

## Solemnity of the Assumption

2017

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- We come together today in our privilege of honoring the Blessed Mother in her Assumption—her being taken up body and soul—into Heaven at the end of her earthly life.
- The Assumption of Mary isn't specifically in the Bible, but not everything concerning Jesus and the saints is recorded in the Bible. We just have snapshots of their lives.
- The Church relies also on what the early Church believed and practiced, not on scripture alone. After all, scripture itself is simply written tradition.
- And part of very early Tradition is that Mary truly was taken to Heaven body and soul at the end of her life.
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- We have references from as early as the 300s that the Church believed and taught about Mary's Assumption, for several reasons.
- She is the one who declared "full of grace" by the Archangel at the Annunciation...leading to our knowledge that she was totally without even Original Sin...the pure and true Ark of the Covenant chosen to bear God's Son and from whom Jesus took His human nature—the greatest honor ever given to a human person.
- Being totally without sin, she would not merit the punishment for sin: "*Thou will not allow thy holy one to undergo corruption.*" (Psalm 16)
- It is she who, as a young girl, gave her life wholly to the will of God...risking her life in her assent to yet unwed pregnancy to bear God's Son..
- It is she who cared for Him...protected Him in their flight to Egypt...followed Him on His mission...risked the abuse of the soldiers to be with Him even as He hung upon the cross.
- Hers was a love of not only a mother, but of a perfect and sinless mother...totally dedicated to her one and only child.
- Thus the Assumption is a fitting reward for her Immaculate Conception and lifelong fidelity.

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- The Assumption is not even without precedent.
  - The prophet Elijah was taken body and soul into Heaven in 2 Kings, and we see in Genesis 5 that the man Enoch “walked with God” in this life, and as a result, we read in the letter to the Hebrews: “*By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death...*” (Hebrews 11:5).
  - Mary far exceeds of Elijah and Enoch in holiness ...so if God so treats His servants with such honor, with how much more honor will He treat His mother.
  - Even human kings treat their mothers with utmost respect, as we read in 1 Kings: ““...*the king[Solomon] rose to meet her [his mother Bathsheba], and bowed down to her; then he sat on his throne, and had a seat brought for the king's mother; and she sat on his right.*” (1 Kings 2:19-20 RSV). How much more so will Jesus treat His perfect and sinless mother...utterly devoted to Him all His human life existence.
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  - Finally...Jesus promised to be with and guide the Church until His second coming...so our Church is protected from error by the guidance of the Holy Spirit in matters of faith and morals.
  - And, after many centuries of debate and consideration, and with almost unanimous agreement of bishops around the world, Pope Pius XII declared in 1950 that the Assumption is a revealed truth of the faith...that Mary had truly been assumed into Heaven body and soul... *preserved immune from the corruption of the tomb, and, like her Son...to be carried up body and soul to the exalted glory of heaven...*” (Munificentissimus Deus, 40)

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- So we ask Mary to reside in our hearts, to always intercede for us in our lives...that we may follow wholeheartedly her example and advice: “*Do whatever He tells you.*” (John 2:5)—perfect advice from our perfect mother.

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Reading 1

[Rv 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

[Ps 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.**

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Reading II

[1 Cor 15:20-27](#)

Brothers and sisters:

Christ has been raised from the dead,  
the firstfruits 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 firstfruits;

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.”

Gospel

[Lk 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.”

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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.