

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary



WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO

"By the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, of the Blessed Apostles Peter and Paul, and by our own authority, 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." (*Munificentissimus Deus*, Nov. 1, 1950)

The Assumption of Mary is an infallible dogma of the Catholic Church. It is a belief based on the Scriptures and the Apostolic Tradition. It gives all of us faith and hope about the reality of Heaven and that Heaven is our intended eternal destination. It is where Christ wants us to be and where we will be if we freely accept His divine offer and live His grace.

"The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin is a singular participation in her Son's Resurrection and an anticipation of the resurrection of other Christians: 'In giving birth you kept your virginity; in your Dormition you did not leave the world, O Mother of God, but were joined to the source of Life. You conceived the living God and, by your prayers, will deliver ours souls from death.'" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 966)

The Assumption flows from the Dogma of the Immaculate Conception (1854, *Ineffabilis Deus*). Mary was conceived without sin, lived a life without sin, and was taken up to Heaven at the end of her earthly life in a special way similar to her Son's Ascension because of her special role and because she never sinned. Sin never tainted nor corrupted Mary. She never gave in to sin, but relied always on God's grace to do God's will and to avoid sin. Mary completely offered her life in service to God's plan. "May it be done to me according to your word." (*Lk 1:38*)

Church teaching does not specify how or when Mary's Assumption occurred. "The point of her bodily death has not been infallibly defined, and many believe that she did not die at all, but was assumed directly into Heaven. . . Although Pope [Pius XII](#) deliberately left open the question of whether Mary died before her Assumption, the more common teaching of the early Fathers is that she did." (*Wikipedia*)

"Regarding the day, year, and manner of [Our Lady's](#) death, nothing [certain](#) is [known](#). . . [Catholic faith](#), however, has always derived our [knowledge](#) of the [mystery](#) from [Apostolic Tradition](#). . . The [dates](#) assigned for it vary between three and fifteen years after [Christ's Ascension](#)." (*Catholic Encyclopedia*)

Ludwig Ott states that "the fact of her death is almost generally accepted by the Fathers and Theologians, and is expressly affirmed in the Liturgy of the Church. . . it seems fitting that Mary's body, which was by nature mortal, should be, in conformity with that of her [Divine Son](#), subject to the general law of death." (*Fundamentals of Catholic Dogma*)

"Two cities claim to be the place of her departure: [Jerusalem](#) and Ephesus. Common consent favours [Jerusalem](#), where her [tomb](#) is shown; but some argue in favour of Ephesus. The first six centuries did not [know](#) of the [tomb of Mary](#) at [Jerusalem](#)." (*Catholic Encyclopedia*)

"The taking of Mary into Heaven became an established teaching across the Eastern, Western, Coptic and Oriental churches from at least the late 7th Century, the festival date settling at August 15. Theological debate about the Assumption continued,

following the Reformation, climaxing in 1950 when Pope [Pius XII](#) defined it as dogma for the [Catholic Church](#)." (*Wikipedia*)

The main scriptural reference is from *Revelation 12:1*: "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." St. Mary is the model of those Christ goes to "prepare a place for" (*Jn 14:2*) and so it is fitting that she be closest to Him.

"Her acceptance into the glory of Heaven is seen. . . as the symbol of the promise made by Jesus to all enduring Christians that they too will be received into paradise." (*Wikipedia*)



"2010" Weekly Budget.....	\$5,350.00
Offertory collected August 8 th	\$4,747.67
Difference	\$ 502.33
Second Collections	
Second collection August 8 th "St. Vincent de Paul".....	\$2,364.76
Campaign '10 Pledges:	
Total donations made (from pledges) as of 08/01/10.....	\$97,157.00
August 8 th collection.....	\$ 0
New Campaign total donations from pledges.....	\$97,157.00

Next Week's Second Collection

Next weekend our second collection is for the Saint Vincent de Paul Society in the Archdiocese of Atlanta. The Society serves in many communities and neighborhoods throughout the Archdiocese, where its members consistently reach out with compassion and practical assistance to people living in extreme hardship. Our gifts to this collection go directly to provide emergency shelter, food and clothing.



We are blessed that so many beautiful prayers have been written to St. Mary over the centuries. When we pray for her intercession, we do so knowing that Jesus is the one who answers our prayers thru her. She provides motherly tenderness, comfort, and support, but Mary has no divine power—she instead goes to Jesus interceding on our behalf.

Mary also reminds us that we can do that for each other. We don't have her "connections" per se, but our prayers on behalf of others—our intercessions—are received and listened to by Our Lord. Christ answers first out of His great love and desire to help but also in answer to our prayers. Our prayers do not "prioritize" how He responds to all the prayers He receives. Our prayers are joined to His answers and are part of what the person/family/group receives. Our prayers are part of the consolation, the support, the hope, and the healing.

"Mother of Perpetual Help, you have been blessed and favored by God. You became not only the Mother of the Redeemer, but the Mother of the redeemed as well. We come to you today as you loving children. Watch over us and take care of us. As you held the child Jesus in your loving arms, so take us in your arms. Be a mother ready at every moment to help us. For God who is mighty has done great things for you, and his mercy is from age to age on those who love him. Our greatest fear is that in time of temptation, we may fail to call out to you, and become lost children. Intercede for us, dear Mother, in obtaining pardon for our sins, love for Jesus, final perseverance, and the grace always to call upon you, Mother of Perpetual Help. Amen." (*Prayers to Our Lady of Perpetual Help*)

Altar Linens



We are currently looking for parishioners that can help with the linen rotation. Proper care and instruction will be taught to anyone who may be new to this service of stewardship. Interested parties may sign up on the sheet in the narthex or call the parish office. Your time and efforts are greatly appreciated.

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
August 15, 2010

First Reading: Revelations 11:19a, 12:1-6a, 10:a,b

Just as you punished our adversaries, you glorified us whom you had summoned.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:20-27

Christ, the firstfruits; then those who belong to Him.

Gospel: Luke 1: 39-56

The almighty has done great things for me: he has raised up the lowly.

Living the Paschal Mystery

Mary remained with Elizabeth "about three months." Mary remains with the church (with us) always, to be a sign of the "great things" God continues to do. Her discipleship continues in that she is a sign of hope and mercy. So it is with us. One way our own discipleship is expressed is through our being a sign of God's mercy.

Mercy in the gospel is shown not only in the forgiveness of sins but also in the fulfillment of promises. Therefore, one important aspect of discipleship is to live in such a way as to witness to God's promise of mercy being fulfilled. Practically speaking, this means that we carry ourselves with dignity and bestow that same dignity on others. No one is beneath us or too "lowly" or insignificant to deserve our attention and respect. This is easier said than done!

Dying to self means treating the others as ne deserving and receiving God's mercy. First of all, this means that we don't judge others. Our judgments of each other are usually much more unkind than God's merciful judgment of us! This also means that we are careful never to speak negatively of others. Diminishing others surely doesn't raise them up and ultimately diminishes even ourselves. Finally, paschal mystery living means that we treat the other as one blessed by God. ~Living Liturgy

Food for Thought

"After Jesus, it is the Blessed Virgin Mary who by her example most perfectly teaches the meaning of discipleship and stewardship... She was called and gifted by God; she responded generously, creatively and prudently; she understood her divinely assigned role as 'handmaid' in terms of service and fidelity." (U.S. Bishops' letter, *Stewardship: A Disciple's Response*).

- Saturday, August 14, 5:30pm.....Faye Tate (RIP)
- Sunday, August 15, 8:30am.....Nina (Ninas Flowers) (health)
- Sunday, August 15, 10:00am.....(Spanish Mass) Our Parish Family
- Sunday, August 15, 11:30 am.....Tom Lindzy (health)
- Sunday, August 15, 1:00pm.....(Spanish Mass) Our Parish Family
- Sunday, August 15, 7:00pm.....Eric Johan Fitz (Baptism)
- Monday, August 16, 12:15 pm.....Martha Wetzil (RIP)
- Tuesday, August 17, 12:15 pm.....Daily Mass
- Wednesday, August 18, 12:15pm.....Daily Mass
- Wednesday, August 18, 6:30 pm.....Rosary
- Thursday, August 19, 12:15 pm.....Communion Service
- Saturday August 21, 5:30pm.....Eleanor Schwark (RIP)
- Sunday, August 22, 8:30am.....Our Parish Family
- Sunday, August 22, 10:00am.....(Spanish Mass) Our Parish Family
- Sunday, August 22, 11:30 am.....Howard Jones (RIP)
- Sunday, August 22, 1:00pm.....(Spanish Mass) Our Parish Family
- Sunday, August 22, 7:00pm.....(Spanish Mass) Our Parish Family

SPIRITUAL WARFARE



"The Green Scapular of the Immaculate Heart of Mary has two purposes: CONVERSION AND HEALING, Which are exactly the two things that the whole world needs! Don't you agree? . . . **The Green Scapular is a Holy Catholic Sacramental which can be employed to cause a change of heart in souls, and to help bring about The Triumph Of The Immaculate Heart of Mary as promised at Fatima.**

"The Green Scapular Is The Easiest Scapular To Use Because: 1) There is no investiture for The Green Scapular! 2) It must be blessed by a priest, but there are no special words required! 3) It should be given with great confidence, because you are requesting the direct assistance of Mary, the Queen of Heaven and Earth! 4) Someone must say the following prayer as often as possible: (but at least once daily) **IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY, PRAY FOR US NOW AND AT THE HOUR OF OUR DEATH!**" (*Green Scapular Project*)



Your time and your talents are what we most need at St. Clement's. Each year we formally extend an invitation for everyone to become more involved. But that is something that can happen any time of the year. This year our goal is to have everyone doing at least one activity, one ministry, one service commitment. It could be an hour a week or an hour a month.

Right now a commitment to pray for the parish is the main thing we can offer. We have seen the power of prayer in so many ways. Recently five parishioners were involved in a car accident in Atlanta when a blown tire on I-20 caused their vehicle to go across the other lanes and turn over. No other car was touched! Everyone walked away! A few had broken bones (shoulder, ribs, etc.), but no serious, life-threatening injuries! One walked away with a couple cuts and bruises. They had been praying during the trip and within an hour people all over the country were praying for them. It is the first commitment we can and should offer.

We have many other needs as well that we will take about during our upcoming Stewardship of Time & Talent. All are wanted. All are needed. All are called!

Please pray for the people who are suffering:

- Donna Thibault - respiratory illness, Barbara Smith- cancer, Marty McKinnon- ovarian cancer, Cayla Johnson- hydrocephalus, Joe Campbell-follicular lymphoma, Tonya Isham-tumor, Curtis Lunt-ill health, Melissa Silva-health, Juanita Rochester-cancer, Chuck Terry-prostate cancer, June Macejkovic-heart condition, Fr. Denis Kolumber-health, Ernie -leukemia, Maria Farias- breast cancer, Jeanne Walraven-health, Jean Seitz-cancer, Angie Defalco-health, Erna Wyatt-health, Jim Rorer-special intention, Michael Llop-brain tumor, Erik Bigelow-special intention, Janice Miller-health, Jaden Bates-health, Roy Davies-safety, Chris Wable-health, Jim Wable-lung cancer, Marilyn Clayton-health, Ashlie Warren-health, Jenna Proctor-health, Jeff Elder-health, Serge Kastorsky-cancer, Terry Alan-bladder cancer, Lisa Clark-failed surgery, Betty Maddox-chemo, Donald Hicks-health, Jeff Bigelow-health, Cindy Wilson-health, Audrin King-cancer, Bud Murphy-health, Geri Harper-breast cancer, Joanne Silvers-kidney cancer, Pam Bagley-lung cancer, T.J. Rushing-tumor, Richard Parker Sr.- alzheimer's, Florice Schneider-health, Grace Headley-cancer surgery, Grace Grant Orange-lung cancer, Dana Real-seizures, Sissy Steele-heart-attack, Mathias Roberts-surgery, Christopher Burger-health, Barbbra Christian-breast cancer, Janet Shiney-health, Ea Grace Cichran-hydrasephalyiss, Tom Lindzy-health, Nina (Ninas Flower's)-health, Billy Tolley-health.



Archdiocesan News

GOOD SAMARITAN CATHOLIC CHURCH in Ellijay will host its 8th annual **FLEA MARKET**. Join us Fri., Sept. 17, from 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. & Sat., Sept 18, from 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. The market will offer some unique antiques and collectibles, electronics, furniture, clothing, movies, books, knick-knacks and Christmas decorations. So pack up the kids, or grab a friend and come find that treasure you just can't live without. For more information please call (706) 636-2772.