

# Assumption of the Blessed Mother

Readings: Rom 12:9-15 and Lk 1:46-55

Today's Gospel: The Canticle of Mary. And Mary said:

"My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my savior.

For he has looked upon his handmaid's lowliness;

behold, from now on will all ages call me blessed.

The Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

His mercy is from age to age to those who fear him.

He has shown might with his arm, dispersed the arrogant of mind and heart.

He has thrown down the rulers from their thrones but lifted up the lowly.

The hungry he has filled with good things; the rich he has sent away empty.

He has helped Israel his servant, remembering his mercy,

according to his promise to our fathers, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

## Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Ancient tradition tells us and our own faith assures us of what the Church has solemnly proclaimed: the Virgin Mary has entered, body and soul, into heaven. After her death the Virgin Mother of God, without undergoing corruption, has entered heaven by a special privilege of God. As God has preserved her from the stain of original sin in order to carry His Son, Jesus Our Lord, so also has he brought her to himself in her integral human nature of body and soul. May her prayer and intercessions protect us always.

## Apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Apparition Sites:

- 1- Our Lady of Guadalupe (1531 Approved)
- 2- Rue de Bac, Paris, France (1830 Approved)
- 3- Las Salette, France (1864 Approved)
- 4- Lourdes, France (1858 Approved)
- 5- Pontmain, France (1871 Approved)
- 6- Fatima, Portugal (1917 Approved)
- 7- Beauraging, Belgium (1932-1933 Approved)
- 8- Banneux, Belgium (1933 Approved)
- 9- Amesterdam, The Neverlands (1945-1984 Under investigation)
- 10- Garabandal, Spain (1961 Under investigation)
- 11- Akita, Japan (1973 Approved by Local Bishop)
- 12- Medjugorje, Yugoslavia (1981 Still going under investigation)
- 13- Kibeho, Rwanda (1981 Approved by local bishop)
- 14- San Nicholas, Argentina (1983 Under investigation).

The Blessed Mother is the mother of mercy and mother of the merciful Savior as Jesus is present body, blood, soul, and divinity in the Eucharist. She leads us to him and gives us examples of pure humility.

Mother Theresa said, "Through Mary, the cause of our joy, you discover that nowhere on earth you are more welcomed. Nowhere on earth are you more loved by Jesus, living and truly present in the most blessed sacrament... He is really there in person waiting just for you."

## America founded on Mary

America had been founded on the Blessed Mother' Son. Mary was speaking to a nation that had started with a special devotion to her. It was a nation discovered by explorers who had originally named the Chesapeake Bay the "Bay of St. Mary" and Montreal the "Village of Maria," and the Mississippi the "River of the Immaculate Conception." Indeed, on his way across the Atlantic, Columbus and his men had sung the *Hail Mary* each night, and prayed the *Salve Regina* as the first Christian prayer ever said in this hemisphere. Originally, Los Angeles had been known by its full name: "the City of Our Lady of the Angels." There were apparitions in Montana (to an Indian). There were apparitions in what is now San Francisco. The state of New York was consecrated to her Immaculate Heart before it was even known as "New York! (Back then, it was still New Amsterdam.)

### Pray to Mary

When the wine of your life is failing and your faith is weak;

When your charity is growing cold; go to her who at Cana's feast interceded to her Divine Son for the replenishing of the wine of gladness.

When your whole frame racks beneath the tempter; fly to the patronage of her Immaculate Heart, whose heel crushes the head of the serpent.

When the cold hand of death is laid upon those whom you love; and your heart seems torn in two, climb to the Hill of Calvary to be consoled by the Mother of Sorrows who is also a source of our joy.

When sin corrodes your soul and rusts your heart and you are weary without God; then have recourse to Mary the Refuge of Sinners, for she, the Sinless One, knows what sin is -she, too, lost her God.

When the sweet inspirations of the Holy Spirit call you away from the passing tin and tinsel of earthy joys to the life of sanctity; then pray to her that you may follow her dictates to love her Divine Son: "Whatsoever he shall say to you, do."

Never was it known that anyone who fled to her protection, or asked her help, was left unaided. She is our advocate before the Father. Until eternity dawns, you who live in the hope of that eternal union with the daughter of the Father, the mother of the Son, and the spouse of the Holy Spirit, pray from the bottom of your hearts that prayer which is the counterpart of the Lord's Prayer, the prayer of the children of Mary, and say to her: "Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed are thou amongst 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 our death. Amen."

-- Bishop Fulton SHEEN, In the Fullness of Time, p.79.

## Jesus performed 37 Miracles.

We will publish them weekly in order to strengthen our faith that Jesus is indeed the Son of God who has divine power to heal and raise the dead by a Word from his mouth. Blessed are those who believe without seeing Him.

#### The 1st miracle when Mary asked her Son Jesus to change Water Into Wine

On the third day there was a wedding. It took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine." "Dear woman, why are you telling me about this?" Jesus replied. "The time for me to show who I really am isn't here yet." His mother said to the servants, "Do what he tells you." Six stone water jars stood nearby. The Jews used water from that kind of jar for special washings. They did that to make themselves pure and "clean." Each jar could hold 20 to 30 gallons. Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water." So, they filled them to the top. Then he told them, "Now dip some out. Take it to the person in charge of the dinner."

They did what he said. The person in charge tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He didn't realize where it had come from. But the servants who had brought the water knew. Then the person in charge called the groom to one side. He said to him, "Everyone brings out the best wine first. They bring out the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink. But you have saved the best until now." What Jesus did here in Cana in Galilee was the first of his signs. Jesus showed his glory by doing this sign. And his disciples believed in him. (John 2:1-11)

### Creating your legacy

How can you manage your charitable giving more efficiently to benefit the charities you love and support, like our church established by our ancestors since 1906? The Parish Council opened an Endowment Fund Account designated exclusively for the church maintenance for years to come. All donations are tax deductible. Please let us keep our beautiful church well maintained and donate anytime toward this account or put the church in writing in your will. To donate, please call the church office at 304-233-1688. May the Blessed Mother reward you in this life and in the next. Monsignor Bakhos, pastor.

# This Weekend: Assumption Feast Day, August 12-13

### Saturday, August 12, at 4:00 p.m.: Assumption Mass at the church

- 🕆 Rosella Saseen, parents Nancepe & Helen, grandparents Shikrey & Helen Saseen by her last Will
- † Living & Deceased of the Roxby & Olinski Families by Joe Roxby
- ♣ Living & Deceased of Tom & Judy Brock, Jr.

#### Sunday, August 13, at 10:00 a.m. Assumption Mass at Oglebay Park (Mahrajan Day)

- 8 Intentions of the Chairpersons and Volunteers at the Festival
- ♣ John Miller (Anniversary) by Mark & barb McLaughlin
- ₱ Mike & Sue Linton and their parents Joe and Frances Linton by Steve Linton
- \$\frac{1}{2}\$ Shirley Elias Nickerson and the Deceased members of the Elias Family by their loving Family

### Coming Weekdays Mass Schedule

Monday, August 14: No Mass. Pastor's day off.

#### Tuesday, August 15 Mass at Noon: Assumption Mass at the church (actual feast day)

- 🕆 Agnes Jacovetty (Birthday) by George & Patty (Jacovetty) Fahey
- 🕏 Sylvia Long, her husband Arthur, and her son Mark by her last will
- † Chris DeMuth by Zetta & Jerry Gordon

Wednesday, August 16: No Mass. Office Work.

#### Thursday, August 17 Mass at Noon:

- † Holly Bine (Anniversary) by his wife Shirley Bine
- ₱ Mike Linton and Msgr Bill Bonczewiski (Birthdays) by Mary Stees and Libby Magnone
- ♣ John Shiben by Julie & Tom Shiben

Friday, August 18: No Mass. Visitation of the sick.

## Next Weekend: Saturday-Sunday, August 19-20

#### Saturday, August 19, Mass at 4:00 p.m.:

- ₱ Nimon Joseph by the Weisner and Joseph Families
- Prosella Saseen, parents Nancepe & Helen, grandparents Shikrey & Helen Saseen by her last Will
- † Living & Deceased of the Roxby & Olinski Families by Joe Roxby

#### Sunday, August 20, Mass at 10:00 a.m.:

- ♣ Lou Ann Blazier by Earl & Linda Duffy
- ₱ Janis & George Thomas (Ohio) by their last will
- † Mike & Sue Linton and their parents Joe and Frances Linton by Steve Linton

### Mahrajan Information (Sunday, August 13, 2023)

- --This year we will celebrate our 90<sup>th</sup> Lebanese Festival (Mahrajan) at Oglebay Park on Sunday, August 13.
- --Outdoor Mass at 10:00 a.m. not 10:30 a.m. There will be no Mass at the church the day of the Festival.
- --Net Mahrajan Raffle Cash Prize reached so far: \$7,720.00. Only 1,000 numbered tickets were printed this year. The drawing will take place at the stage of the Festival at Oglebay Park around 6:00 p.m. in presence of everyone. Good luck. 2023 Mahrajan Golden Sponsors:

The following Mahrajan supporters are honoring the Blessed Mother on her Assumption feast day by sponsoring items needed for the Mahrajan. They are adding more joy to the hearts of the Community and our guests in defrying the increasing cost of materials. May the Blessed Mother, the Queen of heaven and earth, lead them to her Son, the Lord of the Resurrection and grant them an honorable place with the righteous and the just. Their names will be published in next year Ad Book as Golden Mahrajan Sponsors.

- --Susan & Ron Burns sponsored the red and white tent that will be used as welcome center at the entrance of the Mahrajan. Also they sponsored the burner of the sajj to be used for baking zaatar bread.
- --An Anonymous person, Leo Bleifus, Don & Lori Nickerson sponsored the six Credit Card Readers.
- --George & Susan Saseen sponsored the Lebanese National costume outfits of our church dance troupe that will perform a Dabke at the festival.

- --An anonymous person sponsored the Lebanese Wine to be tasted and sold at the festival.
- --Ron & Kim Gibbons donated \$500 toward the General Operation
- --David & Lynda Hendershot, donated \$1,000 toward the General Operation
- --Mary Stees and Libby Magnone donated \$1,100 toward the General Operation
- --Fred Wakim donated \$100 toward the General Operation
- --GiGi Rice and her Family sponsored the signs over the booths
- -- Jay & Liz Murad sponsored two cash boxes and pricing gun
- --Dr. Jack & Rose Palmer sponsored two credit card readers cost \$630.00
- --Lou & Charlotte Khourey sponsored the Pop & Water.
- -- Larry & Lillian Siebieda donated 8 legs of lamb for the Shish Kebab
- --Anthony & Rena Nassar donated their labor and all the ingredients of the Saj booth to make zaatar bread

#### More generous Sponsors needed: (please call Monsignor Bakhos at 304-233-1688)

--We are struggling to keep up with inflation and raising cost of running the festival. Any amout toward the General Operation of the festival is appreciated. Please call Monsignor Bakhos at 304-233-1688.

#### The church purchased this year:

- --Two refrigerators for pop and water. Also one Sajj (woke) for Lebanese cheese pizza and Zaatar bread.
- --Four red tents 10x15 feet each to be used for our special booths.
- -- Many souvenirs from Lebanon will be sold at the Market Place

#### Volunteers at this festival:

--See enclosed list of names.

## Birthdays Wishes in the Coming Month:

August 16: Tara George Musilli

August 17: Judy Bedway

August 20: Tricia Committee

August 23: Georgene Weisner Manning

August 25: Al Depto

August 26: Nathan Wakim, Jessica George

August 31: Joseph R. Simon
September 1: Janet Fadoul Wilson
September 8: Carol Dougherty

September 9: Gary Weisner, Patrick Stees,

September 10: Chris George

### Please Pray for Those on Our Prayer List

(Note: Please call Msgr. Bakhos if you need your name added to our Prayer List. HIPPA regulations)
Frank Duymich, Earl Duffy, Fran Saseen, Mary Stees, Rex Strawn, Mary Thomas, Sandra DeMuth, Ken Imer, Justin Frenn, Elia Frenn, Patty Fahey, Jamie Stoneking (nephew of Charlotte and Lou Khourey), Patty Olinsky, Sarah Volk (aunt of GiGi Rice), Julia Schiess (daughter of Leo Bleifus), Earl Ragase, Patrick Sengewalt, Renee Beabout (daughter of Marge John), Jack Hogan (infant son of Mark & Michaela Hogan & great nephew of Lou Khourey), Fred Schweizer (brother of our organist Mary Lee Porter),

# Mary, Mother of the Church

The priestly Church of the Incarnate Word has as her Mother Mary, Mother of the eternal Priest.

Mary was chosen among all women that in Her virginal womb the Incarnation of the Divine Word be brought about and from that very moment She, wholly pure, the Virgin Mother, She who consented to it with love in most total submission to the Father's will, has never ceased offering Jesus to Him. The victim came from heaven to save the world, but She sacrificed Her maternal heart to the divine will of the Beloved Father.

She reared Jesus to be a Victim, attaining the supreme oblation of Her soul when She delivered him up to be crucified. One sole sacrifice was there, that which Jesus offered on the Cross and which took place in Her heart. She continued this sacrifice by Her martyrdom of solitude, offering up Her sufferings to the eternal Father

in union with Jesus. When Jesus left the world, when he parted from his disciples, he left them Mary, to represent him by Her virtues, in Her maternal tenderness, in Her Heart; perfectly faithful to Jesus'. Jesus left Her to be a necessary factor for the foundation of the Church, as well as sustenance for the Apostles and first disciples. The nascent Church relied on Mary, who sustained Her by Her sufferings and Her virtues, Her prayers and Her love. That is why, when Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to the Apostles, he did not take Mary away, although She was even now full of grace and filled with the Holy Spirit. This was in order that the Church see in Her, her Queen, that priests judge Her indispensable, and that neither they nor the faithful suffer from the absence of their Mother's love and sacrifice" (Diary of Conchita who died in Mexico in 1937, April 6, 1928).

# Mary Suffers with Those Who Are in Affliction

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin constitutes the sublime and freely-given gift of God to a woman so that she could fully adhere to divine designs with a steady and unshakable faith, despite the tribulations and the sufferings that she would have to face. For this reason, Mary is a model of total self-abandonment to the will of God: she received in her heart the eternal Word and she conceived it in her virginal womb; she trusted to God and, with her soul pierced by a sword (Lk 2:35), she did not hesitate to share the passion of her Son, renewing on Calvary at the foot of the Cross her 'Yes' of the Annunciation. To reflect upon the Immaculate Conception of Mary is thus to allow oneself to be attracted by the 'Yes' which joined her wonderfully to the mission of Christ, the redeemer of humanity; it is to allow oneself to be taken and led by her hand to pronounce in one's turn 'fiat' to the will of God, with all one's existence interwoven with joys and sadness, hopes and disappointments, in the awareness that tribulations, pain and suffering make rich the meaning of our pilgrimage on the earth

One cannot contemplate Mary without being attracted by Christ and one cannot look at Christ without immediately perceiving the presence of Mary. There is an indissoluble link between the Mother and the Son, generated in her womb by work of the Holy Spirit, and this link we perceive, in a mysterious way, in the Sacrament of the Eucharist, as the Fathers of the Church and theologians pointed out from the early centuries onwards. 'The flesh born of Mary, coming from the Holy Spirit, is bread descended from heaven', observed St. Hilary of Poitiers. In the "Bergomensium Sacramentary" of the ninth century we read: 'Her womb made flower a fruit, a bread that has filled us with an angelic gift. Mary restored to salvation what Eve had destroyed by her sin'. And St. Pier Damiani observed: 'That body that the most blessed Virgin generated, nourished in her womb with maternal care, that body I say, without doubt and no other, we now receive from the sacred altar, and we drink its blood as a sacrament of our redemption. This is what the Catholic faith believes, this the holy Church faithfully teaches'. The link of the Holy Virgin with the Son, the sacrificed Lamb who takes away the sins of the world, is extended to the Church, the mystic Body of Christ. Mary, observes the Servant of God Pope John Paul II, is a 'woman of the Eucharist' in her whole life, as a result of which the Church, seeing Mary as her model, 'is also called to imitate her in her relationship with this most holy mystery.' In this perspective one understands even further why in Lourdes the cult of the Blessed Virgin Mary is joined to a strong and constant reference to the Eucharist with daily Celebrations of the Eucharist, with adoration of the Most Holy Sacrament, and with the blessing of the sick, which constitutes one of the strongest moments of the visit of pilgrims to the grotto of Massabielles.

The presence of many sick pilgrims in Lourdes, and of the volunteers who accompany them, helps us to reflect on the maternal and tender care that the Virgin expresses towards human pain and suffering. Associated with the Sacrifice of Christ, Mary, Mater Dolorosa, who at the foot of the Cross suffers with her divine Son, is felt to be especially near by the Christian community, which gathers around its suffering members, who bear the signs of the passion of the Lord. Mary suffers with those who are in affliction, with them she hopes, and she is their comfort, supporting them with her maternal help. And is it not perhaps true that the spiritual experience of very many sick people leads us to understand increasingly that 'the Divine Redeemer wishes to penetrate the soul of every sufferer through the heart of his holy Mother, the first and the most exalted of all the redeemed'? (John Paul II, Apostolic Letter, "Salvifici doloris," n. 26).

If Lourdes leads us to reflect upon the maternal love of the Immaculate Virgin for her sick and suffering children, the Eucharistic adoration is an opportunity to worship Jesus Christ present in the Sacrament of the altar, to entrust ourselves to him as Hope that does not disappoint, to receive him as that medicine of immortality which heals the body and the spirit. Jesus Christ redeemed the world through his suffering, his death and his resurrection, and he wanted to remain with us as the 'bread of life' on our earthly pilgrimage.

## Story: The Old Pastor

After a few of the usual Sunday evening hymns, the church's pastor slowly stood up, walked over to the pulpit and, before he gave his sermon for the evening, briefly introduced a guest minister who was in the service that evening. In the introduction, the pastor told the congregation that the guest minister was one of his dearest childhood friends and that he wanted him to have a few moments to greet the church and share whatever he felt would be appropriate for the service.

With that, an elderly man stepped up to the pulpit and began to speak, "A father, his son, and a friend of his son were sailing off the Pacific Coast," he began, "when a fast approaching storm blocked any attempt to get back to shore. The waves were so high, that even though the father was an experienced sailor, he could not keep the boat upright and the three were swept into the ocean as the boat capsized."

The old man hesitated for a moment, making eye contact with two teenagers who were, for the first time since the service began, looking somewhat interested in his story. The aged minister continued with his story, "grabbing a rescue line, the father had to make the most excruciating decision of his life: to which boy he would throw the other end of the life line. He only had seconds to make the decision. The father knew that his son was a Christian and he also knew that his son's friend was not. The agony of his decision could not be matched by the torrent of waves.

"As the father yelled out, 'I love you, son!' he threw out the life line to his son's friend. By the time the father had pulled the friend capsized boat, his son had disappeared beneath the raging swells into the black of night. His body was never recovered."

By this time, the two teenagers were sitting up straight in the pew, anxiously waiting for the next words to come out of the old minister's mouth. "The father," he continued, "knew his son would step into eternity with Jesus and he could not bear the thought of his son's friend stepping into an eternity without Jesus. Therefore, he sacrificed his son to save the son's friend. How great is the love of God that He should do the same for us. Our heavenly Father sacrificed His only begotten Son that we could be saved. I urge you to accept His offer to rescue you and take a hold of the life line. He is throwing out to you in this service." With that, the old man turned and sat back down in his chair as silence filled the room.

The pastor again walked slowly to the pulpit and delivered a brief sermon with an invitation at the end. However, no one responded to the appeal. Within minutes after the service ended, the two teenagers were at the old man's side. "That was a nice story," politely started one of the boys, "but I don't think it was very realistic for a father to give up his only son's life in hopes that the other boy would become a Christian."

"Well, you've got a point there," the old man replied, glancing down at his worn Bible. A big smile broadened his narrow face, he once again looked up at the boys and said, "It sure isn't very realistic, is it? But I'm standing here today to tell you that story gives me a glimpse of what it must have been like for God to give up His Son for me."

"You see... I was that father and your pastor is my son's friend."

## A Time to Laugh (75)

## A Joyful Old Heart

On October 16, 1995, Jeanne Calment of Paris was inducted into the *Guinness Book of World Records* by becoming the oldest human on record-over 120 years of age. She was born on February 21, 1875, a year before the telephone was invented by Alexander Graham Bell.

Jeanne remembered the construction of the Eiffel Tower and remembered selling colored pencils to the famed Vincent Van Gogh. She survived twenty-seven French presidents during the course of her long life. When asked, "What's the secret to your long life?" she responded, "Laughter!" No wonder the Bible tells us "a cheerful heart is good medicine" (Proverbs 17:22).

## Riding Alone

A judge was horseback riding with a young lawyer when they came across an open stretch of country. They noticed a noose hanging from a tree. The judge turned to the lawyer and jokingly said, "If that gallows had its due, where do you suppose you would be right now?"

The young lawyer spurred his horse a few feet forward, then turned back to the judge and answered, "Riding alone."

## Generous Big-City Lawyer

In a remote area out West, a rancher sued a railroad for the loss of his prize bull. The bull was missing from the section in which it had been grazing. The railroad called in a big-city lawyer to take the case against the rancher. The trial was scheduled to take place in the back room of the general store with the justice of the peace presiding. The big-city lawyer met with the rancher when he arrived and tried to get him to settle before going to court. He kept after the rancher with his best negotiating skills. The rancher kept telling the big-city lawyer that a settlement would not be right, it would not be appropriate, it would not be fair, and so on. But the big-city lawyer would not relent. Finally, the rancher gave up and agreed to settle with the railroad for half the amount he was asking to receive in damages. The big-city lawyer wrote out the check and handed it to the rancher. The rancher then signed the release statement for the railroad.

The big-city lawyer was immediately triumphant and could not contain his enthusiasm. He explained that the rancher would have won the case against the railroad. Case law would have favored the rancher, and even the justice of the peace would have known enough about the law to award the rancher with full damages. He put his arm around the rancher and said, "I hate to tell you this, old fellow, but I pulled a fast one on you. You could have won the case and received the entire amount you were asking for. That must make you feel a little disappointed."

The rancher was a bit embarrassed by all the fuss but said to the big-city lawyer as he stuffed the check into his back pocket, "To tell you the truth, I feel guilty enough about receiving any money from you at all. I was coming into court this morning to ask that we dismiss the case. But you kept on telling me to take your money, so I felt that I had better do it or you would never shut up. You see, that crazy bull showed up on the ranch late last night."

### All Cut the Same Size

A young man was helping his mother serve pie to his father and their guests at the dinner table. Each time the boy brought another piece of pie to the table, he would set it in front of his father, who would then pass it on to the others at the table. After watching his father do this several times, the boy leaned toward his father and whispered, "It's no use, Dad. Mom cut all the pieces the same size."

### Father of Lawyers

A minister once asked a lawyer, "What do you do if you make a mistake on a case?"

The lawyer answered, "I try to fix it if it's big and ignore it if it's insignificant." The lawyer then asked, "What do you do?" The minister told the lawyer, "I do more or less the same. Let me give you an example. The other day I meant to say, 'The devil is the father of liars,' but I said instead, 'The devil is the father of lawyers,' so I let it go."

### The Unused Heart

An elderly patient needed a heart transplant and discussed his options with his doctor.

The doctor said, "We have three possible donors; you need to tell me which one you want to use.

"One is a young, healthy athlete who died in an automobile accident. The second is a young businessman who never drank or smoked and died in his private plane. The third is an attorney who just died after practicing law for forty years."

"I'll take the lawyer's heart," said the patient.

The doctor asked the patient why he wanted the heart of the lawyer.

"That's easy," the patient replied. "I want a heart that hasn't been used."

### Truth

The huge man was preparing to leave the tavern at ten.

"Why so early?" asked the barman. "Because of the wife."

"So, you too are scared of your wife! Are you a man or a mouse?"

"Of one thing I am absolutely sure: I am not a mouse. Because my wife is afraid of mice."