



ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

November 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

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



Sunday, November 26

9:30 a.m. — Domenica Bellavia (Ferrara Family)
 Molly Drew & Timothy Connolly
 (Connolly & Licari Families)
 11:30 a.m.— People of the Parish

Monday, November 27

9:00 a.m. — Hilda Manitta (Jeanne & Richie Pryor)
 William C. Tait Jr. (Michele Routi)

Tuesday, November 28

9:00 a.m. —

Wednesday, November 29

9:00 a.m.—

Thursday, November 30

9:00 a.m.. — Fr. Gerard Smith
 Michael Rivers (Pat Rivers)

Saturday, December 2

5:30 p.m.— John Sokolowski Jr. (Louise & Joe Ferrara)
 Danny Stingo (Louise & Joe Ferrara)

Sunday, December 3

9:30 a.m.— Peter & Marjorie Gochan (Family)
 Cuno E. Engel (Elizabeth Leverock)
 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: \$10,400
 (includes Faith Direct)
 Last Year’s Collection: \$9,963
Thank You!

Rest
 in
 Peace

Deceased Brothers & Sisters of Our Parish

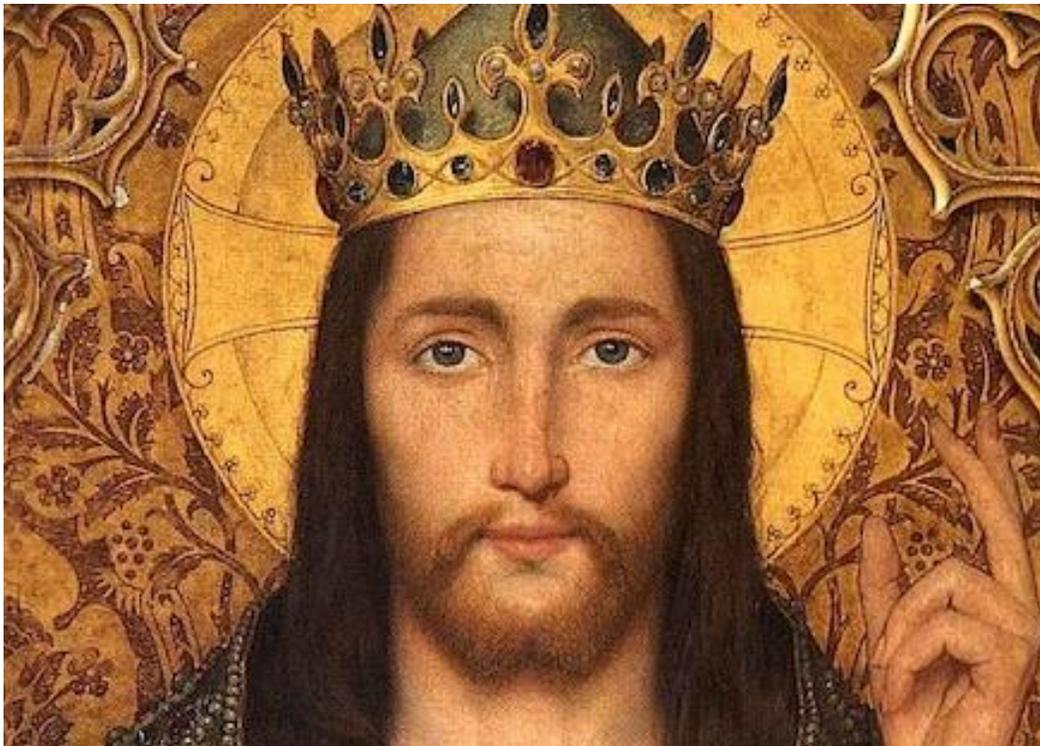
Good News Reflection

What does Jesus do as King?

We don't usually think of shepherds as kings, but the scriptures this Sunday describe the kingly powers of Jesus as our Good Shepherd. A good king cares for his subjects the way a shepherd cares for his sheep.

Kings increase the size of their reign and accomplish their work over the whole territory through their subjects. That's why Jesus says, "Whatever you do for one of the least of mine, you do for me."

For example, our Good Shepherd-King wants to distribute food to the hungry, all the way to the farthest reaches of his kingdom. How does he get it done? He gives an abundance of food to some of us and commands us to take it to those who need it.



What happens if we don't fulfill the King's commands? Do the starving people think the King is benevolent? No, they can only see his goodness when we do as he tells us to do.

Look at the people who are around you. Each one is an opportunity to give the King a good name.

What about the people whom you like least of all? What about those who've made you feel angry or intimidated or hurt? Well, ask this: What is he/she hungry for? If the answer's not obvious, ask the Holy Spirit. Observe that person long enough to identify the emptiness or pain or fears that are buried under the surface.

Then ask this: What abundance has God given to me that this "least one" is lacking and needs from Christ our King? Can I show him/her the King's benevolence despite my feelings?

When we say no to opportunities to share what we have, we are behaving like one of the goats whom the Good Shepherd-King separates from the sheep on the way to heaven. And when we say yes, despite the feelings that could make us goat-like, the King's good reputation spreads, and we are all blessed.

Questions for Personal Reflection:

What good things do you have in abundance? How readily do you share them? Who is of least importance to you? How can you take your focus off of what you don't like about them so that you can give them blessings from God?

Questions for Community Faith Sharing:

Have you ever done something good to someone who didn't deserve it? How did this affect your relationship with Jesus? What abundance do you see in each member of your family or faith sharing community that, when shared, blesses others?



Christmas is a season of secrets. We buy gifts and presents for others but then we hide the gifts. We wrap them and put them in boxes to conceal them. We keep our gifts a secret and hide them because we want to give something to others.

When God came into history in the person of Jesus Christ, he came quietly into this world. Most of the world did not even notice. God revealed his plans secretly to many of the main characters we associate with the Christmas story: Mary, Joseph, the wisemen, the shepherds. God chose to reveal his plans to them quietly and secretly. He revealed his secrets to them because they were willing to listen.

The Secrets of Christmas are available to anyone who will listen. The key is learning to listen to God's voice. The key is to be someone that God can trust with his secrets. In this message series we will look at how we learn to discern and listen to God's voice at this hectic time of year. When we slow down to listen, we get to be a part of God's bigger plans in the world.

Secrets of Christmas Daily Practice

Advent season is coming upon us so fast. All our small groups are still getting together to reflect and share the Secrets of Christmas during this season of waiting. If you are in a small group or not, you are able to read and reflect on the Secrets of Christmas with our Daily Practice. It is a Scripture passage, reflection, and a short prayer for each day of the week for Advent and Christmas. It is a lot to print in the bulletin. So, it will be on an On Demand basis, means those who would like to receive it need to sign up with an email. It will be sent to you every week. We call it DAILY PRACTICE. Please leave your name and email at the Welcome Desk or contact the Office at rectory@abvmcentereach.com.

A golden monstrance with a white host, set against a background of lit candles.

Eucharistic Adoration

Friday, December 1

1:00 - 2:00 PM

Silent Adoration, Readings and Benediction.

STEWARDSHIP WEEKEND

Thank you
GIVING to our parish is an act of WORSHIP

We celebrated Stewardship weekend last week. God has given us abundant gifts in our lives, including our financial resources. All that we are and everything that we have belongs to God. He has appointed us as stewards of His blessings. Giving to God by giving in my place of worship is an act of worship and giving to the poor is a sure and certain way to grow my faith right now and invest in my future by building up treasure in heaven.

The parable of the Talents in the Gospel of Matthew is encouraging us to put God first by investing in an immediate kind of way in the things God cares about, which are his people, especially the poor and his church. Our hearts grow to share the same mission and values as the Lord himself. We share God's interest in bringing people into a relationship with him. **Thank you very much for your commitment to our parish as we journey together rebuilding our parish by Loving God, Serving Others and Growing Disciples.** -Fr. Joe

Christmas Donations: With Christmas just around the corner, the Parish Social Ministry is getting ready to start our Christmas Drive to provide Christmas baskets for our clients. Gift cards for \$25 to local stores such as Walmart and Target are very helpful in providing those in need with the ability to purchase Christmas gifts for their children. We are also happy to accept food donations as well as \$25 gift cards from local supermarkets to help provide a great Christmas dinner for our clients, allowing them the dignity to choose their favorite holiday foods. If you choose to donate gift cards, please drop them off at the Welcome Desk or deliver them to the Parish Office.



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[®]

Please prayerfully consider supporting our parish with electronic donations through *Faith Direct*. Signing up is easy! Visit faithdirect.net/NY563 or scan the QR Code on your right. Please use **the parish code (NY563)**. Thank you for your continued support of our parish family!



SPROUTS

Children's Ministry for ages
FOUR to SECOND Grade on
Sundays during 9:30 AM Mass

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.

Good News Ahead

Signs of Christmas

Christmas Musical & Tree Lighting

by Assumption Faith Formation Students

Sunday, December 10th
at 3:30 PM



Our parish subscribes to a revolutionary online platform which provides the best in Catholic audio talks, movies, ebooks, and video-based studies from trusted providers. This allows you, **free of charge**, to access online resources in bible study, apologetics, Christian entertainment, family catechesis, etc. at your convenience. It's available 24/7 thus allowing you to put time aside when it's best for you. To access please visit abvmcentereach.formed.org. Our parish code is P8DGQ8



Coffee
in the
Courtyard

in the Parish Center Hall

Coffee
Conversations
Community

After
9:30 AM
& 11:30 AM
Masses

Sunday, Nov 26, 2023**Save the best for last**

The film industry has always had a love affair with the afterlife. From *It's a Wonderful Life* to *Heaven Can Wait* to *Ghost* to *Flatliners*, stories remind us that our choices in this world have ramifications in the next. More recent shows—*Dead Like Me*, *The Good Life*, *After Life*, and *Hotel del Luna* among many others—are less traditionally religious but no less curious about what comes next. Every culture and generation seems to sense the need for spirit guides and guardians, as well as justice and an hour of reckoning. As the church year closes, contemplate the ledger of your years. Does it add up to a heavenly ending?

SOLEMNITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

TODAY'S READINGS: Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17; 1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 28; Matthew 25:31-46 (160). *"He will answer them, 'Amen, I say to you, what you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me.'"*

Monday, Nov 27, 2023**Conversion can be revolutionary**

British poet Alice Meynell, who died on this day in 1922, converted to Catholicism while recovering from chronic illness, and her writing thereafter turned to religious subjects. She married a Catholic newspaper publisher and founded a Catholic suffragist organization. When a British priest preached against giving women the right to vote because it would risk "bringing a revolution of the first magnitude," Meynell replied, "...the vaster the magnitude of the revolution, the better." One hundred years after her death, the struggle for equality continues. How do the teachings of Jesus inform your work for justice?

TODAY'S READINGS: Daniel 1:1-6, 8-20; Luke 21:1-4 (503). *"She, from her poverty, has offered her whole livelihood."*

Tuesday, Nov 28, 2023**Little lamb, who made thee?**

Happy birthday to the English poet William Blake, born this day in 1757. Though not Catholic, he's inspired great Catholic poets and many of his poems—like "[Jerusalem](#)"—became hymns. Trappist monk Thomas Merton wrote his master's thesis on Blake, emphasizing his spiritual significance in *Seven Storey Mountain*: "His rebellion ... was fundamentally the rebellion of the saints. It was the rebellion of the lover of the living God, the rebellion of the one whose desire of God was so intense and irresistible that it condemned, with all its might, all the hypocrisy and petty sensuality and skepticism and materialism" of organized religion. Pray for all who search for God but find obstacles in religious institutions—and enjoy Blake's "[The Lamb](#)."

TODAY'S READINGS: Daniel 2:31-45; Luke 21:5-11 (504). *"Jesus said, 'All that you see here—the days will come when there will not be left a stone upon another stone that will not be thrown down.'"*

Wednesday, Nov 29, 2023**Gracious encounters of the digital kind**

Did you buy anything on Cyber Monday? Did you make a charitable donation yesterday, on Giving Tuesday? Whether you did or not, this week's digital focus continues today, which is recognized as Electronic Greetings Day. Pope Francis' 2020

encyclical *Fratelli Tutti* considers how the internet is a powerful tool and how it's our job to use it in a way that makes the world better. "We need constantly to ensure that present-day forms of communication are in fact guiding us to generous encounter with others," he writes. Make time today to send an encouraging email or ecard to someone who needs to hear from you.

TODAY'S READINGS: Daniel 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28; Luke 21:12-19 (505). *"The writing I will read for you, O king, and tell you what it means."*

Thursday, Nov 30, 2023**Be a first responder**

Is there an Andy, Andre, or Andrea in your life? Whether they know it or not, they bear the name of the Apostle Andrew, one of the fishermen Jesus famously called to be "fishers of men." The Eastern church recognizes Andrew as the first to be called by Jesus. Tradition has it that Andrew was crucified on an X-shaped cross because he felt unworthy to die on a cross identical to Christ's. Andrew led the way in accepting Jesus' invitation to follow him. How will your life today respond to that invitation?

FEAST OF ANDREW, APOSTLE

TODAY'S READINGS: Romans 10:9-18; Matthew 4:18-22 (684). *"Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men."*

Friday, Dec 01, 2023**Compassionate in the face of controversy**

St. Vincent Medical Center in Manhattan, now closed, was in the eye of the AIDS epidemic storm of the 1980s and 1990s. A Catholic hospital run by the Sisters of Charity, St. Vincent opened its doors to care for those who were sick and dying from AIDS. Some staff disagreed with this stance and left. But not the sisters. They stayed true to Jesus' command to care for the suffering, especially those cast aside by society. They entered into dialogue with the gay community, activists, and hospital administrators to better understand their patients and how best to serve them. May we remember their unwavering commitment and compassion—and do likewise.

TODAY'S READINGS: Daniel 7:2-14; Luke 21:29-33 (507). *"Know that the Kingdom of God is near."*

Saturday, Dec 02, 2023**Be a freedom fighter**

The term *modern slavery* covers practices such as forced labor, debt bondage, forced marriage, and human trafficking ... situations of exploitation enforced by violence, coercion, or deception. Here's the shocking news: Modern slavery has increased significantly in the past five years. Ten million more people, largely women and children, were trapped in modern slavery in 2021 compared to 2016, bringing the total estimate to 50 million worldwide. Our God is a God of freedom, who releases us from bondage of all kinds. On this U.N. International Day for the Abolition of Slavery, raise your voice in a phone call, email, or letter to elected officials. Let's put an end to this!

TODAY'S READINGS: Daniel 7:15-27; Luke 21:34-36 (508). *"Be vigilant at all times."*

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



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