



# The Cathedral Chronicle

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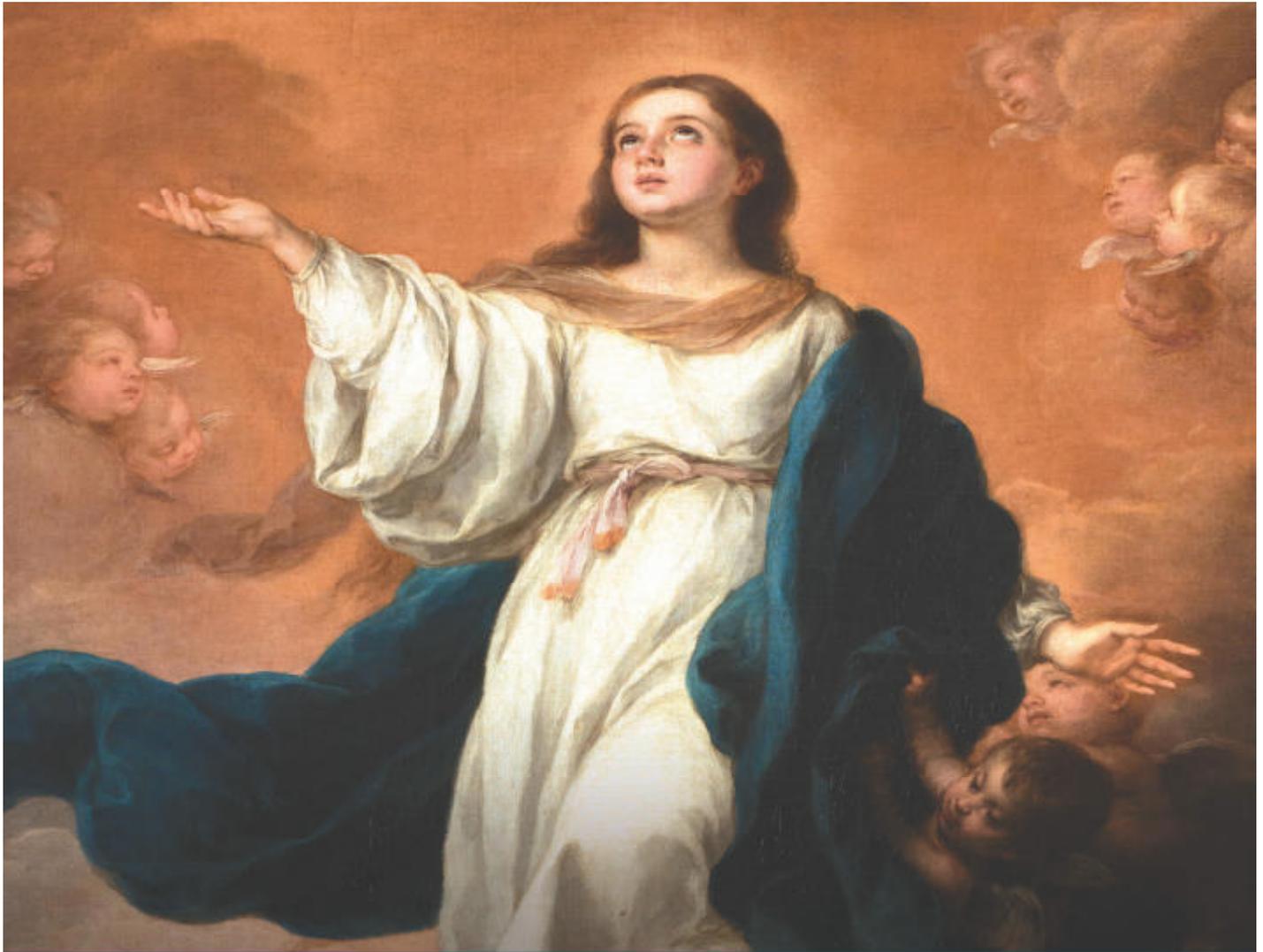
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August 15, 2021

## The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary



### 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

**CATHEDRAL MASSES**

Saturday (Vigil Mass) 4:30 p.m. Sunday (Choir) 10:30 a.m.  
**Monday — Friday...12:10 p.m.** (in the Cathedral)  
 Holy Days and Holidays as announced

The Sunday 10:30 am Mass is available every week via  
<http://www.youtube.com/SaintJosephCathedral>

**CONFESSIONS**

Wednesday & Friday at 11:45 a.m.  
 Saturday at 4:00 p.m.  
 (or call for appointment)

**OFFICE HOURS**

8:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

**LITURGIES FOR THE WEEK**

Saturday 4:30 p.m.	August 14: (Vigil Mass for Sunday) Deceased Members of the Elias Mansour Family (Amal Mansour) 
Sunday 10:30 a.m.	Aug. 15: The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary James Brennan (Wife) 
Monday 12:10 p.m.	August 16: Weekday (20th Week in Ordinary Time) St. Stephen of Hungary Parishioners of St. Joseph Cathedral
Tuesday 12:10 p.m.	August 17: Weekday  Raechel Suttelle Conroy (Estate)
Wednesday 12:10 p.m.	August 18: Weekday  Colleen Spencer Henderson (Michele Speach & Tim Franczyk)
Thursday 12:10 p.m.	August 19: St. John Eudes, Priest  Mother's Day Remembrances
Friday 12:10 p.m.	August 20: St. Bernard, Abbott and Doctor of the Church  James Schmigel (Mary Ann Schmigel & Family)

**Vocations:**

This Sunday we celebrate the very special reward Jesus prepared for his mother's faithfulness. God always rewards those who serve Him with inexplicable joy. What is His plan for you? If it involves a Church vocation, call Fr. Dave Baker at 716-847-5535 or visit [buffalovocations.org](http://buffalovocations.org).

The Sanctuary Lamp will burn this week in memory of James Brennan, requested by his wife.



**CATHEDRAL STAFF**

**Bishop** Most Rev. Michael W. Fisher  
**Cathedral Rector** Rev. Seán Paul Fleming  
**Music Director** Timothy Socha  
**Secretary** Elaine Kishbaugh

**SPIRITUAL COMMUNION**

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. **Amen.**

**Family Perspective:** "Blessed is the fruit of your womb" can be said of all mothers, because every child is "blessed" and a child of God upon whom God "looks with favor." This is our deepest identity and destiny. We do not earn this blessing. God's love is a free gift to each of us.

**Celebrating the Year of St. Joseph**  
 Monthly Theme: *Model of Vocations*

*What can I do to encourage vocations in my family?*

**\*Identify the gifts of family members.** Through baptism each of us has received special gifts and talents. Reflect as a family on the gifts and talents of each person and how they can be used in service to the family and to the Church.

**\*Tell Stories.** Recall times in your lives when a priest, deacon or religious showed kindness to you and helped make a positive difference. Talk about what these individuals mean to you and the service they offer to God's people.

**\*Say "Thank you."** We all know that it feels good to be thanked. Say thanks to a priest, religious, deacon, or lay ecclesial minister. It is encouraging for them to feel that their generosity is being appreciated and the time they spend in service to the parish community is being recognized. Offering thanks also sheds a positive light on priests, religious, and service to the Church.

**\*Perform Acts of Charity.** In the Gospels Jesus directs us to love our neighbor and he calls us to serve one another. Look into ways that your family can generously meet the needs of your neighbors. A charitable heart is a hallmark of holy vocations.

**\*Pray.** Of all the ways we can work toward the increase of vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, religious life, and lay ecclesial ministry, prayer is undoubtedly the most essential. Make a commitment to pray for this intention everyday as a family, perhaps at mealtime. Also consider praying for a particular priest, religious, deacon, or pastoral minister in your parish.

**A Prayer for Vocations:** O Great Saint Joseph, you were completely obedient to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Obtain for me the grace to know the state of life that God in his providence has chosen for me. Since my happiness on earth, and perhaps even my final happiness in heaven, depends on this choice, let me not be deceived in making it. Obtain for me the light to know God's will, to carry it out faithfully, and to choose the vocation which will lead me to a happy eternity. **Amen.**

**“This is the glorious day, on which the Virgin Mother of God was taken up to heaven; let us sing these words in her praise: Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.” — Responsory from the Office of Readings for the Assumption**

Too often, we may miss the opportunity to celebrate the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Mother. At times, it is not a holy day of obligation, and with its position in the calendar in late summer, some of us can simply allow it to slip from our consciousness. This year, we have a particular gift in the opportunity to celebrate this important feast of faith on a weekend.

The Assumption is something of a mystery. It calls to us and speaks of the intimate unity in the plan of salvation between Christ Jesus and his Mother who bore him. It also begs the (unanswered) question as to whether or not Mary died or was somehow simply taken off to the heavens. Most theologians, this one included, will tell you that prior to the Assumption, Mary did experience death, as we all will, in conformity to the Passion and Death of Christ, even though she was graced by God in unique ways. (The day can also be called the “dormition” of Mary.)

So as we honor Mary and the mystery of God’s plan of salvation, what does this mean for our lives? By contemplating Mary in heavenly glory, we understand that earth is not our definitive homeland. If we live with our gaze fixed on eternal goods, we will one day share in the glory that Mary and all the saints that have gone before us have realized in heaven. In a way, that can make our lives here on earth even more beautiful as we continue on pilgrimage in search of the glory we find in our lives in God.

You may have noticed that I have not been celebrating Mass at the Cathedral lately, and while I would like to regale you with stories of a great vacation or expedition, I instead simply ask for your prayers. I was taken to the hospital last week and had emergency surgery for an infection which has caused me to contemplate life, its possibilities, and its gift. I will be recovering over the next several weeks, but still checking email and phone messages should you need anything. I am grateful to Fr. Edward Sheedy, a retired priest of our diocese, the Conventual Franciscans from St. Francis High School, and others who will serve the pastoral needs of the Cathedral parish while I heal. Please know you will continue to be in my prayers, especially in my private celebration of the Eucharist.

Peace & Prayers,



Fr. Seán Paul.

**The Magnificat  
The Prayer Of Mary**

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed: the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name. He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation. He has shown the strength of his arm, he has scattered the proud in their conceit. He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, and has lifted up the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. He has come to the help of his servant Israel for he remembered his promise of mercy, the promise he made to our fathers, to Abraham and his children forever. *(Lk 1: 46-55)*



Start a new friendship. The Telephone Assurance Program (TAP) serving Erie and Chautauqua Counties, and the Friendly Phones program serving Orleans County, are free volunteer services providing regular telephone calls to homebound elderly and disabled persons to check on their well-being and to give people an opportunity to socialize. Relationships grow and last for years through a regular 5-to-15 minute call. These friendly calls can alleviate some concerns facing those who live alone and can help them maintain their independence. If you know of someone who would like to receive calls or to volunteer to make calls, reach out to 716-218-1400 for TAP and 585-343-0614 for Friendly Phones. Check us out at [www.ccnny.org](http://www.ccnny.org) and join us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

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