

Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

The Solemnity of the Assumption of Mary is celebrated every year on August 15th. This solemnity commemorates that the Blessed Virgin Mary, immaculately conceived, ever virgin, and the mother of God was assumed body and soul into heaven after her earthly life. The Blessed Virgin Mary, by her special relationship with the Blessed Trinity, as a daughter of God the Father, a spouse of God the Holy Spirit, and a Mother to God the Son, was granted this special privilege of uniting wholly with the Blessed Trinity in heaven after her earthly life, and she became the Queen of heaven. The teachings and beliefs on the Assumption of Mary into heaven are grounded in the Sacred Tradition of the Church, which is testified by Church Fathers in both East and West. Mary died in the presence of all the Apostles, buried, but her tomb when it was opened, upon the request of St. Thomas the Apostle, was found empty. Hence, the Apostles concluded that the body was taken up to heaven. By the Bull *Munificentissimus Deus*, Pope Pius XII declared the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary a dogma of the Catholic Faith.

The Solemnity of Assumption like other solemnities and feasts in honor of our Blessed Mother Mary invites us to reflect again on the indispensable role our Blessed Mother Mary plays in our salvation journey through her maternal intercession and her exemplary model of faith. The book of Revelation describes in our first reading, the birth of Jesus Christ and how Mary gave birth to a son, the anointed one, who will establish the kingdom of God, the kingdom of love and service. St. Paul describes in the second reading the mission of this Son of God, “Christ the first fruit; then, at his coming, those who belong to Christ; then comes the end, when he hands over the Kingdom to his God and Father when he has destroyed every sovereignty and every authority and power...”. As always, any readings about our blessed Mother Mary invite us always to mediate and imitate her enduring and endearing virtues.

Today’s Gospel of Luke tells us about the visitation of Mary to her cousin Elizabeth and the singing of the Magnificat (My Soul Glorifies the Lord). Mary traveled to share in the joys of her cousin Elizabeth, mother of John the Baptist after Angel Gabriel told her that Elizabeth has conceived in her old age. It is a great moment that reminds us of the importance of sharing God’s blessings with others. It is said, “joy when shared multiplies, and sorrow when shared, minimizes.” Mary’s singing of the Magnificat is also very exemplary. He acknowledged that whatever gifts and privileges she has received were given to her by God. She said, “My soul glorifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my savior”. As we celebrate this Solemnity let us ask God to help us to share with others the joys of our lives and to sing with Mary always, “my soul glorifies the Lord...” Amen!