



ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

December 31, 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



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.

Sunday, December 31

9:30 a.m. — Living & Deceased Members of the Lang & Campanelli Families

Intentions of Andrzej & Halina Wiszowaty (Family)

11:30 a.m.—People of the Parish

Monday, January 1

9:00 a.m.—

Tuesday, January 2

9:00 a.m. — Living & Deceased Members of te Rosary Altar Society

Wednesday, January 3

9:00 a.m.— Jay Holliday

Thursday, January 4

9:00 a.m.. — Joseph Angland Jr. (Angland Family)

Saturday, January 6

5:30 p.m.— John G. Joseph (Kim & Bill Fontaine)
Kathryn Noonan (Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Bracco)

Sunday, January 7

9:30 a.m.— Pat Radics (Maureen Reilly)
Rose O’Toole (Elena & Kevin O’Toole)

11:30 a.m.—People of the Parish

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: \$5,914
(includes *Faith Direct*)

Last Year’s Collection: \$24,694 (Christmas)
Thank You!

Rest
in
Peace

Deceased Brothers & Sisters of Our Parish

Good News Reflection**Trust Jesus despite not understanding**

"Joy mixed with drama marks the fifth [joyful] mystery, the finding of the twelve-year-old Jesus in the Temple." Saint John Paul the Great wrote this In Rosarium Virginis Mariae, his interesting encyclical about the Rosary.

He continued: "Here he appears in his divine wisdom as he listens and raises questions, already in effect one who 'teaches'. The revelation of his mystery as the Son wholly dedicated to his Father's affairs proclaims the radical nature of the Gospel, in which even the closest of human relationships are challenged by the absolute demands of the Kingdom. Mary and Joseph, fearful and anxious, 'did not understand' his words."

We, too, often fail to understand the words of Jesus. His teachings challenge us to accept a more difficult life, a life of doing good to our enemies, turning the cheek and going the extra mile, a life of courageously standing up for the truth and adhering to high moral standards that are counter-cultural.

Our preference, when living this way is inconvenient or unpleasant, is to rationalize and make excuses for our worldly behavior. But once we truly understand the demands of the Kingdom of God, we see their benefits and we obey gladly.

Without this understanding, we have to simply trust that the words of Jesus are right and true. Like Mary and Joseph, we need to ponder in our hearts what we don't understand, while moving forward and doing what Jesus wants us to do.

As challenging as this is, that's when we discover how amazing God can be.

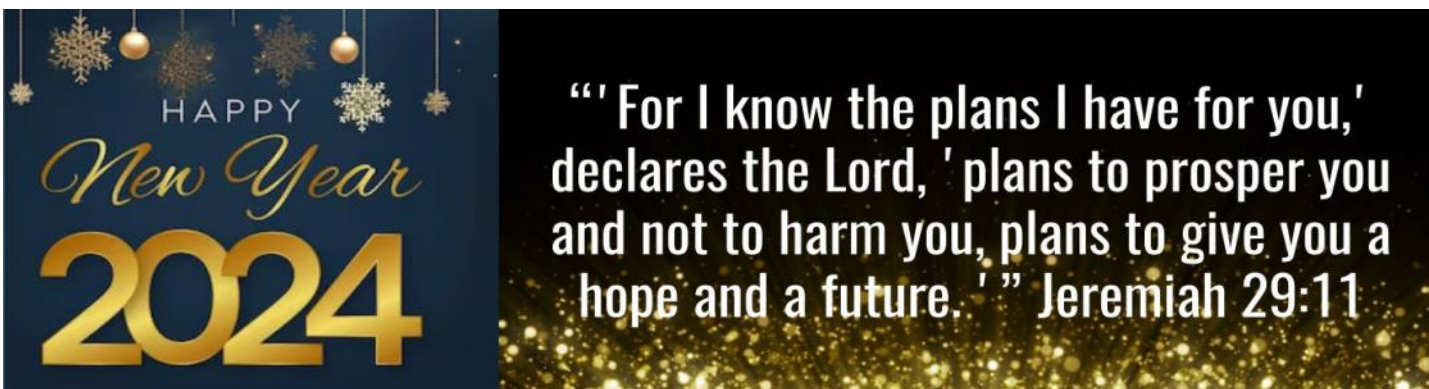
Questions for Personal Reflection:

What teaching of the Church have you rationalized away so that you don't have to obey it? Or what teaching of Christ in the Sermon on the Mount (see Matt. 5,6,7) or elsewhere in the Gospels do you excuse yourself from? How much is your disobedience due to not understanding what is really being taught? What will you do to seek and gain a better understanding?

Questions for Community Faith Sharing:

How meaningful is the Holy Family to you? What is it about the relationships between Jesus, Mary and Joseph that appeals to you? What has this taught you about God's Kingdom?

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As we begin a new year 2024, we do not know what will happen in the larger world. So much of things are outside our control and yet we have the ultimate responsibility over our lives. Priorities anchor us and help us to remain stable in a sea of uncertainty. Through the course of this series, we will help our parish grow in wisdom, understanding and knowledge of how to set and keep priorities.

Daily Practice

Happy New Year! “Daily Practice” is a daily devotional that is sent in an email weekly. It is a Scripture passage, and a reflection, for each day of the week. If you would like to subscribe to it, please sign up with an email. It will be sent to you every week on a Friday before. Please leave your name and email at the Welcome Desk or contact the Office at rectory@abvmcentereach.com.



Solemnity of Mary Mother of God
Monday, January 1, 2024
Mass: 9:00AM



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

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 sent forth with catechists and assistants downstairs to the church basement to reflect and share the Gospel. This time is given, and then the children share in the Eucharist. They are encouraged to engage during the Mass at their own level. They are also encouraged to be the greatest disciples and invite them to the most important part of the Mass. We pray that our Father is madly after their hearts. If you would like to help at the Sprouts, please leave your name and phone number at the Welcome Desk or contact the Office.

**Sprouts will be on break for the next three weeks.
We will resume on January 21, 2024**

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, Household Cleaner, Laundry Detergent, Dish-washing Liquid, Liquid Hand Soap, Shampoo, Deodorant, Cooking Oil, Mayonnaise, Fruit Juice, Tea, Coffee, Hot Chocolate, Snacks, Canned Pasta, Canned Chili.

Thank You
FOR
GIVING
GENEROUSLY

Thank you to all made our Christmas Drive a huge success! Your donations allowed us to give Christmas baskets to 55 families in need that are living in our Parish. This includes numerous gift cards that allowed these families to buy Christmas gifts for their children. The generosity of our Parishioners is inspiring! The Parish Social Ministry is happy to accept donations of gift cards throughout the year. We distribute gift cards to the families that we assist so they can buy needed items that are not available in our food pantry. These include \$25 gift cards from supermarkets, stores such as Walmart and Target, and QuickChek so they can purchase gas. Donations of non-perishable food and household items are always welcome. Each week we list items that are needed in the bulletin. If you choose to donate gift cards, either drop them off at the Welcome Desk or deliver them to the Parish Office. Food items may be placed in the bin in the Church Lobby or the Parish Office.

Assumption Prayer Team

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



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!



GIVE THE GIFT OF CHRISTMAS to a child

Our parish's generosity always shines all through the year but especially during Christmas time. Because of that a lot of families at the Lake House Shelter as well as the families in our own parish were able to celebrate Christmas by getting gifts for their children. Thank you very much for your generosity as we live our Mission: Love God, Serve Others, Grow Disciples.





Invest time each week to expand your vocabulary and deepen your faith.

31 December 2023

WORD OF THE WEEK

Vocation \vō-ˈkā-shən\

A summons or strong drive to a particular course of action, career, or occupation; a divine call to consecrated life or diocesan holy orders.

Pronunciation: <https://tinyurl.com/Take5-vocation>

CONTEXT

Many people mistake our work for our **vocation**. Our **vocation** is the love of Jesus.

—*Mother Teresa*

No **vocation** is born of itself or lives for itself. A **vocation** flows from the heart of God and blossoms in the good soil of faithful people.

—*Pope Francis*

Everybody, no matter what **vocation** they're looking at, should add music as an essential to their curriculum. Music can be a very important part of your soul and your growth as a human being. It's so powerful.

—*Quincy Jones*

WHY IT MATTERS

Each of us, through our Baptism, is called by God to follow the path of love. Our unique and particular response is our **vocation**. The church generally refers to four types of **vocations**: marriage, single life, holy orders, and religious life. It is up to each of us to discern the **vocation** that will give us the greatest sense of fulfillment and joy and lead us to holiness.

From the Catechism of the Catholic Church: The Beatitudes express the **vocation** of the faithful and shed light on the actions and attitudes characteristic of the Christian life (1717).

From *Vita Consecrata*: In the unity of the Christian life, the various **vocations** are like so many rays of the one light of Christ, whose radiance brightens the countenance of the Church.

RELATED WORDS

Discipleship | Charism | Consecrated Life

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Vocation: Does everyone have one?

Vocation is one of those words that tends to elicit a host of questions. What does it mean that God "calls" us? Does God plan our lives? Is free will a polite fiction, when God has our destiny all worked out in advance? The short answers are: Our freedom is real, human history has no blueprint, and God is prepared to greet any choice we might make with a constellation of grace and possibility. So feel—really and seriously—free.

Yet we say God calls us. To what, if not to particular things? God calls us to fullness of life. God wants you to be everything you can be, to the height and breadth and depth of your being. God wants you to be fully alive, which means loving, giving, expressing, and radiant—just as God is. We're made in the image and likeness of God. So answer that call, and you have stepped into your vocation for sure.

—*Alice Camille, from Questions Catholics Ask* <https://tinyurl.com/QCA-vocation>

REFLECTION OF THE WEEK

SOLEMNITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD (JANUARY 1)

Bring Christ to bear

We begin the new year in the glow of the Christmas season of new life. Our focus today, however, is not so much on the child Jesus in the manger but on his mother, Mary. We bring to mind and heart the woman who said yes: Yes to being the Mother of God. Yes to becoming a vehicle for God to become incarnate in the world. It is fitting to honor Mary and walk with her as we enter resolutely into the new year.

READINGS: Numbers 6:22-27; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:16-21 (18 <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/010124.cfm>). "*The Lord let his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you!*"

FAITH IN ACTION

How does God call us to be bearers of Christ? We can start with offering Christ and all others the fullness of our love.