

**Saint Christina Parish of Turner County
PO Box 610 Parker, South Dakota 57053**

Sunday, August 15, 2021

**ASSUMPTION OF THE
BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

Mary, the mother of Jesus, was the most perfect disciple of Jesus. A disciple is someone who follows and belongs to another. No one has followed or belonged to Jesus more completely than Mary. We can learn how to be disciples of Jesus by looking at his mother, Mary. This is why the Church holds up for us certain moments in the life of Mary to be remembered and celebrated in the liturgy. One such moments is being celebrated this weekend: the Assumption of Mary. The Assumption of Mary is such a big deal that it actually replaces the normal Sunday prayers and readings.

So what can we learn from Mary about following Jesus as his disciple the weekend? The Assumption of Mary remembers the moment at the end of Mary's life here on earth when she was assumed (taken up) into Heaven with her body and soul. There is a verse of scripture from the Song of Songs that this feast day makes me think of, "I was asleep, but my heart was awake" (5:2). In the Song of Songs, this line is spoken by a bride who is eagerly awaiting her groom; she is so eager that even when she is asleep, her heart is awake, waiting for him, and seeking him. The same thing could be said about the heart of Mary, even when she "falls asleep" at the end of her life, her heart is still very much awake.

I imagine the heart of Mary and the heart of Jesus being like magnets. They are drawn to each other by the force of love. This was certainly the case during

the of Jesus when Mary is drawn to him as he starts his ministry at the Wedding Feast at Cana (Jn 2:1-12), when she shows up at random moments just to be near him (Matt 12:46-50) and when she is standing at the foot of the Cross as he is crucified (Jn 19:25-27). Mary could not stay away from Jesus; her heart was made for his heart. This is perhaps most evident today on the feast of Mary's Assumption. I imagine this scene as if Mary's heart can no longer take being physically separated from her son, and so she literally pulled up, drawn, assumed into Heaven to be with Jesus.

This type of love, the love of Mary for Jesus and Jesus for Mary, is meant for us too. Our hearts are made for the heart of Jesus, and they will only find rest there. Our hearts are meant to be drawn, like a magnet, to wherever Jesus is. We should be drawn, almost irresistibly, to be with Jesus in prayer, at Mass, in scripture and in our neighbor. This is the fullness of discipleship. It is following Jesus not because we have to, but because we long to, because we are so in love with him that we cannot stay away. Maybe this week we can make the prayer of the bride in the Song of Songs our own, "I was asleep, but my heart was awake". Let's keep our hearts awake, like Mary, so that when we see Jesus this week we can run to meet him.

God bless,

Fr. Tyler

Email: frtylermattson@sfcatholic.org

WEEKLY MASSES—— *St. Christina*

**Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Sunday, August 15th: Mass 11:00AM**

Confessions-5 to 5:45PM-Tuesday, August 17th

**Holy Mass: Tuesday, August 17th —6:00PM
Int: +Ron Cink**

**Holy Mass: Thursday, August 19th—8:00AM
Int: +Robert Kippes**

**Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sunday, August 22nd: Mass 11:00AM**

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**Hail Mary; full of grace,
the Lord is with you,**

**Blessed are you among
women, and blest is the
fruit of your womb, Jesus.**

**Holy Mary,
Mother of God, pray for
us sinners now and at the
hour of death, Amen.**

**Gentle woman, quiet light,
morning star, so strong
and bright,**

**Gentle Mother, peaceful
dove, teach us wisdom,
teach us love.**

**Prayers and Sympathy from St. Christina Parish to
Pat Leber and Family on the death of her son, Kevin,
their brother and uncle and a friend to so many.
Visitation at St. Christina's on Sunday, 5:00 -7:00pm,
Prayer Service and Rosary will follow.**

Funeral Mass at St. Christina:

Monday, August 16 at 10:00AM

**"Eternal Rest Grant Unto Him, O Lord and Let the
Perpetual Light Shine Upon Him; May He Rest In Peace."**
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**A Memorial Mass for Ron Leber will be celebrated
on Saturday, August 21st at St. Christina Parish.
The family welcomes everyone. Mass is at 10:30AM.**
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St. Christina Church Support: Deposited

Monday, August 9th, 2021:

**27 Env. Reg. Giving \$1565.00; 1 Env. Fuel Fund \$100.00;
Loose \$.00; Candles \$1.00; Loose Giving \$75.00;
Mass Stipends \$50.00; Memorials-Cemetery \$100.00.**

Wednesday, August 11th, 2021:

1 Env. Reg. Giving \$100.00; Mass Stipends \$30.00.

Thursday, August 12th, 2021:

Cemetery-Memorial \$25.00.

Thank You for your Generous Treasure.
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**"Annual Pie Baking Contest at the Turner County Fair."
Heritage Park—Stage Area Tuesday, August 17th, 2021**

Freewill Donations—to benefit the Local Food Pantries
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**It was inspiring and uplifting when we met and visited with
Father Tyler in the Parish Hall after Mass Tuesday evening.
He welcomed ideas and also agreed that some changes will be
made in the future.**

**We all need to be patient as we work and plan together for the
betterment of the entire parish. A good group was able to
attend mass and meet. If you were unable to attend please feel
free to share your thoughts and ideas with fellow parishioners
and/or email the Parish or Father Tyler.**

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