



The Assumption of Mary—A Belief Since Apostolic Times

The Assumption is the oldest feast day of Our Lady, but we don't know how it first came to be celebrated. Its origin is lost in those days when Jerusalem was restored as a sacred city, at the time of the Roman Emperor Constantine (c. 285-337). By then it had been a pagan city for two centuries, ever since Emperor Hadrian (76-138) had leveled it around the year 135 and rebuilt it in honor of Jupiter. For 200 years, every

memory of Jesus was obliterated from the city, and the sites made holy by His life, death and Resurrection became pagan temples. After the building of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in 336, the sacred sites began to be restored and memories of the life of Our Lord began to be celebrated by the people of Jerusalem. One of the memories about his mother centered around the "Tomb of Mary," close to Mount Zion, where the early Christian community had lived.

On the hill itself was the "Place of Dormition," the spot of Mary's "falling asleep," where she had died. The "Tomb of Mary" was where she was buried. At this time, the "Memory of Mary" was being celebrated. Later it was to become our feast of the Assumption. For a time, the "Memory of Mary" was marked only in Palestine, but then it was extended by the emperor to all the churches of the East. In the seventh century, it began to be celebrated in Rome under the title of the "Falling Asleep" ("Dormitio") of the Mother of God. Soon the name was changed to the "Assumption of Mary," since there was more to the feast than her dying. It also proclaimed that she had been taken up, body and soul, into heaven. That belief was ancient, dating back to the apostles themselves. What was clear from the beginning was that there were no relics of Mary to be venerated, and that an empty tomb stood on the edge of Jerusalem near the site of her death. That location also soon became a place of pilgrimage. (Today, the Benedictine Abbey of the Dormition of Mary stands on the spot.)

At the Council of Chalcedon in 451, when bishops from throughout the Mediterranean world gathered in Constantinople, Emperor Marcian asked the Patriarch of Jerusalem to bring the relics of Mary to Constantinople to be enshrined in the capitol. The patriarch explained to the emperor that there were no relics of Mary in Jerusalem, that "Mary had died in the presence of the apostles; but her tomb, when opened later . . . was found empty and so the apostles concluded that the body was taken up into heaven." In the eighth century, St. John Damascene was known for giving sermons at the holy places in Jerusalem. At the Tomb of Mary, he expressed the belief of the Church on the meaning of the feast: "Although the body was duly buried, it did not remain in the state of death, neither was it dissolved by decay. . . . You were transferred to your heavenly home, O Lady, Queen and Mother of God in truth."

All the feast days of Mary mark the great mysteries of her life and her part in the work of redemption. The central mystery of her life and person is her divine motherhood, celebrated both at Christmas and a week later (Jan. 1) on the feast of the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. The Immaculate Conception (Dec. 8) marks the preparation for that motherhood, so that she had the fullness of grace from the first moment of her existence, completely untouched by sin. Her whole being throbbled with divine life from the very beginning, readying her for the exalted role. — Fr. Clifford Stevens, EWTN Website

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The bulletin is posted online each weekend at:
www.sjamescatholicchurch.com

Bulletin Submissions: call the rectory or email to: fr.mike-morin@cdolinc.net by noon on Friday.

Weekend Masses: Saturday 5:30 pm and Sunday 9:00 am.
Confessions: Saturdays 4:30-5:15 / Sundays 8:15-8:45 / By appointment
Weekday Masses: Monday thru Friday 7:00 am

St. James Catholic Church

August 14, 2016

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mon. August 15 Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Tue. August 16 St. Stephen of Hungary
Wed. August 17 Weekday in Ordinary Time
Thu. August 18 Weekday in Ordinary Time
Fri. August 19 St. John Eudes
Sat. August 20 St. Bernard

Mass Intentions

Saturday	August 13	5:30 pm	†Doris Anderson
Sunday	August 14	9:00 am	People of the Parish
Monday	August 15	7:00 am	†Greg Kucera
Tuesday	August 16	7:00 am	†James Kasun
Wednesday	August 17	7:00 am	†Msgr. Jim O'Connor
Thursday	August 18	7:00 am	Vicki Kauffold
Friday	August 19	7:00 am	†Dorothy Konecky
Saturday	August 20	5:30 pm	†Nita Styles
Sunday	August 21	9:00 am	People of the Parish

On Monday we celebrate the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary into Heaven (see back side of bulletin). Because it falls on Monday it is not a holy day of obligation, though all are encouraged to attend the morning Mass to honor the mother of the Son of God.

Minister Assignments

	Saturday, Aug. 20	Sunday Aug. 21
Acolytes	Chris Kems	Dan Gruenes
Readers	Connie Eckley	Craig Quick
Servers	Briar Kems	Cameron Quick
	Peyton Brabec	Cade Janacek

The next series of Acolyte-Lector-Server assignments is available on the vestibule counter.



The annual Mission Appeal is this weekend and we welcome Fr. Savio, a priest from the the Society of the Missionaries of St. Francis Xavier. The collection for the Mission Appeal will be taken up next weekend, August 20-21 (envelope included with this bulletin). Your support of the Missionaries of St. Francis Xavier heeds the command of the Lord to go out and spread the Good News, making disciples of all nations.

The Society of the Missionaries of St. Francis Xavier is the first indigenous society in India. It was founded in 1887 with a charisma to be pioneering missionaries. Today there are about 350 priests and about 35 lay brothers. The main work of the Society is among the Non-Christian people in India and Nepal. The Society intends to make headways in the areas where church has not yet been established. Our society has successfully transformed two missions into a diocese, with a strong Christian presence and vocations. This Society is a growing Society. We have more than 200 Seminarians in different stages of priestly formation. Young men full of enthusiasm look forward to carry the banner of the Risen Lord to bring joy and healing to the suffering humanity in the most remote areas of India and Nepal. Recently, the Kolkata Province has undertaken new missions in North-East India, close to China boarder, among the tribal's. It is a challenging mission. Society needs financial help to build churches, schools, hostels and dispensaries to bring transformation in this most remote part of the world. Your assistance will go a long way to bring

July 30-31 Tithe

Adults	\$ 2,777
Loose	83.00
Second Collection	72.01
Total:	\$ 2,932.01

Monthly Obligations

St. Wenceslaus School	\$2,016.66
Bishop Neumann	8,007.00
Total Parish Expenses:	\$10,023.66

Two weeks to Sign up for Retrouvaille – Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue ... or have you just stopped talking to each other? Does talking about it only make it worse? This program has helped tens of thousands of couples experiencing marital difficulty at all levels including disillusionment and deep misery. For confidential information about or to register for the program beginning with a weekend on August 26-28, 2016 call 1-888-317-5654 or on the web at: www.retrouvaille.org on the web

A Chicken Dinner & Bazaar will be held at Holy Trinity Parish in Brainard on August 21, from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The day will begin with Mass at 10:00 a.m. The Bazaar will feature a Bake Sale, Games for Adults and Children, Raffle and Polka Music. The activities will be held in the air-conditioned Church and Klein Cneter in Brainard and on the Parish grounds.

Sts. Cyril & Methodius Parish in Plasi will sponsor a Roast Beef Dinner at the Prague Parish Hall on Sunday, August 28. Dinner will be served from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm. Cost: Adults/Jr./Sr. High \$10, Children 10 and under \$5. Festival includes Live Auction, Silent Auction, Cake Walk, Bake Sale featuring Czech specialties, and Raffle.

The American Red Cross is looking for volunteers to donate cookies or bars for the August 23-24 Blood Drive. See the ad in the vestibule for information.

The Pancake Feed Committee is looking for a volunteer to serve on the steering committee. If you're interested in helping the parish in this way, contact Judy McEvoy 624-5066 or Fr. Morin.

The next "Call to Joy" Saunders Catholic Women's Retreat will be held on August 20th, 2016 from 8:30a.m. until 12:00p.m. at Bishop Neumann High School cafeteria in Wahoo. The retreat theme: Is There Joy in the Cross? There will be Mass at 8:00a.m. at St. Wenceslaus Church and then breakfast at 8:30a.m. at the cafeteria followed by the retreat. Babysitting is available by request. Cost: Free will donation. We hope you can join us as we examine the reality of suffering in our daily lives. For more information, please contact: Eva Fujan 402-663-4458, Jennifer Benes 402-499-4542, Patti Sloup 402-480-0096, Lisa Vrana 402-443-6101 or Marnie Toline 402-277-5346.

Property Insurance. Recently Catholic Mutual Group, the Diocesan Self-Insurance Company, performed an evaluation of our parish property. A number of items were found to be in need of care. The parish could hire someone to take care of these projects, though surely a number of parishioners have the ability to volunteer to take care of these issues. If you're one of those parishioners, take a look at this list and notify Fr. Morin if you would like to address one or more. Your tithe of time and talent is appreciated.

- Alternative for the trip hazard of the electrical cord to the piano in church.
- Replace bulbs in emergency lights.
- The exit door behind the piano does not open because the threshold moves with the door.
- Televisions in CCD classrooms, bookshelves in the vestibule, front pews of church & cry room, Infant of Prague statue, and gas cylinder outside the parish hall are not properly secured.
- Sidewalks that are trip hazards need to be repaired.
- Non-slip floor mats are need in the kitchen/dishwashing area.