



THE TASTE OF ST. GERTRUDE

Saturday, August 20, 2022

5:00pm - 10:00 pm

Sunday, August 21, 2022

10:00 am - 6:00 pm

Volunteers are Needed



ETHNIC FOOD



ENTERTAINMENT



FUN FOR THE KIDS



Raffle



08/14/22

LOWER CHURCH RENEWAL NEW BATHROOMS

Our lower church requires renewal. Using the funds from To Teach Who Christ Is campaign we have removed the asbestos tiles from the floor in the lower church and new flooring has been replaced. . We have **extended the existing men's bathrooms and built new bathrooms for women**, that will help not only the events held in the lower church but also to be used during the Sunday and daily masses held in the main church.

On the weekend of January 22/23, we launched a fundraiser to help this project. Our goal was to collect \$40,000. **Given the unexpected increase in prices of work and materials, we had to increase the goal to \$100,000.** This amount will cover all expenses for the new bathrooms. The forms that you have filled out and brought to the Mass along with the envelopes may be dropped to the main collection. You may also mail them or bring them to the office. We encourage you to use the electronic online giving - please scan the QR code with your phone :

Your support will help us to make our parish more comfortable for everyone.
God bless you! Fr. Eryk



TO ALL WHO HAVE BEEN MOST GENEROUS, WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS HEARTS. THIS COULD NOT BE ACCOMPLISHED WITHOUT ALL OF YOU! BLESSINGS. Thank you

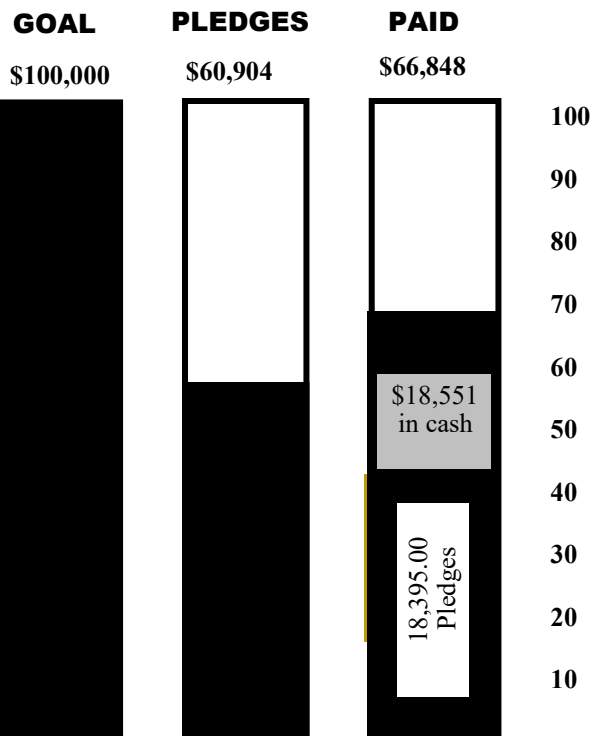
CCD REGISTRATION FOR 2022-2023

Registration for the 2022-2023 CCD School Year is now in progress. Registrations began on June 28, 2022 and thru September 1, 2022.

Registration packets are available at the Rectory Office, and in the back of Church. Please take a packet, fill out all forms, enclose *copies* of sacramental certificates if necessary, and enclose payment.

This year, we will only be opening registration to students preparing for the sacraments of Reconciliation, First Holy Communion, and Confirmation. Thank you!

LOWER CHURCH FUNDRAISER



We have new Hymnals!

**PLEASE ! PLEASE! HANDLE WITH CARE
KEEP THEM IN THE PEWS. THEY ARE TO
REMAIN IN THE CHURCH!
THANK YOU!**

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

**AFTER THE 8:00 AM MASS UNTIL 7:00 PM.
EVERY THURSDAY PLEASE SIGN UP FOR A
TIME. WE NEED TO HAVE SOMEONE IN
CHURCH AT ALL TIMES. THANK YOU AND
GOD BLESS YOU!**

MASS SCHEDULE

Monday & Tuesday 7:00 pm Mass *English*
Wednesday - Saturday 8:00 a.m. *English*

SATURDAY 5:00 pm *English (Vigil Mass)*
SUNDAY: 9:00 a.m. *English*
10:30 a.m. *Polish*
12:00 p.m. *Spanish*

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

8:00 am & 5:00 pm *English*
6:00 pm *Spanish* 7:30 pm *Polish*
HOLIDAY (No Church Feast) 9:00am *Eng.*

Saturday 6:00-8:00 pm. - *Eucharists of the Neocatechumenal Way (Vigil masses)*

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

*Monday 6:00 pm -7:00 pm
Thursday 8:30 am - 7:00 pm*

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Mon. , Tues. & Thurs. 1:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Wed. & Fri. 9:00 am- 1:00 pm
SAT. & SUN. - CLOSED
CLOSED FOR LUNCH 1:30 pm—2:00 pm

CONFESSIONS

6:00-7:00 pm Thursdays
4:00 pm - 5:00 pm Saturdays

CCD OFFICE

CENTER FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
Phone: 847-455-5810

*Office Hours Tues. & Thurs. 6:00-7:30 pm
Sat. 10:00am-11:30 am. at Parish ofc.*

EMERGENCY ONLY

for visiting the sick by the priest
OR URGENT SITUATIONS
Call 773-899-6471

Taste of St. Gertrude 2022

Event dates: Friday, August 19th (Set-up tent and stage& etc. BEGINS AT 2:00 PM

Saturday, August 20th (5 pm to 10 pm)

Event starts with an **outdoor Mass at 5:00 pm**
(weather permitting)

Sunday, August 21nd (10 am to 6 pm) After 6 pm tent, tables, and chair will need to be removed.

This event is a fund raiser and **all money received, will go directly to the church.** Your support is needed once again this year to have a successful event.

Volunteers are needed to support: the set-up on Friday, Children games and Bouncy House support.

Note: We welcome anyone that requires service hours for school or religious classes. They can volunteer and receive credit. Volunteer registration forms can be found in the back entrance areas of the church.

Supplies that could be provided at this time: Children's game prizes (New prizes such as: footballs, soccer balls, volley balls, 12" rubber balls, Children board games, craft kits, bubble bottles, small balls, plastic bats w/ balls, frisbees, coloring books and crayons, etc.)

Donations:

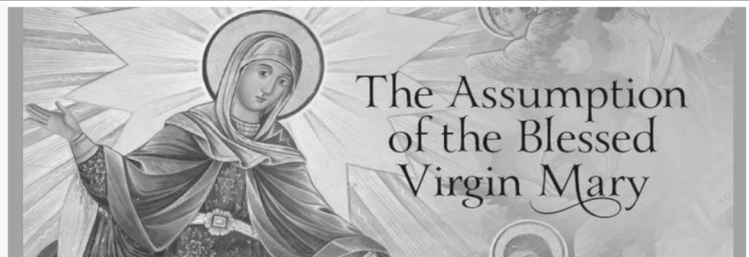
Cases of bottled water , plastic spoons, and forks, napkins, paper towels, heavy duty paper plates and small bowls will be accepted. If needed additional supplies will be requested as we get closer to the event.

Please fill out a volunteer form or supply request form and drop the form or item (s) above at the Rectory office. The forms can be picked up in back of the church.

Monetary Donations will be accepted and we will purchase the items as needed.

For the month of July and August we will also be accepting *cases of soda , *cases of beer: Mexican beers: (*Modelo*Corona), American beer: (*Miller Lite), Polish beers: (*Tyskie, *Zywiec), bottle or cartons of wine: Red or white.

Thank you for your continued support.



MASSES FOR THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

SUNDAY August,14, 6:30 pm
Spanish (Villa Allegra)

MONDAY, AUGUST 15, 6:00 PM
POLISH (CHURCH)

MONDAY, AUGUST 15, 7:00 PM
ENGLISH (CHURCH)

NO ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT ON MONDAY

Raffle tickets are available before and after all Masses. \$20.00 each, only 500 will be sold.

1st prize \$1500
2nd \$800 3rd \$400
4th \$200 5th \$100

20 Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario

LOS PROFETAS

En las lecturas de este domingo reflexionamos sobre la voz del profeta. Escuchamos del sufrimiento y rescate de Jeremías. Oímos cómo Jesús anticipa su sufrimiento y muerte. Al igual que Jeremías y Jesús, los profetas fueron enviados por Dios a los líderes y al pueblo de Israel. Un profeta es alguien que habla la verdad a los poderosos, exhibiendo sus motivos ocultos más oscuros e injusticias. El profeta presenta una dirección hacia delante que se alinea con los propósitos de Dios. Un profeta puede obligar a la gente a salir de una comodidad neutral o de la indiferencia. El profeta crea una urgencia para tomar una decisión: ¿nos contentamos con la situación de cómo están ciertas cosas, o

vamos a cambiar nuestros métodos y seguir un camino nuevo y mejor? Hoy también podemos preguntar ¿cómo identificamos y respondemos a los profetas de nuestro tiempo? ¿Cómo podemos proporcionar una voz profética en nuestra Iglesia y en nuestro mundo?

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LECTURAS DE HOY

Primera lectura — El profeta del Señor sufre peligros y deshonra para proclamar el no grato mensaje de Dios para la ciudad (Jeremías 38:4-6, 8-10).

Salmo — Señor, date prisa en socorrerme (Salmo 40 [39])

Segunda lectura — No te desanimes. Persevera en la lucha igual que Cristo soportó la cruz (Hebreos 12:1-4).

Evangelio — Jesús vino a purificar la tierra con su santo fuego y a sembrar división y no paz (Lucas 12:49-53).

Cine católico: se estrenará en México película “Tierra Santa. El último peregrino”

El próximo 18 de agosto, el Festival Internacional de Cine Católico estrena en México la película-documental: “Tierra Santa. El último peregrino”, de Goya Producciones.

Con una estructura similar a ‘Fátima, el último misterio’ y ‘Corazón Ardiente’, este nuevo filme entrelaza testimonios de conversos en Tierra Santa con una trama de ficción en torno a los apuros de una madre de familia que lucha contra la dureza de sus hijos en sus planes de peregrinar a la tumba de Jesús.

“La inspiración original de esta película surgió de sentir el peligro de que la tierra de Cristo se quede sin cristianos. Quiere ser un revulsivo para los cristianos que han olvidado sus orígenes bíblicos y, a la vez, una ayuda para los cristianos de Tierra Santa que en estos tiempos duros han visto decaer el número de peregrinos”, declaró el director Andrés Garrigó.

El cineasta subrayó que “entre los testimonios de este largometraje destaca el del padre mexicano Juan María Solana, LC, cuya fama nos había llegado por ser el alma del proyecto Magdala y del descubrimiento de las ruinas de la sinagoga del siglo I. El P. Solana es un ejemplo de lo que se puede hacer para atraer peregrinos de todo el mundo a la tierra de Jesús”.

Garrigó agregó que “este y otros testimonios demuestran que Cristo sigue vivo y hace milagros en la tierra que le vio nacer. Esta es una razón más para reivindicar la importancia de la peregrinación, no sólo como algo inolvidable a título individual, sino imprescindible para la supervivencia de los cristianos que viven en Tierra Santa”.

La película “Tierra Santa. El último peregrino” muestra también la dramática situación de los cristianos de Israel, duramente afectados por la suspensión de las peregrinaciones a causa de la pandemia.

El director del filme dice que “esta película no pretende ser un documental turístico... No va de ruinas, va de misterios, de cambios milagrosos, de salvación... Inyecta optimismo. Invita a contribuir a cambiar las cosas. A elevarte por encima de pandemias y contrariedades, viendo en pantalla la luz deslumbrante de la Resurrección”

Por último, el Padre Juan Solana, LC, quien lleva viviendo cerca de veinte años en Israel dice que «La Tierra Santa es el Quinto Evangelio. Es el que da color, vida, clima, distancias a los otros 4. Recomiendo vivamente visitar la Tierra Santa».

ANUNCIOS PARA EL DOMINGO

1) VEN CON ALEGRÍA!

EL Domingo, **14 DE AGOSTO**, LES INVITAMOS A LA Vigilia de LA FIESTA DE LA ASUNCION DE LA SANTISSIMA VIRGEN MARIA

5:30 - LA MUSICA Y CANTOS DE ALABANZA

6:00 PM – LA MISA SOLEMNE

TODO AL AIRE LIBRE - FRENTE A LA CAPILLA EN EL BARRIO DEL VILLA ALLEGREAL LADO DEL PARQUE EN LA ESQUINA DEL JAMES AVE. Y HOUSTON

Tambien habra una misa en ingles el dia De la Asuncion - el **15 de Agosto a las 7:00 pm** en el Templo parroquial.

2) EL SABOR DE SANTA GERTRUDIS, Agosto 20 y 21.

Si estan considerando donar articulos para este evento, necesitamos: sodas enlatadas de 12 oz. (Coca Cola y otros sabores), agua en botellas de 16 oz., cerveza y vino o donaciones monetarias. Les agradecemos con anticipacion por su apoyo.

Los Boletos de LA RIFA se puede comprar en la oficina o después de Misa. Solamente se vendran 500 boletos a \$20 cada uno

3) Retiro de sanacion para hombres

El grupo de oracion de sta. Gertrudes invita a todos los hombres a nuestro proximo retiro que sera:

Fecha: **27 y 28 de Agosto 2022**

Lugar: Carmelite Spiritual Center, 8419 Bailey Rd., Darien, IL 60561

Costo: \$ 130 por persona (incluye hospedaje y alimentos)

Para mas informacion llama: Oscar 8472223057 o Javier 6303338295

20 Niedziela Zwykła

1 czytanie: Prorok cierpi odrzucenie z powodu głoszenia woli Bożej (Jer 38, 4-6.8-10)

2 czytanie: Nie poddawaj się, ale wytrwaj w zmaganiu jak Chrystus na krzyżu (Hbr 12,1-4)

Ewangelia: Jezus przyszedł oczyścić ziemię swoim ogniem, który wywołuje podział (Łk 12,49-53)

Ogłoszenia Parafialne

1. W dniach 20-21 sierpnia będziemy przeżywać nasze doroczne święto Taste of St. Gertrude.

Zwracamy się z gorącą prośbą do naszych parafian, o wsparcie tego wydarzenia przez darowizny, np: woda butelkowana i napoje gazowane, piwo, jednorazowe sztućce i naczynia. Dodatkowo można podarować zabawki na nagrody dla dzieci (np. Piłki do gry, gry planszowe, etc.) Bóg zapłać.

2. Trwa sprzedaż biletów na loterię, która będzie przeprowadzona w ramach Taste of St. Gertrude. Główną wygraną jest \$1500. Bilety w cenie \$20 są do nabycia w biurze parafialnym.

3. Msza św. w jęz. polskim z okazji Wniebowzięcia NMPanny - w poniedziałek, 15 sierpnia, o g. 18:00.

Wniebowzięcie Najświętszej Maryi Panny

Jakie racje przytaczają pisarze kościelni za istnieniem tego przywileju u Maryi?

Najpierw, że skoro Matka Chrystusowa była bez grzechu poczęta, skoro Ją Bóg obdarzył przywilejem Niepokalanego Poczęcia, to konsekwencją tego jest, że nie podlegała prawu śmierci. Śmierć bowiem spadła na dzieci Adama jako skutek grzechu pierworodnego. Nadto nie wypadało, aby ciało, z którego Chrystus Pan wziął swoją naturę ludzką z Maryi, miało podlegać rozkładowi. Ten sam Chrystus, którego ciało Bóg zachował od zepsucia, mógł zachować od skażenia także ciało swojej Matki. Wreszcie tajemnica zmartwychwstania i wniebowzięcia jest przewidziana dla wszystkich ludzi. Dlatego nie sprzeciwia się rozumowi, aby Chrystus Pan dla swojej Rodzicielki przyspieszył ten dzień.

Można by jednak postawić zarzut: dlaczego dopiero od VI wieku ta prawda przenika mocno w świadomość wiernych Kościoła. Można na to odpowiedzieć, że takich prawd jest więcej w Kościele, które rozwijały się i zostały wyjaśnione definitywnie później. Tak było np. odnośnie osoby Jezusa Chrystusa, gdy występowano przeciwko Jego naturze Boskiej, dwóm naturom, dwóm wolom (arianizm, nestorianizm, monofizytyzm) a nawet przeciwko jego naturze ludzkiej i trzeba było tragicznych konfrontacji, zanim wyłoniła się prawda w całej pełni.

Na ten zarzut daje odpowiedź znany teolog, Tillman Pesch: „Kościół jest nieomylny nie tylko w swoich orzeczeniach, lecz także w codziennym wykonywaniu swojego urzędu nauczycielskiego - w kazaniach i naukach udzielonych ludowi. Gdyby bowiem kiedykolwiek tak się zdarzyło, żeby ludowi chrześcijańskiemu była podawana wszędzie nauka przeciwna nauce Chrystusa, to wtedy Kościół popadłby w błąd, to zaś jest niemożliwym. Kościół bowiem przez codzienne

nauczania wypełnia nakaz Chrystusa: - Idźcie więc i nauczajcie wszystkie narody. (...) A oto Ja jestem z wami po wszystkie dni aż do skończenia świata" (Mt 28,19-20). Dnia 15 sierpnia każdego roku wszyscy kapłani całego świata katolickiego nauczają, że ciało Maryi nie czeka sądu ostatecznego (...) lecz, że już dzisiaj połączone z duszą Maryi jest wraz z nią uwielbiane. Tę naukę podaje jako naukę Kościoła, a niejako własne przypuszczenie. Podaje zaś ją nie od dzisiaj, ale od wieków. Czyż jest przeto możliwe, aby papież, wszyscy biskupi i kapłani byli w błędzie i ten błąd głosili innym? To gdzież nieomyślność przyobiecana Kościołowi Chrystusa?" (Chrześcijańska filozofia życia).

Kościół święty nie tylko wprowadził święto dla uczczenia tego niezwykłego przywileju Maryi, ale je nawet podniósł do rzędu uroczystości, a więc świąt największych. Kiedyś obowiązywał jako przygotowanie do tego święta w wigilię post ścisły, po święcie zaś oktawa. O popularności tego święta, choćby tylko w naszej ojczyźnie, świadczy fakt, że najwięcej kościołów w Polsce jest pod wezwaniem Wniebowzięcia Matki Bożej. Jest ich ponad 560. Z życia świętego, Stanisława Kostki (+ 1568) wiemy, że jego najserdeczniejszym pragnieniem było opuścić ziemię w uroczystość Wniebowzięcia Matki Bożej, że o tę łaskę także gorąco się modlił. Został wysłuchany, bo jakże mogła Najśw. Maryja Panna tak rzewnej prośbie odmówić? W dniu Wniebowzięcia miał zaszczyt również zamknąć oczy dla ziemi, aby je otworzyć w niebie, św. Stefan (+ 1038) król węgierski, i nasz św. Jacek (+ 1257), wielki dominikanin, a we wigilię Wniebowzięcia - św. Maksymilian Kolbe. Na potężnej mozaice zdobiącej absydę Bazyliki Matki Bożej Większej w Rzymie pochodzącej z roku 1295, przedstawiającej koronację Maryi, jest umieszczony napis: „Maryja Dziewica jest wzięta do niebios, gdzie na tronie z gwiazd zasiada Król królów”.

Mass Intentions

SUNDAY, August 14, 2022

9:00 am Vincenzo Giordano
10:30 am Msza zbiorowa
12:00 pm Misa Colectiva
6:30 pm Mass Spanish
(Villa Allegra)

MONDAY, August 15, 2022

6:00 pm Polish Mass (church)
7:00 pm Maria Jiro's Blessings
(English Mass)

TUESDAY, August 16, 2022

7:00 pm Arthur & Pawel Blessings

WEDNESDAY, August 17, 2022

8:00 am Mariusz Birthday

THURSDAY, August 18, 2022

8:00 am Josephine Incardone

FRIDAY, August 19, 2022

8:00 am Vincent Giordano

Saturday, August 20, 2022

8:00 am Sandra Battaglia
5:00 pm Frank Mirandola

SUNDAY, August 21, 2022

9:00 am Frank Mirandola &
Chris Kowalski
10:30 am Msza zbiorowa
12:00 pm Misa Colectiva

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time



In today's Gospel Jesus said to his disciples: "I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing! There is a baptism with which I must be baptized, and how great is my anguish until it be accomplished!"

Your gift to the Society to assist those suffering in poverty will help set the earth on fire with the of God's love.

PROPHETS

We reflect upon the voice of the prophet in this Sunday's readings. We hear of the suffering and the rescue of Jeremiah. We hear how Jesus anticipates his suffering and death. As with Jeremiah and Jesus, the prophets were sent by God to the leaders and people of Israel. A prophet is one who speaks truth to the powerful, exposing their darker hidden motives and injustices. The prophet presents a way forward that aligns with God's purposes. A prophet can force people away from a comfortable neutrality or indifference. The prophet creates an urgency to make a choice: Are we content with the status quo, or are we to change our ways and pursue a new and better path? Today, we may also ask, how do we identify and respond to prophets of our time? How might we provide a prophetic voice in our Church and in our world? Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

O God, who have prepared for those who love you good things which no eye can see, fill our hearts, we pray, with the warmth of your love, so that, loving you in all things and above all things, we may attain your promises, which surpass every human desire.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

Reflection question:

What has God promised to me?

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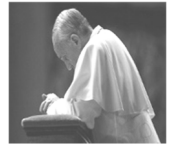
GIVING BACK

The Virgin received salvation so that she may give it back to the centuries.—Peter Chrysologus

LIVE TODAY WELL

Today well lived makes every yesterday a dream of happiness and tomorrow a vision of hope.—Kalidasa

HOLY FATHER'S INTENTION



AUGUST

Small Businesses

We pray for small and medium sized businesses; in the midst of economic and social crisis, may they find ways to continue operating, and serving their communities.

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — They took Jeremiah and threw him into the cistern (Jeremiah 38:4-6, 8-10).

Psalms — Lord, come to my aid! (Psalm 40).

Second Reading — Let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, the leader and perfecter of faith (Hebrews 12:1-4).

Gospel — I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing (Luke 12:49-53).

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READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Vigil: 1 Chr 15:3-4, 15-16; 16:1-2; Ps 132:6-7, 9-10, 13-14; 1 Cor 15:54b-57; Lk 11:27-28

Day: Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Ps 45:10-12, 16; 1 Cor 15:20-27; Lk 1:39-56

Tuesday: Ez 28:1-10; Dt 32:26-28, 30, 35cd-36ab; Mt 19:23-30

Wednesday: Ez 34:1-11; Ps 23:1-6; Mt 20:1-16

Thursday: Ez 36:23-28; Ps 51:12-15, 18-19; Mt 22:1-14

Friday: Ez 37:1-14; Ps 107:2-9; Mt 22:34-40

Saturday: Ez 43:1-7ab; Ps 85:9ab, 10-14; Mt 23:1-12

Sunday: Is 66:18-21; Ps 117:1, 2; Heb 12:5-7, 11-13; Lk 13:22-30

PLEASE PRAY FOR ALL OF OUR SICK & HOMEBOUND

David Wischmeyer
Father Alfred Corbo
Jason Avelar
Ed Albers
Emmanuel Kuanyin
Gary Figiel
Santiago & Maria Mendez
Cathy Novelli
Father Michael Michelini
Gus Campeotto
Donna Polvere
Linda Sassone
Jenna Starn
Luciano & Vittoria Chemello

Ed Rossi
Sue Cirock
JR Harrison
Teresa Juk
Dolores Cadetto
Christine Grable
Gabrielle Benefield
Katrina R
Gina Cuomo
Phil C.
Marilyn L.
Peter C.
David W.
Elaine & Earle Foley

Konrad White
Michael C.
Kathy R.
Patricia M.
Margaret Linchvala
David W.
Sheila M.
Father Michael Furlan
Lucille D.
For All Parishioners who
are in hospitals and homebound.

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

On November 1, 1950, Pope Pius XII defined the Assumption of Mary to be a dogma of faith: “We pronounce, declare and define it to be a divinely revealed dogma that the immaculate Mother of God, the ever Virgin Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul to heavenly glory.” The pope proclaimed this dogma only after a broad consultation of bishops, theologians and laity. There were few dissenting voices. What the pope solemnly declared was already a common belief in the Catholic Church.

We find homilies on the Assumption going back to the sixth century. In following centuries, the Eastern Churches held steadily to the doctrine, but some authors in the West were hesitant. However by the 13th century there was universal agreement. The feast was celebrated under various names—Commemoration, Dormition, Passing, Assumption—from at least the fifth or sixth century. Today it is celebrated as a solemnity.

Scripture does not give an account of Mary’s assumption into heaven. Nevertheless, Revelation 12 speaks of a woman who is caught up in the battle between good and evil. Many see this woman as God’s people. Since Mary best embodies the people of both Old and New Testaments, her assumption can be seen as an exemplification of the woman’s victory.

Furthermore, in 1 Corinthians 15:20, Paul speaks of Christ’s resurrection as the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

Since Mary is closely associated with all the mysteries of Jesus’ life, it is not surprising that the Holy Spirit has led the Church to believe in Mary’s share in his glorification. So close was she to Jesus on earth, she must be with him body and soul in heaven.

Reflection

In the light of the Assumption of Mary, it is easy to pray her Magnificat (Luke 1:46–55) with new meaning. In her glory she proclaims the greatness of the Lord and finds joy in God her savior. God has done marvels to her and she leads others to recognize God’s holiness. She is the lowly handmaid who deeply revered her God and has been raised to the heights. From her position of strength she will help the lowly and the poor find justice on earth, and she will challenge the rich and powerful to distrust wealth and power as a source of happiness.

Reflection on the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary August 15, 2020

The Solemnity of the Assumption celebrates the Blessed Mother’s entrance into heavenly glory. The *Catechism* explains that Mary “was taken up body and soul into the glory of heaven, where she already shares in the glory of her Son’s Resurrection, anticipating the resurrection of all members of his Body” (CCC, 974).

Mary’s Assumption into heaven reminds us that life on earth is a pilgrimage to our ultimate destination. We prepare in hope for our own passage into eternal life by the choices we make today. When we choose to love and follow God in our daily lives, we strengthen our relationship with Him, and this relationship is the true meaning of heaven: “To live in heaven is ‘to be with Christ’” (CCC, 1025 citing St. Ambrose, *In Luc.*, 10, 121: PL 15 1834A.).

We can see how, throughout her life, the Blessed Mother continually chose to go deeper into her relationship with God. She modeled how to value and respect His precious gift of human life, from the moment of conception to its natural end. In the Annunciation, through her “yes,” Mary witnessed to the undeniable humanity of unborn children as she conceived and carried the Christ child in her womb. After the Annunciation, having learned that her cousin Elizabeth was with child, she went in haste to her aid.

Our Blessed Mother shows us how the way we live today can prepare us, in hope, to also enter into heavenly glory at the end of our lives. Are we open to God’s precious gift of new life? How do we support expectant mothers and parents of young children? Do we prioritize showing our love and care for loved ones who are ill or aging?

Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

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ST. GERTRUDE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Parish Mission Statement

We the members of Saint Gertrude Parish, are a diverse community united in our Catholic Faith to bear witness to Jesus Christ by spreading his gospel message. As we praise and thank God through Jesus Christ, we serve one another, we grow as individuals and develop as a community. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we are called to reach out and welcome all and be known as a people of hospitality, support and service.

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