



ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

November 12, 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: 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



**Mass Intentions
for the week**

Sunday, November 12

9:30 a.m. — Abelardo & Norma Angeles (Family)
 Maria & Inacio de Sousa (Family)
 11:30 a.m.— People of the Parish

Monday, November 13

9:00 a.m. — Augustine Alenchery (Colleen Navarra)
 Sebastian Zuppardi (Materazo Family)

Tuesday, November 14

9:00 a.m. — Sebastian & Josephine Blancato (Zecca Family)
 Valerie Varca-Ruckert (Sharon Holliday)

Wednesday, November 15

9:00 a.m.— Charles James (Agnes & Joan Johnson)

Thursday, November 16

9:00 a.m.. —

Saturday, November 18

5:30 p.m.— Danny Stingo (Pat Rivers)
 Robert Stingo (Family)
 John Sokolowski Jr. (Carol & Jim Guinaw)

Sunday, November 19

9:30 a.m.— Peter & Marjorie Gochan (Family)
 George O’Toole (Elena & Kevin O’Toole)
 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.

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 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 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, 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.

The LORD is near to all who call upon him, to all who call upon him in truth.
 Psalm 145:18

STEWARDSHIP
 GIVING to our parish as an act of worship

Parish Sacrificial Giving Summary
 Last Week’s Collection: \$9,251
 (includes Faith Direct)
 Last Year’s Collection: \$9,287
Thank You!

Rest
 in
 Peace



Deceased Brothers & Sisters
 of our Parish

Good News Reflection**Trusting an illogical God**

This Sunday's Gospel reading shows us what it means to be truly foolish. We believe in Christ -- good! We pray -- good! We put time into our faith growth and we value opportunities for more faith formation -- very wise! And we say that we trust God -- wonderful!

But what happens when God doesn't answer our prayers fast enough? What if we need Christ's loving embrace or his protection from evil and yet we're suffering with no end in sight? Where is Jesus then?

Usually, God's timing is not ours. We think we have the right idea about how soon God should intervene when we ask for his help. Right now is a good time for it, right? Of course! But perhaps not from God's perspective. (Why do we want to leave God in charge anyway, if he doesn't see things our way, huh?)

When we despair over unanswered prayer, the reality behind it is that we're emotionally unprepared for any timing that's different from what we think it should be. The foolish bridesmaids thought the groom would arrive before their lamps burned out. They thought they understood the situation. Do we?



Furthermore, if God's plans are illogical -- if they don't make sense to us -- we distrust them. And then we get ourselves into the mess of trying to handle things apart from God.

We cannot trust our logic. We cannot trust our perception or our understanding of the situations we're in. The sooner we decide to enjoy the absurdity of being a Christian, the sooner we will find out that God's ways are awesomely much, much better than anything we can imagine!

Questions for Personal Reflection:

What have you resisted doing because it doesn't make sense? What can you do, where can you turn, to whom can you go for help in discerning whether or not it's God's plan for you?

Questions for Community Faith Sharing:

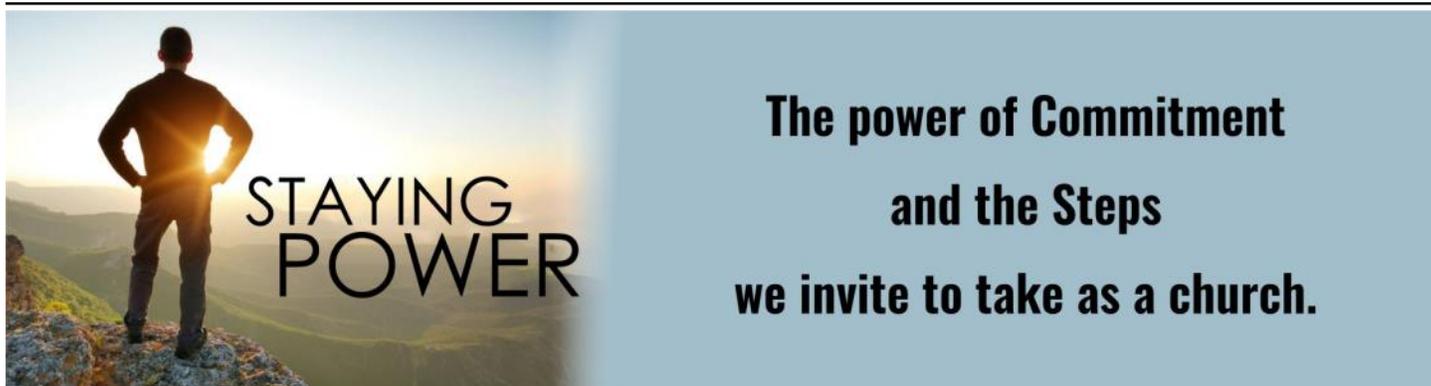
How do you know when an illogical plan is really what God wants you to do? What's happened in your life that has taught you to trust the Holy Spirit's surprises? Share a lesson you learned when you weren't ready for God's plan because you didn't believe it.

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STEWARDSHIP WEEKEND

November 18-19, 2023

GIVING to our parish is an act of WORSHIP



**The power of Commitment
and the Steps
we invite to take as a church.**

Week Five –Committing to service and good works

Jesus tells another parable about the wedding feast. Ten maidens are given lamps to light the way for the bridegroom to a wedding feast. Five of the maidens bring oil to relight their lamps and five do not. The five who forget the oil are not prepared for the return of the bridegroom and so are unable to get into the wedding feast. The lit lamps serve as a symbol for service and good works. We are to commit to service on a regular basis because it prepares us for Jesus.

ADOREMUS

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

WITH CONTEMPORARY AND TRADITIONAL MUSIC

Friday, November 17, 2023 - 7:30 - 8:30 PM

in the church & LIVE  Streaming

PRAISE AND WORSHIP * SILENT ADORATION * BENEDICTION

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; 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 rectory@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 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!

 PayPal



Scan. Pay. Go.

Parish Social Ministry (Food Pantry) Needs for Thanksgiving

GIVING THANKS GIVING BACK

Thanksgiving
DRIVE

Gift Cards: With the Holidays just around the corner, we're getting ready to prepare Thanksgiving baskets for our clients. In addition to the food items listed below, please consider donating gift cards to local supermarkets. These are very helpful in providing those in need with a

great Thanksgiving dinner, allowing them the dignity to choose their favorite holiday foods. Please drop off gift cards at the Parish Office or in the collection basket.

Pantry Needs: Boxed Milk, Cranberry Sauce, Canned Yams, Canned Vegetables, Stuffing Mix, Instant Potatoes and any other non-perishable food items. Please place these donations in our bin in the Church.

STEWARDSHIP WEEKEND

November 18-19, 2023

GIVING to our parish is an act of WORSHIP

In anticipation of our upcoming annual celebration of Stewardship Sunday, I invite you to pray and reflect upon your financial support of our parish in the year ahead, As always, we encourage electronic giving – it is the most helpful way to give.

When you give in your place of worship as an act of worship, you are becoming more of the person God wants you to be. When you give, you are tangibly making a difference in someone's life. Marriages are restored, lives are healed, and people meet Jesus.

Stewardship Faith Commitment card will be available this weekend.

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, Kleenex, Laundry Detergent, Mayonnaise, Ketchup, Salad Dressing, Coffee, Box Milk, Fruit Juice, Pancake Mix, Dry Soup Mix, Baked Beans, Canned Tomatoes, Jelly, Canned Tuna.

We are also in need of any paper or plastic shopping bags.



FAITH DIRECT®
inspiring secure giving®

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PayPal



Scan. Pay. Go.

Financial Report: September 2022 through August 2023



It is my responsibility to make sure that the parish remains up to date as to our financial situation. What follows, therefore, is our parish’s financial report from our last budget year. I’ve divided income/expenses into recognizable categories, e.g., Sunday collections, program fees, parish offices, etc. Hopefully, this gives a clearer idea of where the money comes from and where it went. Note that such items as utilities, salaries, etc., have been divided proportionately into several categories, Parish Office, Faith Formation, Church, and Rectory, so these items could be distributed to all areas depending upon a percentage of the total activity.

The goal, of course, is to have our operating expenses covered by our operating income without needing to use our savings. I’ve listed a couple of our annual bills so you get a sense of how much must be spent just to keep the doors opened: Gas, \$20,295 electric, \$20,232 water, \$3,183; insurance, \$58,599; grounds, \$50,017. As you can see from the Income/Expense chart below, we had a small deficit in our operating budget. This was due to an increase in our expenses as we continue to add programs and improve our weekend experience while our Auxiliary income sources decreased and our total collections stayed relatively flat.

For the parish to thrive, we must continue growing as disciples who embrace the STEPS of Discipleship: Serve, Tithe, Engage, Practice Prayer and Sacraments, and Share our faith. When you give in your place of worship as an act of worship, you are becoming more of the person God wants you to be. Thankfully, our online giving portion of collections has increased over the past year. One way of improving and stabilizing our financial situation would be for more families to participate in Faith Direct, our parish’s Electronic Giving Platform. It’s a great way toward a stewardship way of life. I use Faith Direct for my own weekly parish offering.

Together we rely on God’s abundance. I remain convinced that the Lord is much more prepared for us than we are receiving. The following Income/Expense chart gives us an idea of where we’ve been over the past fiscal year. If anyone wishes further information or explanation, do not hesitate to contact me at the rectory to set up an appointment.

fr. Joe

Income		
Amount our parishioners contributed to the parish	508,807	Sunday, Christmas, Easter collections.
What the parish received from Catholic Ministries Appeal Rebate	11,376	This is the diocesan rebate the parish receives because of your support of the Catholic Ministries Appeal.
What the parish collected from program fees	36,729	Faith Formation, AYM, VBS, Adult Ed, etc.
What the parish received from auxiliary sources	38,304	Baptisms, weddings, funerals, Outreach donations, bulletin income, candles, miscellaneous donations.
What the parish received for diocesan collections	11,649	All the monies collected are given directly to the diocese. None stays in the parish.
Capital Gain & Extraordinary Revenue	59,227	Non-operating revenue. This includes Capital Campaign, insurance claims, investment income/loss.
TOTAL received by the parish to carry on its mission.	595,216	Does not include Diocesan collections, Capital gain and extraordinary revenue
Expenses		
What it costs to maintain our Rectory Office	\$156,356	Includes salaries, utilities, supplies, etc. Also includes Outreach.
What it costs to maintain our Faith Formation programs and other adult formation	182,769	Includes salaries, utilities, supplies, etc. used for the ongoing formation of our adults and children
What it costs to use our Church for liturgy	149,285	Includes salaries, utilities, supplies, etc.
What it costs to maintain our priests’ residence	45,454	Includes food, utilities, maintenance
What our parish contributes to our Catholic Schools Subsidy	45,935	The diocese taxes all parishes 12% of a parish’s collections to support Catholic schools.
What our parish paid the diocese for assessments/ services rendered/ collections	40,764	Diocesan assessment, - pay 8% of collections to diocese
	11,649	Diocesan collections.– given directly to Diocese– not operating expense
Capital improvement	94,304	Not part of operating expense.
TOTAL Operating Expense:	\$620,565	Does not include Diocesan collections, and Capital expenses
Total operating surplus/deficit	(\$25,349)	LOVE GOD SERVE OTHERS GROW DISCIPLES

Sunday, Nov 12, 2023

Last things

November's a good time to consider our responsibilities to those who depend on us and may be nearing the end of life. (Or perhaps we're getting long in years ourselves.) We know our social obligations: Write a will, make our medical preferences known to doctors and family members. But Catholics have other duties too. Offering forgiveness and being forgiven are vital issues at the end of life—and every year of life. We have to ensure the sacraments are available to the elderly and the sick. How vigils, funerals, and burials are conducted matters to us. Reflect on these things now.

THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

TODAY'S READINGS: Wisdom 6:12-16; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 25:1-13 (154). *"Afterwards the other virgins came and said, 'Lord, Lord, open the door for us!' But he said in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, I do not know you.'"*

Monday, Nov 13, 2023

The underestimated shall be esteemed

Mother Frances Xavier Cabrini was born Maria Francesca in Italy in 1850, the youngest of 13 children. She was small and had poor health. Because of her frailty, she was rejected by the religious community she wanted to join. She founded her own order and dreamed of becoming a missionary to the Far East like the saint whose name she took. But the pope sent her west instead, to the United States—and she founded 67 missionary institutions to serve the sick and poor from New York to Chicago to Los Angeles. Nine years after her death, her religious institute, the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, became missionaries in China. Don't underestimate the power of God or yourself!

MEMORIAL OF FRANCES XAVIER CABRINI, RELIGIOUS FOUNDER

TODAY'S READINGS: Wisdom 1:1-7; Luke 17:1-6 (491). *"If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you would say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you."*

Tuesday, Nov 14, 2023

Put your hope in order

As we inch toward Advent, it's good to revisit the theme of hope. Consider this, from Pope Francis two years ago today, for the World Day of the Poor: "The hope born of the Gospel has nothing to do with a passive expectation that things may be better tomorrow, but with making God's promise of salvation concrete today.... Christian hope is not the naïve, even adolescent, optimism of those who hope that things may change [and] in the meantime go on with life; it has to do with building daily, by concrete gestures, the kingdom of love, justice, and fraternity that Jesus inaugurated." Or as Italian Bishop Don Tonio Bello would say, "We cannot be content to hope. We have to [organize hope](#)." How will you organize hope today?

TODAY'S READINGS: Wisdom 2:23-3:9; Luke 17:7-10 (492). *"Those who trust in him shall understand truth, and the faithful shall abide with him in love."*

Wednesday, Nov 15, 2023

Live a life of great service

The great Dominican friar Albertus Magnus died on this day in 1280, after a long life of dedication to the church as a scholar, scientist, and briefly the bishop of Regensburg. He shunned excess and was known as a mediator—which, in his day, was a complicated matter, given the ongoing Crusades. We, too, live in

an age of war, economic inequality, and general spiritual laxity. We owe it to ourselves to look to the German Dominican for inspiration to live a more rigorous life of spiritual seeking, so as to find lasting solutions to the problems of our day.

MEMORIAL OF ALBERT THE GREAT, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

TODAY'S READINGS: Wisdom 6:1-11; Luke 17:11-19 (493). *"For those who keep the holy precepts hallowed shall be found holy, and those learned in them will have ready a response."*

Thursday, Nov 16, 2023

Extraordinary sacrifice in ordinary clothing

It's easy to think that martyrs were people completely different from us, but Christian courage doesn't always have a cinematic face. Father Ignacio Ellacuría, S.J., five other Jesuits, and their housekeeper and her daughter were [murdered in El Salvador](#). Ellacuría and his fellow Jesuits had publicly defended human rights and ministered to poor people in spite of intense government repression. May their dedication to justice inspire us to do our part in creating a more just world order that protects those who speak truth to power.

TODAY'S READINGS: Wisdom 7:22b-8:1; Luke 17:20-25 (494). *"For behold, the Kingdom of God is among you."*

Friday, Nov 17, 2023

A delicate matter

The Catholic Church identifies well over a dozen saints as patrons of lacemaking, lace workers, and related textile workers. Saint Elizabeth of Hungary is among these patrons who possibly became associated with lacemaking as it is a craft often seen as "immaculate" and virtuous, much like the saints themselves. But lacemakers and other artisan workers also often sat on the edge of poverty. These were the people who benefitted from the kind deeds of the likes of Saint Elizabeth, who roamed the streets near her castle passing out alms for the poor and tending to the sick. Take a moment to consider the artisans and craftspeople of our own time who could benefit from your patronage.

MEMORIAL OF ELIZABETH OF HUNGARY, RELIGIOUS

TODAY'S READINGS: Wisdom 13:1-9; Luke 17:26-37 (495). *"For from the greatness and the beauty of created things their original author, by analogy, is seen."*

Saturday, Nov 18, 2023

Let freedom ring

In 1818, when Saint Rose Philippine Duchesne came from France to the United States, she was dismayed that slavery still operated "in the land of the free." Yet, when she opened foundations in Louisiana, the sisters were given slaves along with their households. In 1830 she accepted a slave in lieu of a tuition payment. She insisted that slaves in the household be treated well, arguing, "They have the same soul as we; they have been redeemed by the same blood and received into the same Church," but, like all of us, she was clearly enmeshed in social structures in need of redemption. Work for a society that truly is free at last.

MEMORIAL OF ROSE PHILIPPINE DUCHESNE, RELIGIOUS

TODAY'S READINGS: Wisdom 18:14-16; 19:6-9; Luke 18:1-8 (496). *"Will not God then secure the rights of his chosen ones who call out to him day and night?"*

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



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