



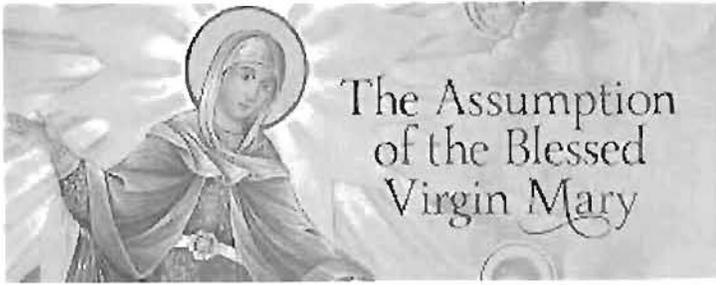
The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

August 15, 2021

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish

235 North Front St. New Bedford, MA 02746

Assumption of Blessed Virgin Mary



MASSES FOR WEEK OF AUGUST 15-22

Sat., August 14—Assumption of B.V.M.

4:00 p.m. +Alvin Bodzioch (b'day & anniv)
Req. Ann Bodzioch Robinson

Sun., August 15—Assumption of B.V.M.

10:00 a.m. +Jonathan Fontaine
Req. Jocelyn & Leo Allen

Mon., August 16—St. Stephen of Hungary

7:30 a.m. OLPH Parishioners,
Living & Deceased

Tues., August 17—Weekday (20th week)

7:30 a.m. +William J. Hoder

Wed., August 18—Weekday

7:30 a.m. +Teresa Bulka

Thurs., August 19—St. John Eudes

7:30 a.m. +William J. Hoder

Fri., August 20—St. Bernard

7:30 a.m. In Thanksgiving
Req. Cynthia & Armindo Linhares

Sat., August 21—St. Pius X

7:30 a.m. +William J. Hoder

Sat., Aug. 22—21st Sunday Ordinary Time

4:00 p.m. +Michael Robinson (anniv.)
Ann Bodzioch Robinson

Sun., Aug. 23—21st Sunday Ordinary Time

10:00 a.m. OLPH Parishioners,
Living & Deceased

THIS WEEK THE CHURCH CELEBRATES...

St. Stephen of Hungary (August 16th), whose passion as duke was to convert his people to the Catholic Faith. After Stephen defeated rival pagan nobility and established laws favoring Christianity over paganism, Pope Sylvester II proclaimed him king. He is best known for his devotion to God and Blessed Mother and his charity to the poor and sick.

St. John Eudes (August 19th), who preached more than 100 parish missions, established the Congregation of Jesus and Mary for diocesan priests, founded several seminaries, and established the Sisters of Our Lady of Charity to help fallen women escape their lifestyle. He spent his lifetime promoting devotion to the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and the Blessed Virgin Mary.

St. Bernard of Clairvaux (August 20th), advisor of popes, preacher of the Second Crusade, defender of the Faith, healer of a schism, reformer of a monastic order, scripture scholar, theologian, eloquent preacher. When, at age 20, Bernard became a Benedictine monk, his 5 brothers, 2 uncles, and 30 young friends followed him into the monastery and even established a second house in Clairvaux, with Bernard as abbot.

St. Pius X (August 21st), priest, professor of theology, bishop, cardinal, and Patriarch of Venice, devoted to the people in his diocese. As pope, he promoted daily reception of holy communion, and lowered the age of first communion from 12 to 7. Just before his death, he approved the plans to build the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC.

August 15, 2021

A GREAT BIG "THANK YOU" to Krystyna and Stanley Dzieciolowski, Helena Falkowska, Ola and Chris Lewandowski, Lucy Lyczewska, Kasia Majewski, Richard Machnowski, and Kevin Michalski for their "follow-up" work putting the church hall and kitchen back in order after Roto-Rooter fixed our water line and flood problem.

Roto-Rooter did a good job cleaning, drying, and sanitizing but left things in disarray. The swift work of this energetic crew of nine made it possible for us to enjoy bingo again this past Thursday evening.

OUR PARISH PARTICIPATION in the monthly Diocesan-wide "40 Hours" Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on this second Friday of August was commendable, with even more participants this month than last. May each one who spent a Holy Hour with Jesus experience the joy of His graces and His abiding presence.

If you would like to be part of this spiritually uplifting encounter the next time, mark your calendar now as a reminder: September 10th from 9-10, 10-11, or 11-noon.

CHOOSE LIFE! The National Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC is a shiny black wall that stretches 492 feet and lists the names of the 58,022 known Americans killed in that war. **If such a wall listed the names of the children killed by abortion since 1973, the wall would be about 60 miles long! The casualties of our wars put together are fewer than the casualties from abortion in a single year.**

Brothers and Sisters of Our Parish Family,

The Church teaches as dogma that Blessed Mother, *"having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory."* This is the Assumption. This is what the Church is celebrating today.

This doctrine was dogmatically defined by Pope Pius XII, exercising papal infallibility, on November 1, 1950, in the Apostolic Constitution *Munificentissimus Deus*. But the Holy Father was not declaring this as something new; there is written evidence in this belief as early as the fourth century. The dogmatic definition was just the formal declaration of what the faithful already believed as part of the "deposit of faith."

Pope Pius XII pointed to Genesis 3.15 as scriptural support of the dogma in terms of Blessed Mother's victory over sin and death, also reflected in 1 Corinthians 15.54: *"then shall come to pass the saying that is written, 'Death is swallowed up in victory'"*

Here Paul also alludes to Genesis 3.15, where it is prophesied that the offspring of the woman will crush Satan with his feet. Since Jesus rose to Heaven to fulfill this prophecy, it follows that the woman would similarly, since she shared this enmity with Satan.

The Pope also mentioned Psalm 132, which prays, *"Arise, o Lord, into your resting place, you and the ark, which you have sanctified"* (v. 8). Since the Church sees Mary as the New Covenant Ark, it understands that she was taken into Heaven in the same manner as our Lord—that is, body and soul.

Peace and Blessings,
Father Conrad



And Mary said...
 "The Mighty One has done great
 things for me,
 and holy is his name."
 LUKE 1:46, 49



ILLUSTRATION: SHUTTERSTOCK

“All Generations Will Call Me Blessed”

Today's readings help us see why Mary should be called blessed. The first reading depicts a woman as gloriously "clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet" (Revelation 12:1). This image is captured in well-known Marian statues. However, this woman is wailing "aloud in pain as she labored to give birth" (12:2). In fact, here and in the Gospel, women are depicted as pregnant.

When a woman is in labor, she is both at her most vulnerable and her strongest. When giving birth she faces the real possibility of death. Yet, she places herself in such jeopardy to bring another to life. Her steely inner resolve is matched with remarkable physical strength when she is called upon to "Push!" The labor pains that precede birth became a striking metaphor, in both ancient Israel and the early Church, for the struggle experienced in bringing forth the reign of God (see Isaiah 21:3, Matthew 24:8, Mark 13:8, and Romans 8:22). Such suffering came to be known as "the birth pangs of the Messiah."

Certainly, Mary is blessed because of her physical birthing of the Messiah. However, the Magnificat, her revolutionary prayer in the Gospel, describes the birthing of the reign of God when the powerful are brought down and the lowly uplifted, the hungry filled and the rich "sent away empty" (Luke 1:53). This is not a feast of a plastic statue but of a woman willing to give her life for the reign of God. She certainly deserves to be "clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet."

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR Reflection

- Where does the Magnificat throw light on issues in our own society?
- Pray for the courage you need to be faithful to your calling in life.

Dear Padre,

Why do Catholics believe in Mary's assumption into heaven?

Mary's assumption to heaven is a belief shared by Eastern Christians and Roman Catholics, although the explanations of this dogma have different emphases in the two traditions. While there is no biblical or historical record of this event, the first explanation of this doctrine is found in a document from the late 300s.

Mary's assumption was considered a pious opinion until 1950, when Pius XII defined it as dogma (an official Church teaching). The Pope made the declaration after bishops and he found overwhelming consensus throughout the Church.

The definition of Mary's assumption—body and soul—to heaven reaffirmed that God had not only created humans, but also redeemed and claimed them. Mary's assumption reminded the world of the goodness of God's creation and that Christ redeems us from the evil around us (and in us) and made us a new creation.

Perhaps the best explanation can be found in St. John Paul II's 2004 homily at Lourdes. "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and take you to myself, so that where I am you also may be," he said, quoting John 14:3. He explained that Mary's assumption is the pledge that Christ's promise will be fulfilled. The Pope's words echo the teaching of bishops at the Second Vatican Council, which described this dogma as "a sign of sure hope and solace" (Dogmatic Constitution on the Church [*Lumen Gentium*], 68).

From Catholic and Cornered: Answers to Common Questions About Your Faith.
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THE ASSUMPTION OF THE VIRGIN MARY, WALL CATHEDRAL, MOHAWK FALLS, 1911. (LIFEBOOK)



A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

Mary is assumed into heaven: small and humble, she is the first to receive the highest glory. She, a human creature, one of us, attains eternity in soul and body. And there she awaits us as a mother waits for her children to come home. Indeed, the people of God invoke her as the Gate of Heaven.

SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION, AUGUST 15, 2019

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Calendar

Monday
AUGUST 16
Weekday
Jgs 2:11-19
Mt 19:16-22
Tuesday
AUGUST 17
Weekday
Jgs 6:11-24a
Mt 19:23-30
Wednesday
AUGUST 18
Weekday
Jgs 9:6-15
Mt 20:1-16
Thursday
AUGUST 19
Weekday
Jgs 11:29-39a
Mt 22:1-14
Friday
AUGUST 20
St. Bernard, Abbot and Doctor of the Church
Ru 1:1, 3-6, 14b-16, 22
Mt 22:34-40
Saturday
AUGUST 21
St. Pius X, Pope
Ru 2:1-3, 8-11; 4:13-17
Mt 23:1-12
Sunday
AUGUST 22
Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time
Jos 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b
Eph 5:21-32 or
Eph 5:2a, 25-32
Jn 6:60-69
Do you have a question for the Padre?
Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about Dear Padre.

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