

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).

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THE ASSUMPTION OF THE VIRGIN MARY, PAVIA CATHEDRAL
ADAM JAN FIGEL / SHUTTERSTOCK

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



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.

Our Parish COMMUNITY

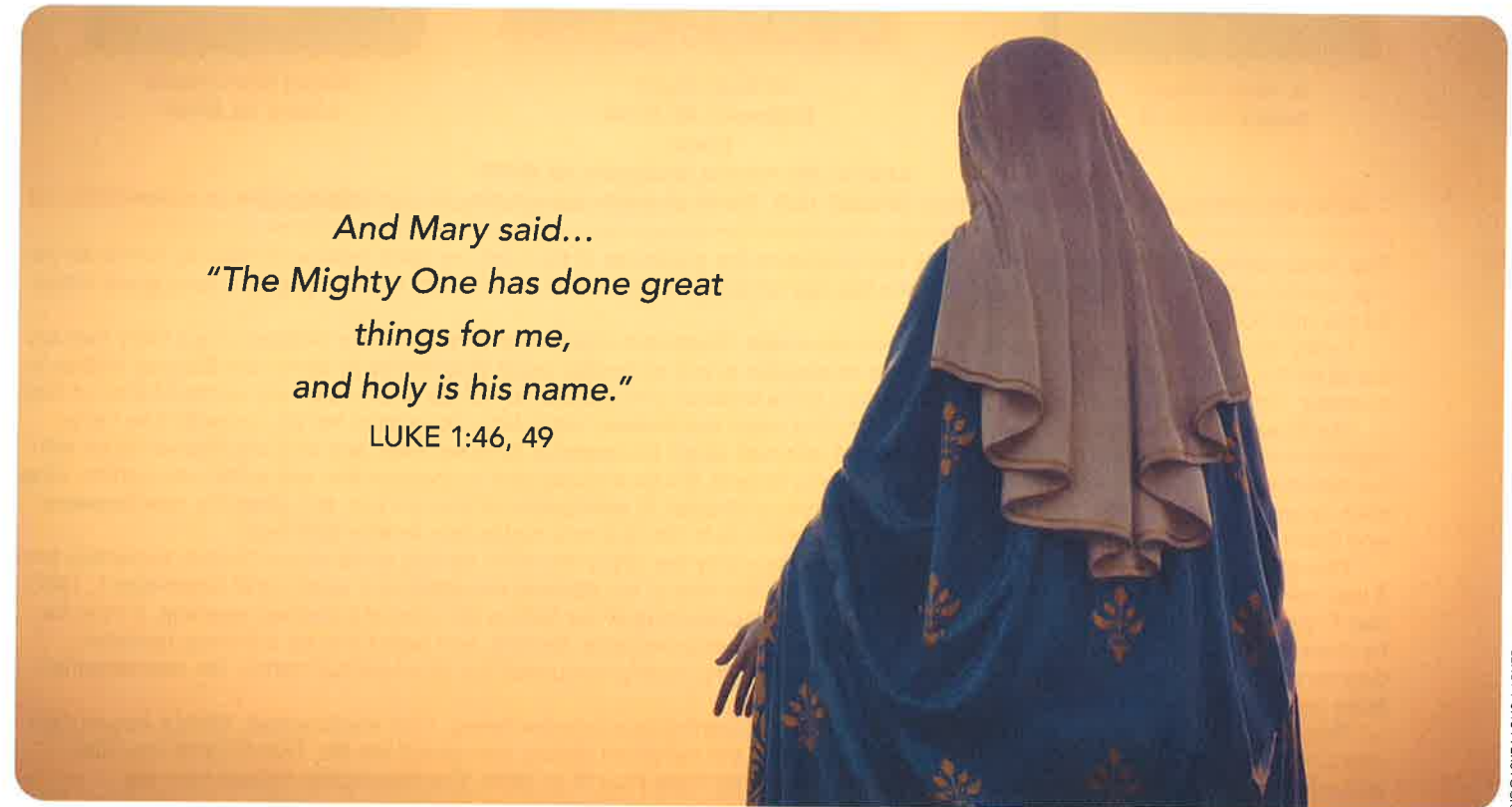
August 15, 2021

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (B)

Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab

1 Cor 15:20-27

Lk 1:39-56



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

"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.



St. Mary's Church
Dalton, NE 69131



All Souls' Church
Bridgeport, NE 69336



Sacred Heart Church
Bayard, NE 69334

Pastor:

Address: 701 P Street, Bridgeport, NE 69336

Parish Office & Fax: (308)262-0709. Rectory: (308)262-1332 Email: allsoulsbridgeport@gmail.com Website: www.smassh Catholics.org

The Assumption of the Mother of God "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." [Luke 1:46-49](#)

Today we celebrate one of seventeen different memorials, feasts and solemnities in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary that are found on the Roman Liturgical Calendar. Today's celebration is one of the four great Solemnities by which our Blessed Mother is honored. Obviously, no other person other than our Lord is honored and celebrated with as much solemnity as the Mother of God.

The Solemnity of the Assumption honors the fact that when the Blessed Virgin Mary completed her life on earth, she never experienced death. Instead, at that glorious moment, she was singly privileged to be taken body and soul into Heaven to be with her resurrected Son so as to adore the Most Holy Trinity forever. It's an amazing fact to consider that she is the only person, other than Jesus, who retains her body and soul, united as one in Heaven, in anticipation of that glorious day when the new Heavens and Earth will be created and when all the faithful will rise so as to live in a new bodily form forever with God.

Though this dogma of our faith had been held and believed by the faithful from the earliest times of our Church, especially since it was witnessed by those closest to our Blessed Mother at the time of her glorious Assumption, it wasn't until November 1, 1950, that Pope Pius XII solemnly proclaimed it to be so, raising this teaching of our faith to the level of a dogma, meaning, it must be held and believed by all. In part, the Holy Father declared, "...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."

This Dogma of the Assumption reveals to us many things worth prayerfully pondering. First and foremost, Mary's Assumption was a result of her Immaculate Conception and the fact that she remained sinless throughout her life. That Dogma was also believed throughout the centuries and was solemnly defined by Pope Pius IX in 1854. The Assumption follows from the Immaculate Conception because death follows from sin. It was not the original plan of God that we experience the death of our bodies and the separation of our bodies and souls. Again, this is a consequence of sin. But since the Blessed Virgin Mary was preserved from all sin from the moment of her conception by the future grace won by her Son on the Cross, and because she freely remained free from sin throughout her life by her ongoing cooperation with that grace, then she not only did not experience death, she could not. Death had no power over one who was without sin.

The Gospel passage quoted above comes from the beginning of Mary's song of praise, her *Magnificat*, by which she not only gives the greatest glory to God but also reveals who she is. She is the one whom "all generations" will call "blessed." She is the one for whom "the Almighty has done great things." She is the one who will eternally proclaim "the greatness of the Lord" and whose spirit will forever rejoice in God her Savior. And she is that lowliest of servants whom God has raised up to the greatest glory.

Reflect, today, with the whole Church, upon the Most Glorious Ever-Virgin Mary who was conceived without sin, remained sinless throughout her life, never experienced death, and was taken body and soul into Heaven where she now adores the Most Holy Trinity and intercedes for you and for the whole Church. This is a Solemnity of great rejoicing! Share in this joy with the whole Church and with all the saints in Heaven!

Most glorious and Ever-Virgin Mary, I rejoice today with you and with the whole Church for the most glorious things that God has done for you. You are beauty beyond beauty, Immaculate in every way, and worthy of our deepest love. As you now share body and soul in the glories of Heaven, please pray for me and for all your dear children on earth. Cover us with your mantle of love and pour forth the mercy of God upon us always. Mother Mary, assumed into Heaven, pray for us who have recourse to thee. Jesus, I trust in You. Reflections from "My Catholic Life"

SCHEDULE FOR THIS WEEK

Date	Day	Time	Place	Intention
8/16	Monday		No Mass Today	
8/17	Tuesday		No Mass Today	
8/18	Wednesday		No Mass Today	
8/19	Thursday		No Mass Today	
8/20	Friday		No Mass Today	
8/21	Saturday	5.30 PM	Dalton	Wellbeing of the Waite Grandchildren
8/22	Sunday	8.00 AM	Bayard	For the People of the Parish
8/22	Sunday	10.30 AM	Bridgeport	Don Loxterkamp

ALL SOULS
617 P STREET
BRIDGEPORT NE 69336

MASS TIME

Sunday — 10.30 AM



OUR GIFTS TO GOD & CHURCH

ADULTS	\$1125.00
CHILDREN	
PLATE	\$839.00
SUBTOTAL	\$1,964.00
MASS STIPEND	
TOTAL	\$1,964.00
BUILDING FUND	\$310.00
HEAT/AC	\$600.00
APPEAL GOAL	\$6,046.00
DONATIONS	\$3,815.00
BALANCE	\$2,231.00

- Prayer line requests may be made to Carolyn-262-0453 or Teresa-262-0439.
- The rosary is prayed ½ hr before Mass, please come and pray.



SACRED HEART
1003 AVE B
BAYARD NE 69334

MASS TIME

Sunday — 8:00 AM



OUR GIFTS TO GOD & CHURCH

ADULTS	\$470.00
CHILDREN	
PLATE	\$47.00
SUBTOTAL	\$ 517.00
MASS STIPEND	\$30.00
TOTAL	\$ 547.00
BUILDING FUND	
APPEAL GOAL	\$4,907.00
DONATIONS	\$3,165.00
BALANCE	\$1,742.00

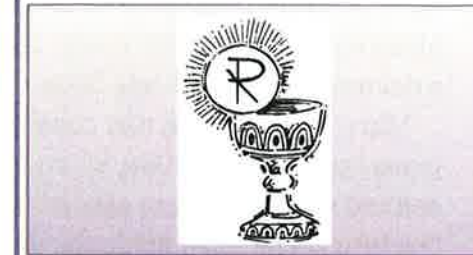
- Prayer line requests may be made to Paula-586-2992.
- The rosary is prayed ½ hr before Mass, please come and pray.



SAINT MARY'S
718 FRANCIS ST
DALTON NE 69131

MASS TIME

Saturday — 5:30 PM



OUR GIFTS TO GOD & CHURCH

ADULTS	\$970.00
CHILDREN	
PLATE	\$7.00
SUBTOTAL	\$ 977.00
MASS STIPEND	\$30.00
TOTAL	\$1,007.00
BUILDING FUND	\$200.00
APPEAL GOAL	\$6,136.00
DONATIONS	\$6,439.00
BALANCE	(\$303.00)

- Prayer line requests may be made to DeAnn-249-1735.
- The rosary is prayed ½ hr before Mass, please come and pray.

