

August 15th - Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary



MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, August 14

9:00am *St. John Parish*
4:30pm † *Rufino Labari*

Sunday, August 15

8:00am † *Rodrigo Tarantan*
10:00am † *Sheila Luckham*
12:00pm † *Victor Rodriguez*

Monday, August 16

9:00am † *Naida Manikan*

Tuesday, August 17

9:00am † *Gil Hechanova*

Wednesday, August 18

9:00am † *Gualberto Espino Sr.*

Thursday, August 19

9:00am *YMI Brothers*

Friday, August 20

9:00am † *Maria Bermudez*

Saturday, August 21

9:00am † *Henry & Teresa Thrax*
4:30pm † *Barbara Lavezzo*

From the Desk of the Pastor

It is a dogma of our faith that at the end of her life, Mary like her son, was taken body and soul into heaven.

In our first reading taken from the book of Revelation, we hear about a woman. 'The woman' in the reading has a dual symbolism:

- She stands for Mary, the physical mother of Jesus Christ and
- She stands for the Church, our spiritual mother who brings Jesus Christ to birth in us through 'faith' and 'sacraments'.

This presentation highlights the glory of Mary in the assumption, while it also invites all of us, the faithful, the Church to hope and share in that blessedness one day in heaven.

St. Francis de Sales is known to have asked this question in his sermon on the feast of the Assumption of our Lady: 'what son would not bring his mother back to life and would not take her into heaven after her life's journey on earth is over'?

In the Assumption of Mary, the glory of Jesus' resurrection is first extended to his mother; and while we celebrate this feast in her honor and the greater glory of God, we too celebrate our own 'hope' in share in his risen glory someday.

PARISH COMMUNITY NEWS

The Church is open for weekend Masses

Saturday Mass at 4:30pm and Sunday Masses at 8am & 10am in English and 12 noon en español

The church is open for personal prayer and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Sundays from 7:30am to 1:00pm. We pray the rosary at 9:30am in English and at 11:30am in Spanish. Come and join us in praying the rosary.

The Parish thanks the Knights of Columbus, Council 615 and our liturgical ministers who generously offer their time, talent and treasure in faithful stewardship every weekend, keeping watch in the church and taking care of the church.

Today's feast celebrates Mary's Assumption into heaven. It is one of three feasts of Mary that are Holy Days of Obligation for Catholics in the United States. January 1 is the feast of Mary, the Mother of God, and December 8 is the feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary. The assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary into heaven has long been held as an important Catholic belief. The belief was not defined as dogma, however, until 1950 by Pope Pius XII. The dogma teaches that Mary, who was without sin, was taken, body and soul, into the glory of heaven.

The Gospel for this holy day recalls Mary's actions after the announcement of Jesus' birth by the Angel Gabriel. Mary goes to visit her cousin Elizabeth who is also with child. Elizabeth greets Mary with full recognition of the roles they and their unborn children will play in God's plan for salvation. Mary responds to Elizabeth's greeting with her song of praise, the Magnificat. Both women recall and echo God's history of showing favor upon the people of Israel. Mary's Magnificat, in particular, echoes the song of praise offered by Hannah, the mother of Samuel.

Only Mary, who was born without stain of original sin—the Immaculate Conception—could give birth to Christ, who is fully God and fully human. This is called the Immaculate Conception. Because of Mary's role in God's plan of salvation, she does not suffer from the effects of sin, which are death and decay. Mary is the first to receive the fullness of the redemption that her son has won for all of humanity. The Church, therefore, recognizes Mary as the sign of the salvation promised to all.

Mary's faith enabled her to recognize the work of God in her people's history and in her own life. Her openness to God allowed God to work through her so that salvation might come to all. Mary is a model and symbol of the Church. May we be like Mary, open and cooperative in God's plan of salvation.

In celebrating the Feast of the Assumption, the Church recalls how Mary's life on earth ended. However the gospel story that is put before us is that of the visitation – the wonderful encounter between these two women expecting to give birth to their children in a few months, simultaneously embody the hope and the dawning of salvation. Mary greets Elizabeth and, as soon as Elizabeth hears Mary's greeting her child leaps in her womb and Elizabeth filled with the Holy Spirit, makes the prophetic announcement to Mary that we remember every time we pray the Hail Mary "Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb." Mary's response to Elizabeth, which we hear in today's Gospel, is known as the Magnificat. Mary "magnifies" the greatness of the Lord—through her, we see God's mercy clearly. Mary's canticle is a declaration that God cares for the lowly and vulnerable, for the humble and hungry. How will you glorify, magnify, the Lord by your life?

Religious Education Program: CCD 2021-2022

The Religious Education program is now accepting applications for school year 2021-2022, for First Communion and Confirmation preparation classes. Our first day of class is Saturday, August 28, at 10am in Spanish and 1:30pm in English. Classes are held at the Parish Center, 98 Bosworth Street. For more information please see the Catechists after the 10am and 12noon masses.



Hail Mary, Full of Grace, The Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now, and at the hour of death. Amen

My Soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION COLECTA DE LA SEMANA PASADA

August 2nd - August 8th, 2021

Weekend Offering.....\$ 4,511.00
AAA.....\$ 2,638.00

COLLECTION DATA

First Collections:

July 4\$ 2,422.84
July 11.....\$ 2,148.00
July 18.....\$ 2,174.00
July 25.....\$ 2,138.41
Total \$ 8,883.25