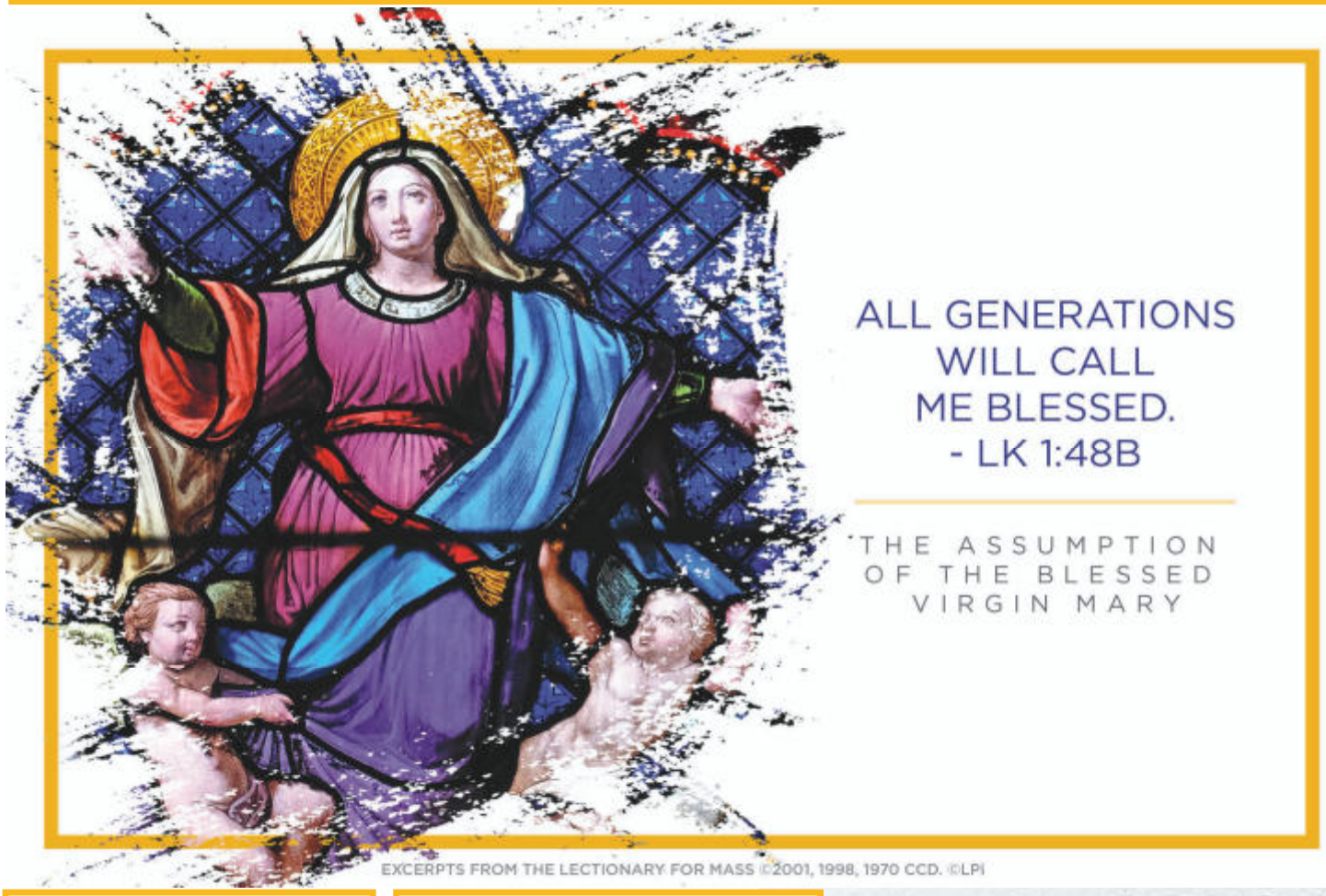
Saint Jerome Catholic Church

August 15, 2021



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Parish Office:
301-927-6684
astjerome@hotmail.com

St. Jerome Academy:
301-277-4568

Child Center:
301-699-1314

Website:
stjeromes.org

Mass Schedule

- Monday-Friday 8am
- Saturday vigil 4:30pm
- Sunday 8:30am, 10:30am, 12:30pm (Nigerian Community)
- Holy Days as announced

Sacrament of Reconciliation

3pm to 3:50pm in the Gold Room, sign up via Flock-note

Mass Intentions

For the week of August 15

Sunday:
Sheila Kelly; Msgr. Paul Solomia

Monday:
Alfonso and Santa DiCarlantonio

Tuesday:
Rosina Harry and Joseph Ward

Wednesday:
Erna Sullivan

Thursday:
Sr. Luisa Militar, SPC

Friday:
Eleanor Conway

Stop your tax dollars from going to abortion

The Hyde Amendment, contained in the federal government's annual appropriations legislation, prohibits federal funding of domestic abortions, except in cases of rape, incest or to save the life of the mother. It is a bipartisan provision that has been part of federal appropriations for 45 years (since 1976) and enjoys overwhelming public support, including strong support from low-income women, and women of color. The Hyde Amendment has served as the model for dozens of other federal policies that prohibit the government from funding abortion in other areas (for example, in foreign assistance programs, trafficking programs, community health programs, or health insurance). In addition to being widely supported by Americans, Hyde and Hyde-related policies save lives and respect the consciences of Americans. However, these policies are now under grave threat of being repealed. Join the USCCB to stop tax dollars from going to abortion. Sign the petition now: www.NoTaxpayerAbortion.com.

Feed the Turtle Oct. 20th, 2021

Thanks to vaccines, the UMD Catholic Student Center is resuming its Wednesday night dinners. Once again, the people of St. Jerome are supporting the Catholic Terps. To sign up, go to SignupGenius.com and search: roultm@netscape.net

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dematha crabfeast@gmail.com

WWMD?

WWJD bracelets were all the rage about 25 years ago in Christian circles. I've always wondered if a WWMD bracelet might not make just as much sense, and maybe more. What Would Mary Do?

I would argue that Mary was the most exemplary steward who ever lived. Her answer was always "Yes." Yes, Lord, I am Your handmaiden. Yes, I will visit Elizabeth, and help her in the last difficult months of pregnancy. Yes, I will bring my son up in the Mosaic law and present him at the Temple of Jerusalem. Yes, I will give him to the crowds and to public ministry. Yes, I will offer him on this Cross, if it is Your will.

Yes, yes, yes.

Well, I can't be like Mary, we think to ourselves. There's an intimidation factor with the Blessed Mother and Catholics sometimes — one that almost exceeds that of Christ. Perhaps it's because we are in awe of the fact that she was not divine in any way — she was a mere creation, like us — but somehow, she always had the courage to say yes. How could she do it, when we find it so hard?

Well, God certainly lavished on Mary extraordinary graces. Her lack of original sin liberated her to conform her will to God's.

But God is impatient to give us, too, all the graces we need to be a steward in the example of Mary. He's waiting for us simply to ask. Just as in Adam we died, so in Christ — through Mary — we live.

What can we say yes to today, in Mary's example?

—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

WHAT ARE WE CELEBRATING ON THE FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION OF MARY?

The Assumption, along with the Immaculate Conception, are two Marian dogmas that have been infallibly defined by the church. The Assumption proclaims the reality that Mary was taken up body and soul into heaven. This was God's special gift to her in response to her total giving of self to God's plan and will.

The church believes that Mary was immaculately conceived, that is, conceived without original sin. This led the church to believe that she did not suffer one of the key consequences of original sin, death and corruption. The Orthodox Church celebrates the Dormition of Mary, the belief that Mary did not die but rather fell asleep and was thus assumed into heaven.

What significance does this feast have for our lives as Christians today? This feast is above all an assurance and hope of our continued life with God. Modeling ourselves on Jesus and living the Christian life molded by Jesus' values is certainly the sure path to God. As a result, God will not leave us orphaned or alone to suffer the emptiness of death. Rather, we believe that death is merely a transformation of our present state into an even more glorious and eternal relationship with God.

This is the hope and assurance that Mary's assumption celebrates. It is a celebration of our assumption as well. She is one of us, providing a model of what God has in store for all who love and give of themselves to God.

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GOSPEL MEDITATION
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They are courageous, wise women who ground us, focus us, and inspire us. They are the good mothers who walk with us and light our way. They teach us life lessons and help us heal and navigate through challenges and difficulties. We need people to point the way. Sometimes, these wise ladies are not our biological mothers but women in our lives, who through their strong and faithful presence, anchor us and remind us that we are loved. We need these women. Human beings do their best when they have cheerleaders in their lives. They show us that even when facing despair there is always a brighter tomorrow.

Jesus needed his mother. She had to be that faithful anchor, that guiding presence, in his life. Jesus needed to be affirmed and encouraged just like any other human being and Mary had to be there, right by his side, doing precisely that. Even when her heart was pierced as he was nailed to a tree, she did not give up hope. Most certainly, she continued to wait, watch, hope, and love until he took his final breath. That's what mothers do. Even when their heart breaks, they persevere.

Today, our Blessed Mother is our cheerleader once again. Taken up to heaven in body and soul, she points to and directs us toward our final destiny. Life eternal waits! Any disappointment, fear, or anxiety can be set aside as she gently reassures us of God's love and promise. Always a mother filled with grace and hope, she calls us to reaffirm our faith in God and in the gifts we have each been given. We can persevere and do what we need to do to live life well, with faith, hope, and love as our guiding lights. Knowing who we are and who we will one day become helps us to better chart the course and direction of our earthly lives. Looking to the example of our Blessed Mother, we receive the assurance we need.

"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

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