



# ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

**February 25, 2024**

**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

**Sunday, February 25**

9:30 a.m. — Alaide Goncalves (Ana Paula Goncalves)

Janet French (Joan Reid)

11:30 a.m.—People of the Parish

**Monday, February 26**

9:00 a.m.— Rosemary O'Connor (Elizabeth Leverock)

Pasquale Abbatiello (Patricia LeCausi)

**Tuesday, February 27**

9:00 a.m.

**Wednesday, February 28**

9:00 a.m.— John Tandy (Pat Rivers)

**Thursday, February 29**

9:00 a.m..

**Friday, March 1**

9:00 a.m — John Joseph (Mr &amp; Mrs. Michael Cavaliere)

**Saturday, March 2**

5:30 p.m.— Jane Giacomini (Sue &amp; Alan Holtz)

Thomas Grund (Christine &amp; James

Fouskas)

**Sunday, March 3**

9:30 a.m.— Christopher Paradise (Vecchiollo Family)

Rita Swanteson (Jill Guerrero)

11:30 a.m.—People of the Parish

*Remember not the events of the past,  
the things of long ago consider not;  
see, I am doing something new!*

*Isaiah 43:18-19*

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

**Parish Sacrificial Giving Summary**

Last Week's Collection: \$8,626

(includes Faith Direct)

Last Year's Collection: \$7,694

**Thank You!****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 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](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.

Rest  
in  
Peace



Manuel Canet  
Michael Barresi



**Good News Reflection****The 'mountaintop experience' of Lent**

Think of a "mountaintop experience" you've had. What was the peak moment of that? What generated it? What did it mean for you? Did it change your life forever or was it just a momentary high?

In Biblical symbolism, a mountain represents getting close to God. Did your mountaintop experience bring you closer to God?



It was at the top of Mount Tabor where Jesus revealed the glory of his Godliness to his closest friends. Called a "high mountain" in scripture, Mount Tabor is, in reality, not huge. What was huge is the event that took place there -- and why.

Some of the most significant moments in our spiritual lives might not have felt like a mountaintop experience, but indeed they were.

The three disciples who witnessed Christ's transfiguration greatly benefited from seeing his glory revealed, because someday they would be commissioned to take over his earthly ministry.

The Father told them, "This is my beloved Son; listen to him." As we listen to Jesus, it is we who are now transfigured.

Lent is meant to be a mountaintop experience for each of us. If we follow Jesus up the mountain, his light will consume any darkness within us.

The more we listen to his teachings and apply them to our daily lives and ministries, the more we become like him. And the more we become like Jesus, the more our lives are transfigured by his light, and the more our lives then transfigure the world around us.

As the first reading tells us, Abraham did not withhold his son from the Lord, just like God the Father did not withhold his Son from us.

Likewise, we are faithful to the responsibilities of Christian living if we do not withhold the Son from the people we encounter. Whether it's through an evangelizing word or a helping hand, or a compassionate and attentive ear, or the generous giving of mercy and forgiveness or money or time, we are Christ's hands and feet and voice in the world today. We are his earthly body. We are the answers to people's prayers.

We have been empowered through our baptisms to shine with the glory of Christ's love. We have all been commissioned to continue his earthly ministry. May the experience of Lent take us to new heights of union with Christ and his mission!

**Questions for Personal Reflection:** Identify one area of your life that you would like Jesus to transfigure. What do you need to do to repent of it? How do you need to change (with God's help) so that others see more of Jesus?

**Questions for Community Faith Sharing:** Share the story of a time when you let Jesus change you. How difficult was it to be transfigured? Why did you want to make the change? How did it impact others?

## BRAND NEW MESSAGE SERIES FOR LENT

rebuilt+  
FAITHFORTY  
DAILY EXERCISES FOR  
REBUILDING OUR FAITH,  
ONE DAY AT A TIME**Week Three: TITHE AND GIVE**

Scripture: Genesis 22:1–2; 9a, 10–13, 15–18

God is Jehovah Jireh, the God who provides. We see God's provision more clearly when we are willing to sacrifice back to him what he is given to us. God called Abraham to sacrifice his son Isaac. God used that to test Abraham's faith. God tests our faith by inviting us to give our financial resources back to him. When we respond like our Abraham, we will see God more clearly as our provider.

God is Jehovah Jireh—the God who provides. When we give, we have the opportunity to see his care and provision for us. Take a chance and make a sacrificial offering to God.

***Rebuilt Faith***, written by Fr. Michael White and Tom Corcoran proposes five simple steps to learn (or relearn) more about our Catholic faith and deepen our relationship with God. Rebuilding and renewing our faith starts with a nagging feeling that we want more connectedness, community, and purpose. That's the spark that leads to a flame that burns brightly around Jesus, the foundation of living and growing in faith. Rebuilt Faith is the theme of our weekend message series (homilies) throughout Lent. It will also be the focus of all our small group discussions this season. We're also encouraging parishioners to read the book this Lent and make a commitment to a small group experience in Lent.

**Small groups** are about life change, and small groups promote life change at a fundamental level that rarely happens in a weekend congregation. That's why growing our small group program is one of our primary goals for this Lenten season at Assumption.

Small groups are for everybody. Whether new to the faith, you can partake in or lead a group in person or online. If you're skeptical about whether you really need religious faith in your life, or if you're having that feeling something is missing, and you need more, or maybe you're just feeling stuck and don't know where to start, don't worry. When you join a small group, you'll receive a free copy of Rebuilt Faith, which is strategically designed with daily readings over the course of six weeks to help you develop your faith. We all know somebody who is skeptical, and you may even know somebody who may just be on the brink of giving themselves entirely to Christ. Let this be your call to action to join a small group, and just watch how much Jesus can change your life for the better.

It's time to begin a transformative journey. If you're already part of a small group, consider taking that next step in becoming a leader. Guiding others in their faith journey not only deepens your own understanding but also contributes to the growth within our community.





**I will restore you  
to health and  
heal your wounds,  
declares the Lord.**  
Jeremiah 30:17

# Healing Prayer

**Tuesday, March 12<sup>TH</sup>  
at 7:00 - 8:00 PM in the Church  
by our PARISH PRAYER TEAM**

*Praying over individually for physical, emotional, relational and other wounds to be healed by our ultimate Healer.*

CREATIVE MINISTRIES PRESENTS

## JOURNEY CROSS & CRUCIFIXION

A live dramatic presentation of the Stations of the Cross

**PALM SUNDAY, March 24 at 3:00 PM in the Church**

# 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 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. For information contact the Faith Formation Office.

**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 scan the QR Code on your right. Please use **the parish code (NY563)**. Thank you for your continued support of our parish family!



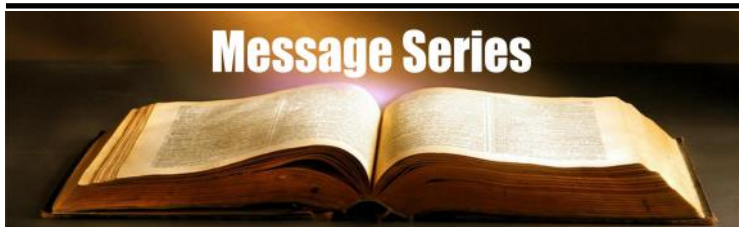
## Parish Social Ministry

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 on Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday from 10AM to 1PM.

**PANTRY NEEDS: Paper Towels, Toilet Paper, Dishwashing Liquid, Household Cleaner, Toothbrushes, Shampoo, Deodorant, Cooking Oil, Mayonnaise, Fruit Juice, Coffee, Tea, Snacks, Pancake Mix, Syrup, Canned Pasta, Rice-a-Roni, Ramen Soup Mix, Jelly, Canned Pet Food.**



## Message Series



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.

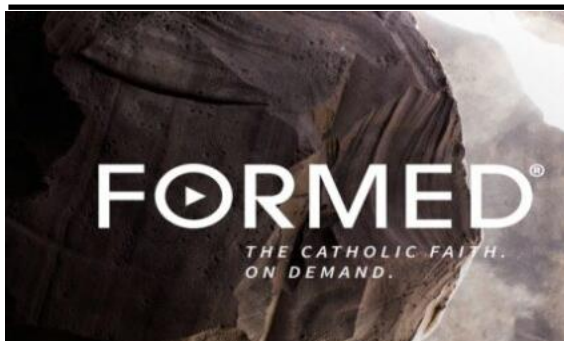
## Assumption Prayer Team

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**



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](http://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**





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

25 February 2024

## WORD OF THE WEEK

### Agnus Dei |äg-nūs-'dā|

Latin term for "Lamb of God." A title given to Jesus by John the Baptist (John 1:29); the litany sung or said by the assembly at Mass before Communion ("**Lamb of God**, you take away the sins of the world . . .") introduced into the Roman Rite in the seventh century by Pope Sixtus; an image of a lamb often with a halo and a banner and cross used as a symbol of Christ; a wax disc sacramental.

Pronunciation: <https://tinyurl.com/Take5-agnus-dei>

## CONTEXT

Either sin is with you, lying on your shoulders, or it is lying on Christ, the **Lamb of God** [Agnus Dei]. Now if it is lying on your back, you are lost; but if it is resting on Christ, you are free, and you will be saved. Choose what you want.

—Martin Luther

The address to the **Lamb of God** does not refer to Christ simply, but rather to Christ present in the Eucharist as a sacrificial offering.

—Joseph A. Jungmann, S.J., *The Mass of the Roman Rite*

## WHY IT MATTERS

The Passover lamb is the symbol of God's people passing over from slavery and death to freedom and life (Exodus 12). A "lamb led to slaughter" is Isaiah's prophesy of God's faithful servant (Isaiah 53:7). The victorious Lamb in Revelation is the light of God's holy city (Revelation 21:9-22:5). With all of salvation history as its backdrop, the **Agnus Dei** epitomizes the sacrifice of Jesus who achieves our freedom from sin and death. "It is love to the end," says the Catechism of the Catholic Church, "that confers on Christ's sacrifice its value as redemption and reparation, as atonement and satisfaction (616).

## RELATED WORDS

Sacrifice | Paschal Lamb | Expiation | Fraction

## QUESTION OF THE WEEK

### What is the meaning of the Transfiguration?

Gospel Greek deliberately avoids the term *metamorphosis* in this account, an attempt to sever any "pagan" comparison. The brilliance of Jesus' face; the enveloping cloud, and Peter's suggestion of pitching tents evokes significant encounters Moses had with the Holy Presence. The simultaneous appearance of Moses and Elijah, representatives of Law and Prophecy, reinforce these anchors to the Hebrew story.

So what's it doing in the New Testament? Scholars offer three possibilities. One is that this event is the Gospel of Mark's misplaced Resurrection story. The second idea is that this story is a theological reflection of the first-generation church: a symbolic way of reconstructing what Jesus means to them. The third theory is that the Transfiguration is a private vision of Peter in which the truth about Jesus "came together" for him and shaped his understanding of the Second Coming before or even well after Easter. What's our final takeaway? Saint Paul declares that we will all be transfigured if we keep our sights trained on Christ.

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

## REFLECTION OF THE WEEK

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT (FEBRUARY 25)

### For the love of God

One of the deepest spiritual longings is to know ourselves as the beloved of God. Maya Angelou, in her memoir *Wouldn't Take Nothing for My Journey Now*, recalls being asked by her teacher to read a section from a book that ended with the words, "God loves me." He instructed her to say the passage again and again. Eventually it dawned on her there might be truth in those words. "I suddenly began to cry at the grandness of it all," she writes. "I knew that if God loved me, then I could do wonderful things."

READINGS: Genesis 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18; Romans 8:31b-34; Mark 9:2-10 (26 <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/022524.cfm>). "This is my beloved Son. Listen to him."

## FAITH IN ACTION

Make a Lenten practice of repeating "God loves me," and share the Good News of God's love with others.