



THE SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

On August 15, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, when she was taken up body and soul to heaven, sharing in her son's victory over death.

The bible does not give us an exact account of this glorious moment. We can only imagine that perhaps at her last breath on earth she



was taken into the arms of angels as the heavens opened and the most luminous light came down to kiss the earth, welcoming Mary to her eternal home in paradise with her son our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Mary is the true first disciple of Christ. We honor her for saying yes to God to be the mother of our Savior. We honor her for continuing to stay strong in faith and trusting Jesus always.

It was in 1950, when Pope Pius XII, invoking Papal Infallibility, stated, "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 into heavenly glory."

The official document - *Munificentissimum Deus* - defines the dogma of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary by Pope Pius XII.

Pope Francis said faith is the defining virtue of Mary and the Assumption is a foreshadowing of what awaits each of us.

"The Gospel also shows us the truest reason for Mary's greatness and her blessedness: it is faith - the heart of Mary's entire story," he said.

The Assumption is one of the most important Marian feast days in the Catholic Church.

When Mary's visit to her cousin Elizabeth shortly after conceiving

Jesus through the Holy Spirit, Elizabeth said, "Blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

Mary's response, called the "Magnificat," praises God for the marvelous deeds he has done both in her own life and throughout history.

In this prayer Mary expresses her complete joy fully aware of God's will. Through her words she reveals her faith in the promise of the baby Jesus is God's work of liberation for the people.

The Magnificat, song of Mary, is found. In Luke 1:46-55:

"My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed:

the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name. He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation. He has shown the strength of his arm, he has scattered the proud in their conceit. He has cast down the mighty from their thrones and has lifted up the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. He has come to the help of his servant Israel for he has remembered his promise of mercy, the promise he made to our fathers, to Abraham and his descendants forever."

"The great things done in (Mary) by the Omnipotent One touch us deeply, they speak to us of our journey in life, they remind us of the end that awaits us: the house of the Father," Pope Francis said.

Because of the Assumption, we can see life as "not a senseless wandering, but a pilgrimage which, with all of

the sufferings and uncertainties, has a sure destination," he said. The final destination is heaven, where the Father awaits us with love.

However, until that destination is reached, God has given his people a sign of consolation and hope for the journey, Pope Francis said.

Let us all be in awe of the life and faith of the



Blessed Mother. May she from the gates of Heaven help us to fix our eyes on Jesus and choose greatness in all we do no matter how great or small the task.

ON AUGUST 21, CELEBRATE THE FEAST DAY OF POPE SAINT PIUS X

Pope Saint Pius X was born Giuseppe Sarto in 1835. He was affectionately nicknamed “Bepi” by his family - a modest but happy and faithful Catholic family in Italy. He was one of nine children raised on a farm in Italy near Venice. His father Giovanni Sarto was a mailman and his mother Margarita, a seamstress.



He was only 11 years old, when he told his family he wanted to be a priest. His parish priest helped the family send him to a Catholic high school, where at 15 he graduated first in his class.

He was ordained in 1858 (after finishing first in his class at seminary) and was a popular young priest considered as reverent, loving, genuine, and inspiring. Like many priests he dedicated a lot of his time to care for the sick and the poor, but he was also a great believer promoting religious education for young people, especially those whose families could not afford to send them to church schools.



In 1903 he was elected pope at the age of 68, taking the name Pius X. Even as pope, he taught catechism classes in the Vatican courtyard for children each week. He never lost sight of his calling. He loved his faith and wanted others to fall in

love with Jesus. He knew children are the future of the Church. Through his actions he prioritized Catholic instruction and Catholic education as important as celebrating the sacraments and serving others as a disciple of Christ.

As pope he also emphasized that the Sacrament of Holy Communion was a way to be closest to God. He enacted a

law that allowed children as young as seven to receive First Communion and encouraged everyone to receive the Eucharist daily.

Remember Saint Pius X was extremely intelligent. He was responsible for the Code of Canon Law, after collecting all of the Church laws and having them placed into one book. He believed no one ever stops learning and our religious education must be perpetual even as adults.

He was often quoted for being grateful for his simple beginnings that not only strengthen his beautiful steadfast faith but also clarified what is most important in life - God, family, and compassion for others. While he humbly accepted the grandeur of papal traditions out of respect for the Church, as pontiff he chose simplicity over pageantry.

Before his passing in 1914 he said, “I was born poor and I will die poor.”

He was declared a saint in 1954.



Prayer by Pope Saint Pius X:

O Lord Jesus Christ, let Your passion be my strength to sustain, guard, and protect me. Let Your wounds be my food and drink to nourish, fill, and invigorate me. Let the shedding of Your Blood cleanse me of all my sins. Let Your death obtain eternal life for me and Your cross lead me to everlasting glory. Let these constitute for me refreshment and joy, health and uprightness of heart. Amen.

Your family can read more about the life of this devoted saint in the book [Saint Pius X, The Farm Boy Who Became Pope](#) by Walter Diethelm, O.S.B.

PRAYER FOR POPE ST. PIUS X TO INTERCEDE FOR YOU

Glorious Pontiff, Saint Pius, devoted servant of our Lord and loving child of Mary, I invoke you as a Saint in Heaven. I give myself to you that you may always be my father, My protector, and my guide in the way of holiness and salvation. Aid me in observing the duties of my state of life. Obtain for me great purity of heart and a fervent Love of the interior life after your own example.

Pope of the Blessed Sacrament, teach me to love Holy Mass And Holy Communion as the source of all grace and holiness, And to receive this Sacrament as often as I can. Gentle father of the poor, help me to imitate your charity Toward my fellow men in word and deed. Consoler of the suffering, help me to bear my daily cross patiently And with perfect resignation to the will of God. Loving Shepherd of the flock of Christ, obtain for me the grace Of being a true child of Holy Mother Church.

Saint Pius, beloved Holy Father, I humbly implore your powerful Intercession in obtaining from the Divine Heart of Jesus all the Graces necessary for my spiritual and temporal welfare. I recommend to you in particular this favor(mention your request).

Great Pontiff, whom Holy Mother Church has raised to the honor Of our altars and urged me to invoke and imitate as a Saint, I have great confidence in your prayers. I earnestly trust that if it is God’s holy will, My petition will be granted through your intercession for Me at the throne of God.

Saint Pius, pray for me and for those, I love. I beg of you by your love Jesus and Mary, do not abandon us in our needs. May we experience the peace and joy of your holy death. Amen.

(In thanksgiving to God for the graces bestowed on Saint Pius X say: Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory be to the Father....3 times)

CLARKSBURG NOTRE DAME'S ANGELA MCKEEN WINS PRESIDENTIAL AWARD



CLARKSBURG—Notre Dame High School's Angela McKeen has won a Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching.

On Aug. 3, President Donald Trump announced the recipients of the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST) and the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring (PAESMEM).

Awardees come from schools in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, the Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) schools, and schools in the United States territories of Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the United States Virgin Islands. Nominations

and awards are facilitated by the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) and the National Science Foundation. Presidential award for K-12 teachers—established in 1983, PAEMST is the highest award given by the U.S. Government to kindergarten through 12th grade teachers of mathematics and science, including computer science.

Angela McKeen has taught in public and private schools for 11 years and taught in higher education for six years. She spent the past four years at Notre Dame High School where she teaches Honors Physics, Earth and Space Science, Advanced Placement Environmental Science, and 7th Grade Science.

Read more about this prestigious award and the amazing work that McKeen does at Notre Dame in the Aug. 14 issue of The Catholic Spirit. Sign up to receive The Catholic Spirit by e-mail to CROWAN@DWC.ORG.

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PROFESSION OF VOWS CELEBRATED FOR CHARLESTON NATIVE

Sister Albertine Cevallos of Charleston woman was one of eight women to profess perpetual vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience as Dominican Sisters of Saint Cecilia in Nashville on July 25. Sister Albertine is a former parishioner of the Sacred Heart Co-Cathedral.

Sister Albertine is the daughter of Dr. Jose Fernando Cevallos-Candau and Dr. Kathleen Mimmagh. She is a graduate of George Washington High School in Charleston, and the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena, California, where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Astrophysics. She also has earned a Certificate in Science Communication at the University of California Santa Cruz in Santa Cruz, and a Master of Arts in Education at Aquinas College, Nashville. She is currently teaching math at St. Cecilia Academy in Nashville, where she has taught both math and science for four years.



The Mass for the Rite of Perpetual Religious Profession was celebrated at the Cathedral of the Incarnation in Nashville. The Most Reverend J. Mark Spalding, Bishop of the Diocese of Nashville, was the main celebrant.

In 1860, the Congregation of Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia was established in Nashville, where its Motherhouse is located. The Sisters of St. Cecilia are dedicated to the apostolate of Catholic education. The community of approximately 300 sisters serves in over 41 schools throughout the United States, with mission houses also in Melbourne and Sydney, Australia; Vancouver, Canada; Rome and Bracciano, Italy; Elgin, Scotland; Sittard, The Netherlands, and Limerick, Ireland. For more information on the Dominican Sisters

of St. Cecilia Congregation visit their website at WWW.NASHVILLEDOMINICAN.ORG.

MASS READINGS FOR THE TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading ISAIAH 56:1, 6-7

Thus, says the LORD:

Observe what is right, do what is just; for my salvation is about to come, my justice, about to be revealed. The foreigners who join themselves to the LORD, ministering to him, loving the name of the LORD, and becoming his servants— all who keep the sabbath free from profanation and hold to my covenant, them I will bring to my holy mountain and make joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be acceptable on my altar, for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.

Responsorial PSALMS 85:9, 10, 11-12, 13-14

R. (4) O God, let all the nations praise you!

May God have pity on us and bless us; may he let his face shine upon us. So may your way be known upon earth; among all nations, your salvation.

R. O God, let all the nations praise you

May the nations be glad and exult because you rule the peoples in equity; the nations on the earth you guide.

R. O God, let all the nations praise you

May the peoples praise you, O God; may all the peoples praise you! May God bless us, and may all the ends of the earth fear him!

R. O God, let all the nations praise you.

Second Reading ROMANS 11:13-15, 29-32

Brothers and sisters:

I am speaking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch as I am the apostle to the Gentiles, I glory in my ministry in order to make my race jealous and thus save some of them. For if their rejection is the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead? For the gifts and the call of God are irrevocable. Just as you once disobeyed God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, so they have now disobeyed in order that, by virtue of the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. For God delivered all to disobedience, that he might have mercy upon all.

Alleluia MATTHEW 4:23

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Jesus proclaimed the Gospel of the kingdom and cured every disease among the people.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel MATTHEW 15:21-28

At that time, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a Canaanite woman of that district came and called out, "Have pity on me, Lord, Son of David! My daughter is tormented by a demon." But Jesus did not say a word in answer to her. Jesus' disciples came and asked him, "Send her away, for she keeps calling out after us." He said in reply, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But the woman came and did Jesus homage, saying, "Lord, help me." He said in reply, "It is not right to take the food of the children and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Please, Lord, for even the dogs eat the scraps that fall from the table of their masters." Then Jesus said to her in reply, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And the woman's daughter was healed from that hour.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Church, that realizing the Lord's presence in our midst may give us as we work together to build the kingdom of God, we pray . . .

For those who have been harmed by natural disasters, those who have lost family members, friends, neighbors, or homes, that they may receive comfort and compassion in their time of loss, we pray . . .

For those listening for God's voice as they discern a vocation to the priesthood, permanent diaconate or religious life, that they may know the Lord's presence and trust in God's love and support, we pray . . .

For those affected by the Coronavirus, for all health care workers, and that an end to the pandemic may come soon, we pray . . .

Lord hear our prayer

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER

My Jesus,

I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as if You were already there
and unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You.

Amen.

SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

AUGUST 15 ~ MASS DURING THE DAY

First Reading REVELATION 11:19A; 12:1-6A, 10AB

God's temple in heaven was opened, and the ark of his covenant could be seen in the temple. A great sign appeared in the sky, a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. She was with child and wailed aloud in pain as she labored to give birth. Then another sign appeared in the sky; it was a huge red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and on its heads were seven diadems. Its tail swept away a third of the stars in the sky and hurled them down to the earth. Then the dragon stood before the woman about to give birth, to devour her child when she gave birth. She gave birth to a son, a male child, destined to rule all the nations with an iron rod. Her child was caught up to God and his throne. The woman herself fled into the desert where she had a place prepared by God. Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: "Now have salvation and power come, and the Kingdom of our God and the authority of his Anointed One."

Responsorial PSALM 45:10, 11, 12, 16

R. (10bc) The queen stands at your right hand, arrayed in gold.

The queen takes her place at your right hand in gold of Ophir.

R. The queen stands at your right hand, arrayed in gold.

Hear, O daughter, and see; turn your ear, forget your people and your father's house.

R. The queen stands at your right hand, arrayed in gold.

So shall the king desire your beauty; for he is your lord.

R. The queen stands at your right hand, arrayed in gold.

They are borne in with gladness and joy; they enter the palace of the king.

R. The queen stands at your right hand, arrayed in gold.

Second Reading 1 CORINTHIANS 15:20-27

Brothers and sisters:

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through man, the resurrection of the dead came also through man. For just as in Adam all die, so too in Christ shall all be brought to life, but each one in proper order:

Christ the first fruits; 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. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death, for "he subjected everything under his feet."

Alleluia

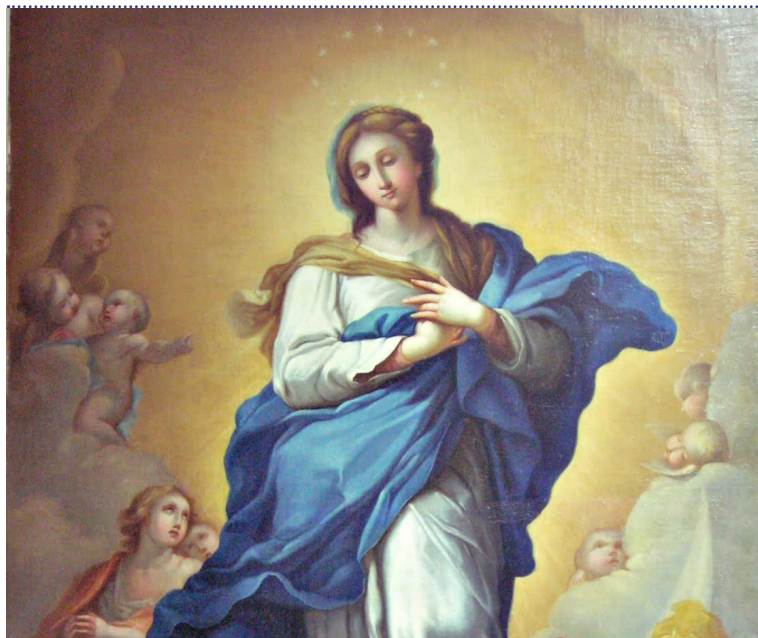
R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Mary is taken up to heaven; a chorus of angels exults.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel LUKE 1:39-56

Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled." And Mary said: "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my Savior for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed: the Almighty has done great things for me and holy is his Name. He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation. He has shown the strength of his arm, and has scattered the proud in their conceit. He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, and has lifted up the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. He has come to the help of his servant Israel for he has remembered his promise of mercy, the promise he made to our fathers, to Abraham and his children forever." Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.



SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

AUGUST 15 ~ VIGIL

First Reading 1 CHRONICLES 15:3-4, 15-16; 16:1-2

David assembled all Israel in Jerusalem to bring the ark of the LORD to the place which he had prepared for it. David also called together the sons of Aaron and the Levites. The Levites bore the ark of God on their shoulders with poles, as Moses had ordained according to the word of the LORD. David commanded the chiefs of the Levites to appoint their kinsmen as chanters, to play on musical instruments, harps, lyres, and cymbals, to make a loud sound of rejoicing. They brought in the ark of God and set it within the tent which David had pitched for it. Then they offered up burnt offerings and peace offerings to God. When David had finished offering up the burnt offerings and peace offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the LORD.

Responsorial PSALM 132:6-7, 9-10, 13-14

R. (8) Lord, go up to the place of your rest, you and the ark of your holiness.

Behold, we heard of it in Ephrathah; we found it in the fields of Jaar. Let us enter his dwelling, let us worship at his footstool.

R. Lord, go up to the place of your rest, you and the ark of your holiness.

May your priests be clothed with justice; let your faithful ones shout merrily for joy. For the sake of David your servant, reject not the plea of your anointed.

R. Lord, go up to the place of your rest, you and the ark of your holiness.

For the LORD has chosen Zion; he prefers her for his dwelling. "Zion is my resting place forever; in her will I dwell, for I prefer her."

R. Lord, go up to the place of your rest, you and the ark of your holiness.

Second Reading 1 CORINTHIANS 15:54B-57

Brothers and sisters:

When that which is mortal clothes itself with immortality, then the word that is written shall come about:

Death is swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Alleluia Luke 11:27-28

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Blessed are they who hear the word of God and observe it.

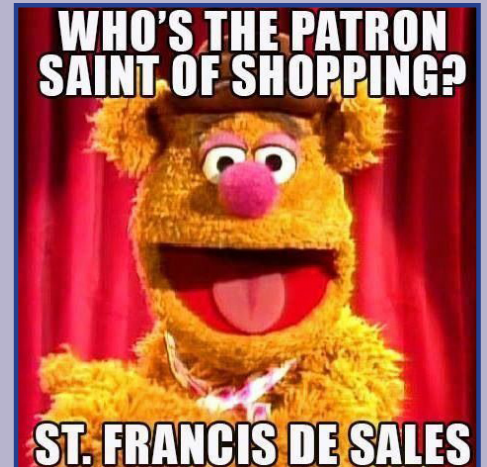
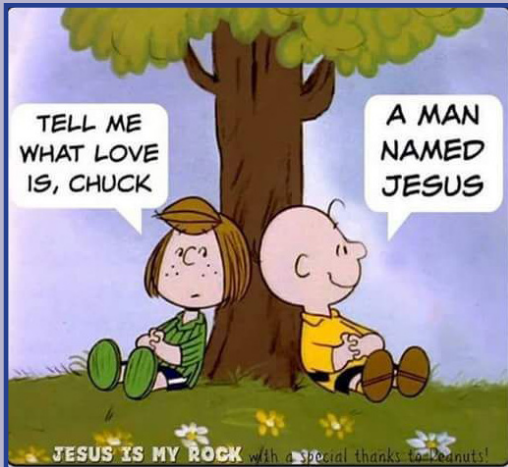
R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel LUKE 11:27-28

While Jesus was speaking, a woman from the crowd called out and said to him, "Blessed is the womb that carried you and the breasts at which you nursed." He replied, "Rather, blessed are those who hear the word of God and observe it."



A LITTLE CATHOLIC HUMOR



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Below are four options for enriching your spirit through daily Mass online.

- EWTN airs daily Mass from Our Lady of Angels Chapel, in Irondale, Alabama, at 8am, noon, and 7pm: [HTTPS://WWW.EWTN.COM/TV/WATCH-LIVE](https://www.ewtn.com/tv/watch-live)
- St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York has daily Mass live streamed at 7am: [HTTPS://SAINTPATRICKSCATHEDRAL.ORG/LIVE](https://saintpatrickscathedral.org/live)
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