



THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY



"From this day all generations will call me blessed: the Almighty has done great things for me and holy is his Name. He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, and has lifted up the lowly."

- Lk 1:48b-49, 52

Our Lady of Peace Church Sunday, August 15, 2021

FROM THE DESK OF FR. STAN

My dear friends,

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord

Since this Sunday is August 15th, the Sunday in Ordinary Time that we would normally be celebrating gets “bumped” by a celebration of higher importance, namely the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is our Catholic tradition that God would not allow the corruption of death to touch the Mother of God’s Son, and therefore our Blessed Mother was taken up to heaven, body and soul. This special privilege gives honor to Mary, of course, and it also points to the reality which is our hope, our eventual partaking in eternal life with God, along with Mary, and the angels and saints.

I grew up with a Polish custom that added a charming dimension to this celebration. We used to take a bouquet of flowers and herbs to church for Mass on the Solemnity of the Assumption so that they might be blessed. I remember my grandmother insisting that a particular herb growing in our yard always be included. As we approached the time of harvest, those with an agrarian background were thus praying for God’s blessings for an abundant harvest. Once again, worship and daily life were brought together in a reminder that all aspects of life were God’s gift; the desired blessing was a powerful reminder of the need to turn to the God who feeds us and takes care of all our needs.

This Solemnity of the Assumption has two sets of readings, one for the Vigil on the evening before, and a second for the day itself. The first reading for the Vigil, Chronicles 15:3-4, 15-16; 16:1-2, takes us back to the time of the great King David, who lived approximately one thousand years before Christ. The passage describes an important religious celebration, namely the placement of the “ark of the covenant” in a place especially prepared for it by David. The ark in this case is not to be confused with the large boat constructed by Noah. This ark was a kind of liturgical carrying case in which the Ten Commandments were kept, as a reminder of God’s special relationship with Israel. The Ten Commandments symbolized God’s choice of the people as a special possession, who were favored by being given the Law, the way in which they could maintain their relationship with God and with one another in the community.

Just as my ancestors celebrated with herbs and flowers, so David provided great festivity for the enthronement of the Ark: chanters were appointed, along with musical instruments, including harps, lyres and cymbals, “to make a loud sound of rejoicing.” The people presented various offerings, which David offered to the Lord. Finally, David blessed the entire assembly of people “in the name of the Lord.”

The reason this reading is chosen for this celebration of Mary is that through the Incarnation, the Son of God becoming flesh in Mary’s womb, Mary herself becomes a type of an ark, carrying in this case, not commandments written on stone, but the Son of God. And just as David called the people to celebrate the enthronement of the Ark of the Covenant, so we are called to celebrate the enthronement of Mary in heaven.

The gospel reading for the Feast day itself, Luke 1:39-56, brings us an important event in the life of Mary, her visitation to her cousin Elizabeth. You may recall that Mary had been asked to be the Mother of God’s Son by the Angel Gabriel, who also revealed that Mary’s older cousin Elizabeth, who was considered sterile, is now pregnant with John the Baptist, because “nothing is impossible with God.” The two women exchange joyful greetings, and Elizabeth notes that, when Mary’s greeting reached her ears, the child within her womb leaped for joy. Elizabeth points to the greatness of Mary, who is “blessed among women.”

The remainder of the reading from Luke is Mary’s song of joy, often referred to by the Latin word “Magnificat”—Mary’s soul “proclaims” or “magnifies” the greatness of the Lord. Scripture Scholars note that in this preliminary part of Luke’s gospel, we find the message of the whole gospel in miniature. In Mary God has looked upon the lowly, and from that day all generations will call her blessed. God’s choice of a lowly young woman shows that God has mercy on those who fear him. By God’s special love for the poor, the mighty are cast down from their thrones, and the lowly are lifted up; the hungry are filled with good things, while the rich are sent away empty. Through the Incarnation God has come to the help of his servant Israel, and he has fulfilled his ancient promises made long ago “to Abraham and his children forever.”

Just as the assembly celebrated God’s presence among them in David’s day, with chanting and musical instruments in festive gathering, so Mary’s song celebrates the beginning of our salvation through the Son of God whom she carried and brought into the world. After Jesus’ death and resurrection, Mary herself is carried to eternity as the Church joins her in singing for joy.



Saturday, August 14-Rosary at 3:15P

4:00P *Agnes Dobosz*
by Ed & Marcy Sulda

Sunday, August 15

8:00A *Artie & Annie Cotton*
by Deacon Joe & family
10:00A *Sandy Weller*
by the Women's Group

Saturday, August 21 Rosary at 3:15P

4:00P *Helen Podlesny*
by the Hersey family

Sunday, August 22

8:00A *Anne Gates*
by her family
10:00A *Sandy Weller*
by Ed & Carol Brennan

DAILY MASS

Monday, August 16

8:00A *No intention*

Tuesday, August 17

8:00A *Hazel Arnold*
by her family

Wednesday, August 18

8:00A *Pat Caloon*
by John

Thursday, August 19

8:00A *Connie Olszewski*
by Marcia Caloon

Friday, August 20

8:00A *Holy Communion Service*



Support Montague Catholic Social Ministries
Our parish donations of non-perishable food and goods will now be given to stock the food pantry at MCSM and help the many families in need in our community.

Don't Miss Your Shot To Fight the Flu!

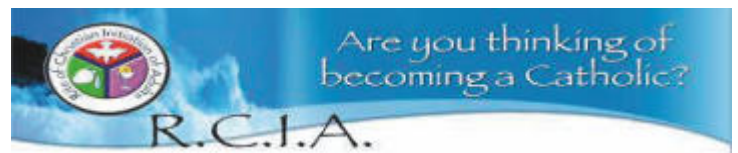


Mark your calendar! In cooperation with Walgreens, we will be sponsoring a free drive-thru flu clinic on Wednesday, **October 6** from 9:00-11:30A in our parking lot. Watch the bulletin for more details regarding sign-ups. Have questions? Call Marguerite 863.2585 ext. 103.



ST. JOSEPH CHURCH in Shelburne Falls will hold an outdoor "Giant Tag Sale" on Saturday, **August 28** from 8:00A-2:00P and Sunday, **August 29** from 9:00A-12Noon. Don't miss quality items. Furniture, tea cup auction, jewelry, books and more. And gift cards to local stores and restaurant. Call 625.6405 for more information.

LOOKING AHEAD! The Annual Women's Group Mass will be Sunday, **September 5** at 10:00A. The next meeting will be Tuesday, **September 7** at 6:00P.



Inquiry sessions will begin in early September. There is no pressure or commitment. If you wish more information, call Marguerite 863.2585 ext. 103

Our Lady's Window

August 14

Kristen Kaczewski by her family



Remember in your prayers

+*Blanche Currie*

+*Charles Miner*

+*Genevieve Guy*

+*Joseph "Manny" Flores*

Our Parish Prayer Line is available for anyone who has a special request. You may contact Cindy Milewski 774.9817, Jim Devlin 772.6432, call the rectory 863.2585, mail it to the rectory or drop it in the weekend collection basket.

PARISH COLLECTIONS

Weekend of August 8

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On-line \$539.00

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