

Parish News...

The Parish festival is this Saturday August 14th only from 5-8pm in the school cafeteria. The Polish kitchen will only serve up a polish platter and mushroom stew/Polish and American beer & wine. Take-out available. There will also be a flea market. Thursday, Friday and Saturday. 50/50 Raffle

Liturgical Roles for Lectors & Eucharistic ministers are needed for all masses. Whether you have been one of the elects or start, please call the Parish Office with your intentions as well as the Mass time you prefer .



This Sunday is the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. For this Sunday I will share the Solemnity of the Assumption Blessed Virgin Mary. This day is on August 15, The Catechism of the Catholic Church tells that the feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin celebrates the belief that at the end of her earthly life, Mary was "taken up body and soul into heavenly glory" in a "singular participation in her Son's resurrection."

Here are 5 important facts regarding the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

1. What is It?

The Solemnity of the Assumption of Mary is a feast day celebrated on August 15 within the Catholic and Orthodox Churches. It celebrates the act of Mary, the mother of Jesus, being assumed into Heaven, body and soul, at the time of her death on earth.

“Finally the Immaculate Virgin... when the course of her earthly life was finished, was taken up body and soul into heavenly glory, and exalted by the Lord as Queen over all things...” (CCC 966).

2. Who Instituted it?

On November 1, 1950 Pope Pius XII released the apostolic constitution, ***Munificentissimus Deus***, which defined the *ex cathedra* dogma of the assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. While Pope Pius XII made the teaching of Mary’s assumption an official Catholic doctrine, he did not create the idea, belief, or even the feast day of the assumption.

“In order that this, our definition of the bodily Assumption of the Virgin Mary into heaven may be brought to the attention of the universal Church, we desire that this, our Apostolic Letter, should stand for perpetual remembrance...” (Munificentissimus Deus, 46).

3. How Long have Christians believed in the Assumption of Mary?

While we do not have a set date about when it became common practice to believe in/celebrate the Assumption of Mary, we do know that the belief that Mary was assumed into heaven was a very common belief for centuries before Pius XII’s *ex cathedra* statement on the matter. The earliest work on the subject was written by a doctor of the church, St. John of Damascus, sometime in the early 8th century A.D. “It was fitting that the body of her, who preserved her virginity unsullied in her motherhood, should be kept from corruption even after death.” (*Three Sermons on the Assumption*, St. John of Damascus)

4. Why was Mary Assumed into Heaven?

“By her complete adherence to the Father’s will, to his Son’s redemptive work, and to every prompting of the Holy Spirit, the Virgin Mary is the Church’s model of faith and charity. Thus she is a ‘preeminent and . . . wholly unique member of the Church’; indeed, she is the ‘exemplary realization’ of the Church” (CCC 967).

The Catechism tells us that it was Mary's obedience to God that made her a perfect example of faith. Mary is the ultimate model for how to faithfully follow God, and her reward for her obedience was her blessed assumption.

5. Are Catholics Obligated to Believe in the Assumption of Mary?

YES!

Pope Pius XII explained that this is "a divinely revealed dogma". This means that it is a matter of faith that has been divinely revealed by God and has been infallibly proposed by the Magisterium of the Church.

"Hence if anyone, which God forbid, should dare willfully to deny or to call into doubt that which we have defined, let him know that he has fallen away completely from the divine and Catholic Faith." (Munificentissimus Deus, 45).

How Should I Celebrate the Assumption of Mary?

There is no right or wrong way to celebrate this feast day. But here is my list of things you could do to make August 15 special:

- Go to mass! (it's a Holy Day of Obligation)
- Pray the Rosary
- Make a big family meal (it is a FEAST day after all)
- Attend a Marian Procession (in person or even virtual)
- Decorate an altar for Mary

These are just a few ideas but there are still plenty of other ways that you and your family can celebrate the Assumption of Mary.



This year, I have an opening Catechist for Grades for Kindergarten, and combined 4,5 & 6 Grade and combined 7th & 8th Grades. Virtus is a requirement in order to be a Catechist. Also looking for assistants for these grades as well. This will also require each person to be Virtus trained. The program is based upon the weekly Gospel reading and is easy to teach the children. Anyone interested, please contact me directly. 315 527-8399.

Faith Formation, the program will start on September 12th and in person. Any family who would like to pre-register their children, please call me to register. The cost will be the same as last year, \$25 per child or \$45 per family.

Attached please find a copy of the school schedule. This may be subject to change depending on certain circumstances. Should something change, I will send out an email to all families

As in last year, we will provide each child their own packets of supplies, crayon, pencils and glue sticks. Please try and register your children before this date so we can have material ready when classes start

I will be available for registration these following days, if you would like to register your children, August 18 & September 1 & 8 (Wednesday) from 5-6:30pm, weekend of 21/22 September 4/5 after the Masses in the school

Some families have been questioning the issue regarding masks for the children this coming faith formation year. After careful review of the current situation in our area, face masks will be required for both students and catechists.

If some families feel that the current conditions are not suitable for an in person classroom setting, please reachout to me privately to discuss other options.

As like last year all parents will be required to sign the **COVID -19 Personal Home Screening and Personal Protection Covenant** before their child is allowed in the program

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Sacrament of First Communion or Confirmation students is a 2-year program per the Syracuse Dioceses. Any child making First Communion would be 1 Grade and 2nd Grade. Confirmation is 9th Grade and 10th Grade. If anyone has any questions regarding these requirements, please contact me directly.



The mandatory retreat will be with St. Paul's in October at Syracuse University for the 10th Graders who are to make their Confirmation this October 23rd from 10-5pm. The cost of the retreat is \$40. The Parish will pay the \$20 with the remaining \$20 from the student. Transportation will be provided along with the lunch.

Confirmation is October 28th @ 7pm at St. Paul's Catholic Church in Whitesboro. Bishop Lucia will celebrate the Confirmation Mass.

Confirmand/Sponsor sharing. The Summer with my Sponsor is due soon. You should have already chosen your Sponsor. This handout notes what a sponsor role is for the Confirmand and what you should have with your sponsor. There should be at least 5 sponsor-confirmand meeting between now and Labor Day. If anyone has any questions, please give me a call. 315-527-8399



SOLEMNITY OF ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

First Reading: RV 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab

Responsorial Psalm 45: 10, 11,12, 16

2nd Reading: 1 Cor 15:20-27

Gospel: LK 1:39-56



Today, the church celebrates the assumption of Mary, and we might wonder what this has to do with us. The answer is quite simple: Whatever God has done for Mary; God has done or will do for us. Mary was conceived without original sin, and in the waters of baptism, we are cleansed of original sin. Mary brought Christ into the world, in the anointing with chrism, we are commissioned to bring him into the world by what we say and do. And as Mary was assumed into heaven, a place in heaven awaits us.

In today's gospel, we hear Mary's great prayer of thanksgiving (Luke 1:46–47), a prayer we are invited to make our own: *Our souls proclaim the greatness of the Lord. Our spirits rejoice in God our Savior.*

The Gospel is known as "The Visitation" for many reasons. For one thing, the story prominently features two women – Mary and Elizabeth. What a refreshing change from the Patriarchal bias found all over the Bible that tends to push the women into the margins of the story. (A tendency that continues on into the Church... but that's a tale for another day.)

Notice the intimate experience of God and relationship in the story. Elizabeth is so "filled with the Holy Spirit" she can't help but cry out in joy. Mary, too, is overwhelmed with God's presence, moving her to profess one of the great prayers of praise in the Catholic tradition (The Magnificat) which begins with the words: "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord."

The connection between the two women, described by Luke as "cousins", is so deep that Elizabeth instinctively knows the miracle that has happened to Mary ("the baby leapt in my womb") before Mary does or says anything. The story concludes by simply stating that Mary "remained with Elizabeth for three months" – presumably, in a spirit of deep and abiding friendship.

No coincidences there. An intimate relationship with God inevitably leads us to intimate relationships with others. And intimate relationships with others inevitably leads us into an intimate relationship with God. Such a circle of abiding Love can't help but produce within us a deep concern for and commitment to the poor and lowly – a major theme of the entire Magnificat! (for those who have not read the Magnificat please take the time.



In this week's Gospel we read from St Luke of Mary's visit to Elizabeth, her cousin. At this visitation we hear those words from Elizabeth when she heard Mary's greeting, her baby leaped in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and said "Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb. This Gospel tells us the importance of the Blessed Mother Mary and how she opened herself to the calling of God to bear the Son of God.

So how does one explain the Assumption of our Blessed Mother Mary to children?

On the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (to use the fancy name for this day), we remember when Mary was taken ("assumed") into heaven, body and soul, after she died. You will not find this story in the Bible. However, a tradition handed down from the earliest days of the Church says that Mary died in Jerusalem and was buried in a tomb. But when the apostles opened the tomb again, her body was gone. Why would God take Mary's body and soul into heaven? In part because Mary is special to God: she said "yes" to becoming the mother of Jesus. But God also wanted to show us that one day, all of us will share in the bodily resurrection of Jesus. Mary is the first person in the Church to experience the resurrection in its fullness.

The Story of the Assumption for Kids

When the apostles heard
that Mary, the mother of Jesus,
was going to be taken from this world,
They gathered at her house
and kept watch with her.

And behold, the Lord Jesus
did not let the one
in whose womb he had dwelled
see the corruption of death;
but instead, he came with his angels
and took her up to heaven
as the beginning and image
of the Church coming to perfection,
and a sign of sure hope
and comfort to God's people.

Celebrating the Assumption

Here are a few ways to celebrate the feast of the Assumption:

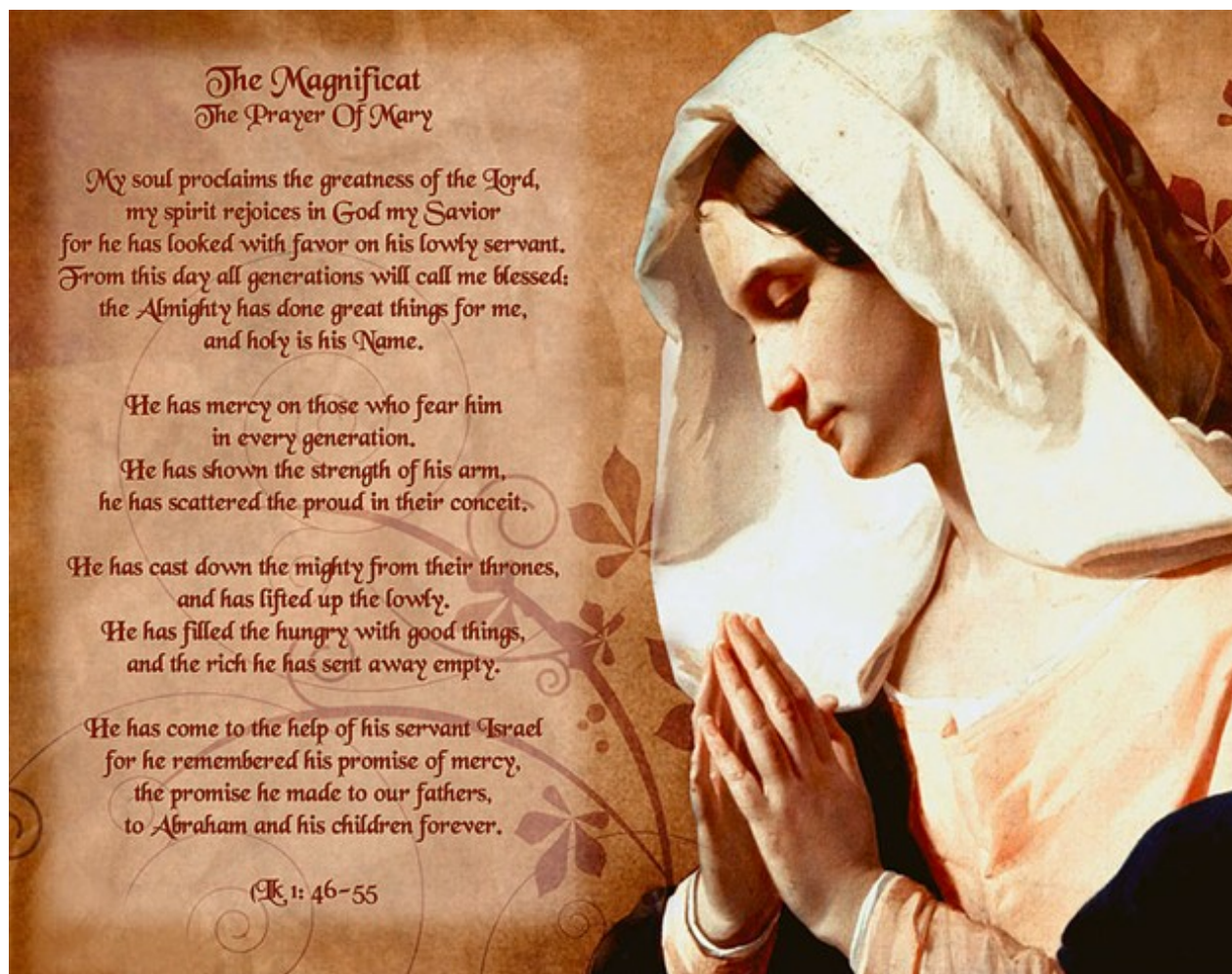
- In the dioceses of the United States, the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary is usually a holy day of obligation, meaning the faithful are obligated to go to Mass. If you can't make it to Mass for some reason, you can read the [readings for the day](#) at the USCCB website.
- Do you have an herb garden? It is traditional to bless herbs on the feast of the Assumption. You can find the [Blessing of Fruits and Herbs on the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary](#) over at Catholic Culture, along with an explanation of this Germanic tradition.
- You can say the Glorious Mysteries of the rosary together as a family, or just the decade focused on the Assumption.
- Use art of the Assumption as an aid to meditating on the mystery; the Illuminated Rosary book, *The Glorious Mysteries*, contains eleven classical and modern artworks on the Assumption.
- If you need even more ideas for crafts, stories, and recipes for the Assumption, head over to [Shower of Roses](#).
- Check out the [Sense of the Sacred: A Coloring Book for Young Illuminators](#) for several Marian coloring pages

Go to Mass!

The Solemnity of the Assumption of Mary is a [Holy Day of Obligation](#) which means it's an important feast day so be sure to attend Mass! Here are the Mass readings for the day, which you can preview with your kids. If you've watched the Scott Hahn video above, then you'll be all ready to show your kids how all the readings lineup and interpret one another.

Weekly Prayer

For this week's prayer, let us say the Magnificat "the Prayer of Mary" which is taken from St. Luke's Gospel is the Blessed Virgin's Mary's hymn of praise to the Lord



The Magnificat The Prayer Of Mary

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 remembered his promise of mercy,
the promise he made to our fathers,
to Abraham and his children forever.

Lk 1: 46-55



Syracuse Dioceses Information:

COVID Update:

Some inquiries have been made by members of the clergy who have been approached to provide a religious exemption for the coronavirus vaccine. Please be advised that religious exemptions *are not being granted* for the coronavirus vaccine. Secondly, we are monitoring the coronavirus situation in our diocese and if there are any updates to the protocols they will be distributed immediately.

Washington, D.C. – Continue to Oppose Federal Taxpayer Funding for Abortions

Last week, in two separate votes on packages of appropriations bills, the United States House of Representatives voted to force federal taxpayers to pay for abortions domestically and overseas, ending the Hyde Amendment and similar provisions, such as the Helms and Weldon amendments, that have been in place for forty-six years and have protected federal taxpayers from being forced to pay for abortions both domestically and overseas. The statements of the USCCB Committee Chairs, Cardinal Dolan, Archbishop Naumann, and Bishop Malloy, can be found [here](#) and [here](#) . The appropriations bills move to the United States Senate next.

If you have not done so already, please click [here](#) to take action and contact your elected officials and please click [here](#) to visit notaxpayerabortion.com for more information and to sign the petition.

From the Office of Liturgy and the R.C.I.A.

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

This year the Solemnity of the Assumption is celebrated on Sunday, August 15th. Consequently, the Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time is not celebrated. The Mass formulary, scripture readings, music,

etc. are taken from the Assumption. This also applies to any Mass celebrated at or after 4:00 PM on Saturday, August 14th.

Fatima Consecration

A call to the world starting September 4th, 2021, and ending October 7th, 2021. Register at fatimaconsecration.org

Twentieth Anniversary of September 11, 2001 Liturgical Resources

Most of us remember where we were on the morning of September 11, 2001. We watched in horror as images of the terrorist attacks flooded the news media. We mourned the thousands of men, women, and children who perished in the World Trade Center, in the Pentagon, and in a field in Pennsylvania. Churches, synagogues, and mosques opened their doors as people tried to find meaning. Believers - old and new - found comfort, strength, and challenge in prayer. This September, our assemblies will be faced with renewed turmoil. Media coverage, national observances and family gatherings will refresh their minds and open their wounds. Our nation will again express its grief. While politics and patriotism will certainly be visible, prayer should take the more central role on this somber anniversary. The Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions offers the following [Liturgy Preparation Aid: Prayer Resources for the Twentieth Anniversary of September 11, 2001](#) for communal and private prayer.

From the Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry

NCYC (National Catholic Youth Conference) November 18-21, 2021 - Indianapolis, Indiana

Join the Syracuse Diocese Delegation to the National Catholic Youth Conference in Indianapolis! NCYC is a powerful, biennial, three-day experience of prayer, community, and empowerment for Catholic teenagers (of high school age) and their adult chaperones. Don't miss the powerful talks, informative and inspiring workshops, music, and experiencing the sacraments with 10,000 young Catholics from around the US!

This event is open to youth in grades 9 through 12.

Cost is \$645 per person, and includes the conference fee, t-shirts, transportation, and lodging at double occupancy with breakfast.

For more information or to register a group, please visit the [Diocesan Event page](#).

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