going deeper, but it also means that God wants more and more people on board. There is plenty of work to be done in building God's kingdom. In this message we will look at the importance of going deeper and wider as a church.

The Church is a growing movement which means it needs to grow and it needs to move.



At Assumption, we preach in message series. Over several weeks, we will look at a topic and go deeper into it. We select a topic based on the weekend's scripture readings and dive deeper. These are the three questions we ask as we prepare each message series. What do we want the people to feel? What do we want the people to know? What do we want the people to do? This way, the message you hear in the church is not some head knowledge or something that flies over your head but touches the hearts and has practical applications for our daily lives. That's why I always mention "homework" in my messages. God speaks to us at every moment, especially in a community setting, when His people come together on Sundays and listen to the Word of God as we celebrate, pray, praise, and thank God. Then the discussion continues in the Small Groups and goes deeper. Our message series usually runs from September to July. Our mission continues to Love God, Serve Others, and Grow Disciples.

**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.



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!



Scan. Pay. Go.

### 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. The Outreach Office is open on Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday from 10AM to 1PM. **PANTRY NEEDS: Paper Towels, Toilet Paper, Household Cleaner, Dishwashing Liquid, Laundry Detergent, Mayonnaise, Cake Mix, Cake Frosting, Fruit Juice, Coffee, Cereal, Pancake Syrup, Canned Tomatoes, Chili, Baked Beans, Canned Potatoes and Instant Potatoes.**



### LONG ISLAND COALITION for LIFE, Inc.

P. O. BOX 243 RONKONKOMA, N.Y. 11779 • (631) 243-1435  
P. O. BOX 247 OLD BETHPAGE, N.Y. 11804 • [www.ProLifeLI.org](http://www.ProLifeLI.org)

### Stand Up For Life: Respect Life Sunday Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>

Stand Up For Life 10/1/2023 this RESPECT LIFE SUNDAY - 2:00 to 3:30 PM. Join us in Huntington at State Routes 110 & 25 (near the Walt Whitman Mall) or in Manorville south of the Long Island Expressway, LIE at exit 70-S on County Road 111, rain or shine.

Come as you are to this Family-Friendly event, and you can bring a friend or the whole family. For information contact (631) 243-1435 or email Info@ProLifeLI.org

### Joining Our Catholic Community



The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) might be what you are seeking if:

- You were never baptized or
- You were baptized in another religious tradition, or
- You were baptized Catholic but have not celebrated Confirmation or Eucharist.

Our parish desires to share our faith with all who wish to discover the beauty and power of a shared life in Christ the Lord. If you are interested, therefore, send the form below to the rectory (20 Chestnut Street, Centereach, NY 11720) or contact the office by email, rectory@abvmcentereach.com, or phone Melissa at 631-585-8760 at the office to get additional details.

### Assumption Prayer Team is praying for you.

We pray for every request in the prayer Petition Books, from Adoremus and those given to us in person.

What are your prayer needs? Prayer Petition Books are in the back of the church.

*Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Hebrews 4:16*



**PRAYER TEAM**



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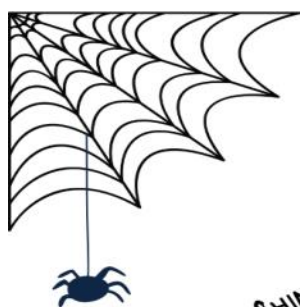


Children's  
Liturgy of the Word  
**Sprouts**

Sprouts is our Children's Ministry for ages FOUR to SECOND grade on Sundays during 9:30am Mass.

Begins on Sunday, OCTOBER 15<sup>th</sup>

At the beginning of the Mass, children will be dismissed with catechists and assistants downstairs to the church basement to reflect and share the scriptures read at the Mass. A presentation is given, and then the children share in their small groups. This is an excellent opportunity for our youngest to engage during the Mass at their own level. We are ready to hear and be part of the stories of our parish's youngest disciples and invite them to the most incredible adventure of their lives, reminding them weekly, year after year, that our Father is madly after their hearts. If God puts in your heart to help at the Sprouts, please leave your name and phone number at the Welcome Desk or contact the Office.



JOIN US FOR SOME FAMILY-FRIENDLY FUN!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21

12 NOON TO 2 PM

ASSUMPTION CHURCH PARKING LOT

RAIN OR SHINE!  
INCLEMENT WEATHER  
WILL MOVE  
EVENT INDOORS!

NON-SCARY  
COSTUMES  
ONLY!



DEADLINE  
TO SECURE A  
TRUNK SPOT/TABLE  
IS  
OCTOBER 8!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP MAKE THIS  
A GREAT EVENT FOR THE CHILDREN!!

LOOKING FOR PARISHIONERS & MINISTRY MEMBERS TO HOST A TRUNK OR TABLE!

ALL TRUNK THEMES WILL BE BIBLE-BASED AND MUST BE APPROVED.

PLEASE CONTACT MELISSA AT ABVM OFFICE - 631-585-8768 / MFERRARA@ABVMCENTEREACH.COM  
TO SECURE YOUR SPOT AND FOR THEME APPROVAL.



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

**Sunday, Sep 24, 2023****At home in the world**

Free to leave, free to stay. Liberty of movement is a right most of us take for granted. Have you resided in more than one place? On this 109th World Day of Migrants and Refugees, Pope Francis asks us to imagine a world in which everyone has the option to stay or go as they please. It necessitates a world in which staying is safe: free from discrimination, violence, and dire poverty. All would have the protection of equal rights and respect, and could reach their potential in their present circumstances. Until that day, welcoming the stranger is our sacred obligation.

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 55:6-9; Philippians 1:20c-24, 27a; Matthew 20:1-16a (133). *"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord."*

**Monday, Sep 25, 2023****Be creative for the sake of creation**

The Season of Creation, an annual ecumenical celebration of prayer and action for our common home, began on September 1 (World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation) and ends on October 4 (the feast of Saint Francis of Assisi). There is still more than a week left for you, your family, your cohort of friends, your school, and your parish to renew your relationship with the Creator and with creation, through celebration, conversion, and commitment together. How? Pray. Read Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato si'*. Coordinate a cleanup project or other sustainability effort. Use your voice and advocate for climate justice. Best idea yet? Come up with one no one has thought of!

TODAY'S READINGS: Ezra 1:1-6; Luke 8:16-18 (449). *"No one who lights a lamp conceals it ... rather, he places it on a lampstand so that those who enter may see the light."*

**Tuesday, Sep 26, 2023****Freely share the gifts you've been given**

Cosmas and Damian were legendary. Many churches have been built in their honor, and their names make the short list of saints enshrined in Eucharistic Prayer I, used during the Mass. During the final years of Rome's brutal persecution of Christians, the twin physicians lived in Syria—then an eastern province of the Roman Empire. Not only were they gifted healers, but they refused to charge for their services. As they explained, "We treat the infirm by the power of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and take no payment for rendering aid to the sick, because our Lord commanded His disciples, 'Freely have you received, freely give.'" How have you been blessed by God, and how can you share that with others?

MEMORIAL OF COSMAS AND DAMIAN, MARTYRS

TODAY'S READINGS: Ezra 6:7-8, 12b, 14-20; Luke 8:19-21 (450). *"My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and act on it."*

**Wednesday, Sep 27, 2023****Now on tour**

Today is World Tourism Day. According to the United Nations, the tourism sector employs one in every 10 people on Earth, and millions more benefit economically from tourism, though the wealth generated isn't always shared equitably. For tourists, exploring new places and enjoying favorite ones can be exhilarating—but bad behavior can ruin a trip. Keeping an attitude of openness and gratitude, as well as respect for local people and customs while on

vacation or a tour can transform the experience. Archbishop Rino Fisichella of the Vatican's Dicastery for Evangelization wrote in anticipation of today's observance, "A tourism that respects the person and the environment opens the way to perceiving the goodness of the Father who reaches out to everyone with his love." It's hard to imagine a better souvenir than that.

MEMORIAL OF VINCENT DE PAUL, PRIEST

TODAY'S READINGS: Ezra 9:5-9; Luke 9:1-6 (451). *"Then they set out and went from village to village proclaiming the good news and curing diseases everywhere."*

**Thursday, Sep 28, 2023****Lighten the load**

You may have heard the old English Christmas song about a Bohemian king who became Saint Wenceslaus, in part because of his great charity. The most famous tale from the charitable king's life was recorded in the carol "Good King Wenceslaus." The king helps a poor man keep from freezing by trodding a path in the snow for him, easing the man's journey to shelter. It ends with an admonishment to do likewise for anyone who suffers and "[you] shall yourselves find blessing." Do a favor for someone in need today, and like Wenceslaus, you will find blessing.

MEMORIAL OF WENCESLAUS, MARTYR

TODAY'S READINGS: Haggai 1:1-8; Luke 9:7-9 (452). *"Who then is this about whom I hear such things?"*

**Friday, Sep 29, 2023****Entertaining angels**

Care for strangers has always been a strong imperative in Christianity. Yet in today's highly politicized environment, it is challenging to reach out to strangers who some have deemed to be threats—people like refugees and other marginalized communities. Scripture is clear: "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it." Angels? It's far easier to see angels from the safety of a holy card or a statue. But think for a moment and see if you have at some point encountered an angel through the presence of a stranger.

FEAST OF MICHAEL, GABRIEL, AND RAPHAEL, ARCHANGELS

TODAY'S READINGS: Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14 or Revelation 12:7-12ab; John 1:47-51 (647). *"How do you know me?"*

**Saturday, Sep 30, 2023****Christianity, by the book**

As early Christianity distanced itself from Judaism, Christians began to lose touch with their faith's deep Jewish roots. Saint Jerome (born around 340) helped to reestablish the link. He learned Hebrew from a Christian monk who had converted from Judaism. More unusual for the time, he studied with Jewish rabbis to gain a better understanding of Hebrew scripture. He then spent 15 years producing the foundational Latin translation of the Hebrew Bible, which we know as the Old Testament. He later said, "For if, as Paul says, Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God, and if the man who does not know Scripture does not know the power and wisdom of God, then ignorance of Scriptures is ignorance of Christ." Crack open the Good Book today, in honor of a key figure who helped shape it.

MEMORIAL OF JEROME, PRIEST, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

TODAY'S READINGS: Zechariah 2:5-9, 14-15a; Luke 9:43b-45 (454). *"Jesus said to his disciples, 'Pay attention to what I am telling you.'"*

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



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