



# ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

**March 24, 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**



# Mass Intentions for the week



## Sunday, March 24

9:30 a.m. — Kathleen A. Stevens (Connolly-Licari Family)  
Frederick C. Lingen Jr. (Christina Lingen)  
11:30 a.m.—People of the Parish

## Monday, March 25

9:00 a.m.—Abelardo & Norma Angeles (Gochan Family)

## Tuesday, March 26

9:00 a.m.—

## Wednesday, March 27

9:00 a.m.— John G. Joseph (Patrick & Adriana DeFelice)

## Thursday, March 28

9:00 a.m.—Morning Prayer  
8:00 p.m.—Mass of the Lord’s Supper

## Friday, March 29

9:00 a.m.—Morning Prayer  
3:00 p.m — The Lord’s Passion & Holy Communion  
7:30 p.m.—Stations of the Cross

## Saturday, March 30

9:00 a.m.—Morning Prayer  
8:00 p.m.— Easter Vigil

## Sunday, March 31

9:30 a.m.— Easter  
11:30 a.m.—Easter  
1:00 p.m.—Easter

### We celebrate **EUCCHARIST**

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.

## STEWARDSHIP

GIVING to our parish as an act of worship

### Parish Sacrificial Giving Summary

Last Week’s Collection: \$9,922

(includes *Faith Direct*)

Last Year’s Collection: \$8,986

**Thank You!**

Rest  
in  
Peace



Rosario A. Chechile

**Good News Reflection****Trusting God Amidst the Joys and Sorrows of Life**

Imagine the mixed emotions and excitement that day when Jesus, the humble King, entered Jerusalem on the back of a donkey amidst shouts of “Hosanna” and palm branches being waved in the air and tossed at his feet. To live in that time in Jerusalem was to live in a pressure cooker of political and religious upheaval. Many were indeed looking for a Savior, but Jesus knew that not everyone who was jumping up and down had the same expectations of him. In the crowd, along with his disciples, were those who were ecstatic about the miracles they had witnessed or heard about, and they were convinced that he was the Messiah, the King of Israel. Some were traveling and just curious about who this man could be. Then there were the Pharisees who hated Jesus and distrusted him because they thought his teachings were too loose and he threatened their security, prestige, and status in the community.

As exciting as this big entrance procession was, Jesus must have carried much trepidation in his heart with the knowledge that he was fulfilling the messianic prophecy from Zechariah 9:9 by triumphantly riding in on a donkey’s colt. He knew that many of these same people who were welcoming him so eagerly would soon turn against him and this would set his Father’s plan into motion for his suffering, death, and resurrection. Jesus could have turned back, but he courageously cooperated with his Father’s holy will and moved forward in trust. It was not until later after Jesus was glorified and the Holy Spirit enlightened them that his disciples understood all that had happened.

This Palm Sunday of the Lord’s Passion, as we hold our blessed palms in our hands and sing joyful hosannas at Mass, let us be reminded that Jesus, our beloved Savior, modeled for us the rhythm and hope for our own lives. Because of what Jesus did for us by suffering, dying, and rising from the dead, we too will have joy, followed by sorrow, and then joy once again. Good will conquer evil and life will conquer death.

**Questions for Personal Reflection:** Have there been times when you did not fully understand why things were happening in your life, but later realized that God seemed to be orchestrating everything for your best interest? In what ways are you being called to trust God right now in your life?

**Questions for Community Faith Sharing:** How should we respond to modern-day Pharisees who feel threatened by the love we show our neighbors? How has the Holy Spirit enlightened you after the fact in ministry?

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**Easter Vigil – March 30**  
**8:00 P.M. – Easter Vigil**  
**Easter Sunday – March 31**  
**9:30 A.M., 11:30 A.M., 1:00 P.M.**



Jesus and his resurrection changed the course of history. A. Francis wrote in *One Solitary Life*: “All the armies that have ever marched, All the navies that have ever sailed, All the parliaments that have ever sat, All the kings that have ever reigned, put together have not affected the life of mankind on this earth as much as Jesus.” He influenced the course of civilization and calls his followers to influence others. As followers of Jesus, we are to continue to influence our world both as individuals and as a community. In this series we will look at ways we can positively influence others. Influence means the act of producing an effect without an apparent exertion of force or direct exercise of command.

**Small groups** are about life change, and small groups promote life change at a fundamental level that rarely happens in a weekend congregation.

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. 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.



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!



# 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.

## ***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**

## **Holy Week Services — 2024**

### **Holy Thursday – March 28**

9:00 A.M. – Morning Prayer

8:00 P.M. – Mass of the Lord's Supper

Visits to Repository until 10:00 P.M.

### **Good Friday – March 29**

9:00 A.M. – Morning Prayer

3:00 P.M. – The Lord's Passion and Holy Communion

7:30 P.M. Stations of the Cross

### **Easter Vigil – March 30**

9:00 A.M. – Morning Prayer, followed by Blessing of Easter Baskets

8:00 P.M. – Easter Vigil

### **Easter Sunday – March 31**

9:30 A.M., 11:30 A.M., 1:00 P.M.

(Easter Egg Hunt for Children after 9:30 AM Mass)

## **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, Mustard, Salad Dressing, Fruit Juice, Coffee, Tea, Hot Chocolate, Snacks, Pasta, Noodles, Canned Chili, Canned Tomatoes, Canned Potatoes, Canned Peas, Muffin Mix, Jell-O, Pudding Mix, Frosting, Canned Pet Food.**



The **Catholic Ministries Appeal** is an Island-wide effort by our Church to support the critically important services and programs that serve more than 600,000 people every year. 100% of every dollar raised is RESTRICTED to the ministries of the Appeal.

Through the Catholic Ministries Appeal, we can provide pastoral care to those in need on Long Island. This year our parish goal is \$56,600. Parishes who make their goal receive a rebate from the diocese, amounting to 20% of the actual goal. Last year we got back \$11,200.

If you have not already contributed, please prayerfully consider joining with me as One Faith, Family and Community, and make a gift to the 2024 Catholic Ministries Appeal. Please remember no gift is too small, and all gifts make a difference in someone's life! The pledge you make will be billed for the next 10 months if you like to do so or you can pay it off in full amount. Thank you very much for your generous heart in Serving Others.

**Come & join the fun**

# **EASTER EGG HUNT**

**Sunday, March 31 | After 9:30 AM Mass | 33 Crown Acres Rd**

**Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church**

**Free Egg Hunt - Ages 2-12 - BYOB (bring your own basket)**

**Donations of plastic Eggs &/or Candy are very much appreciated,  
and please drop them off at the office by March 25**



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

24 March 2024

## WORD OF THE WEEK

### Prostration \prā-'strā-shən\

Lying face down in a ritual expressing humility, reverence, and submission. Used in the liturgy of ordination, it is also the posture assumed during the entrance ritual on Good Friday when priests and ministers proceed in silence and then reverence the altar before all assembled with a full **prostration**.

*Pronunciation:* <https://tinyurl.com/Take5-prostration>

### CONTEXT

**Prostration** can carry the symbolism of death—the death to self that comes before the candidate's rebirth into priestly service. —*Beafriar.org website*

[The Magi] saw the child with Mary his mother. They **prostrated** themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts.

—*Matthew 2:11*

In Hebrew the root of the word for “dismayed” can also mean “**prostrate**.” That’s what dismay and fear do. They take the legs from under us.

—*Saint Mary's College of Oscott Seminary*

### WHY IT MATTERS

Postures are powerful. We say much without saying a word. Genuflection and kneeling demonstrate respect. The Asian kowtow—kneeling while touching forehead to the ground—is a deeper display of reverence. The rare full **prostration** symbolizes total submission to God alone. The ultimate **prostration** of Jesus on the cross brings about our salvation.

From the *Circular Letter Concerning the Preparation and Celebration of the Easter Feasts*: This act of **prostration** [on Good Friday], signifies both the abasement of “earthly man” and also the grief and sorrow of the Church.

### RELATED WORDS

Reverence | Humility | Kneel | Bow | Genuflect

## QUESTION OF THE WEEK

### What is humility?

Humility is just about the exact opposite of everything you see in the world nowadays! To discover the essentials of humility, you have to experiment with self-emptying. Humility recognizes that everything comes from God and belongs to God. Therefore, to God alone go all praise, honor, and glory. When you begin with God and not with yourself, your perspective on reality does a dramatic shift. God's will comes first. “Not my will, but yours be done,” as Jesus prays in the Garden of Gethsemane.

When you choose the perspective of a humble heart, you become aware that your proper orientation as creatures should be one of obedience—that is, attentive listening—to God's call. It's precisely the attitude of obedience that led to the salvation of the world, as Saint Paul tells us: “[Jesus] humbled himself, becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross.” Paul explains that humility means putting other people ahead of yourself, thinking of their needs rather than yours. That is so countercultural, jaws will drop whenever you attempt it.

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

## REFLECTION OF THE WEEK

FRIDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION (GOOD FRIDAY) (MARCH 29)

### The path of redemption

It is easy to look around and conclude that one of the things human beings do best is inflict suffering on one another. In ways big and small, people look to their own interests at the expense of others. Yet Christ, in obedient love, gathers up all suffering in his Passion and death, and offers us redemption through his ultimate sacrifice and Resurrection.

READINGS: Isaiah 52:13–53:12; Hebrews 4:14-16, 5:7-9; John 18:1-19:42 (40 <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/032924.cm>). “*Christ became obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.*”

### FAITH IN ACTION

You can participate in Christ's redeeming sacrifice by abandoning yourself to God.