


FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Among the feasts of the Blessed Virgin, that of her bodily assumption into heaven was from very early times the most solemn and the most widely observed. In the time of Pope Sergius I a solemn procession proceeded to the Church of St. Mary Major, where Mass was celebrated. The Church of Mary Major (the Church of Our Lady of the Snows) surpasses all the other Roman Churches and basilicas, including St. Peter's Basilica, in dignity, and, by its miraculous beginning which took place during the Fourth Century, it is distinguished from all Roman Churches by its title of St. Mary Major. In answer to the prayer of some holy benefactors who were seeking a proper place on which to build a church in honor of the Blessed Mother, in the middle of the month of August, the hottest part of the torrid Roman Summer, snow fell and covered a part of the Esquiline Hill in Rome. Regarded by all as miraculous, this was taken to be the spot pointed out by the Blessed Mother herself where she wanted the church to be built. And so it was, and was called the Church of Our Lady of the Snows. Through the ages, from that very first day, we have continued, even to the present day, to observe this event through the Feast of the Dedication of that Church on August 5 of each year.

It should, however, be born in mind that even though the Divine Maternity of the Blessed Virgin Mary may be regarded as the immediate reason of her Assumption into heaven, yet the first and formal reason of this privilege has to be sought in her Immaculate Conception. Therefore, it is necessary to say that the formal reason for the preservation of her body from corruption was precisely her immunity from all stain of original sin. Therefore, the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Mother is looked upon as the principal of all our Lady's Feasts.

The end of the transitory state in which the pilgrim soul of man finds itself on earth is called by us, "Death." Any idea of pain or abasement or separation of soul and body with all its consequences, such as bodily corruption, long separation of soul and body, etc., had no power over the Mother of God.

The dogma of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary was finally and officially proclaimed by Pope Pius XII on November 1, 1950.

- 
1. **CATECHISM CLASS:** Children 6 to 14 please meet Father Joseph in the vestibule right after the 10:00 Mass.
 2. Tomorrow is the Feast of Saint Philomena (Roman calendar), and is the Name day of our Sister Mary Philomena, OSB. Please remember Sister Philomena in a special way in your prayers tomorrow.
 3. Friday, August 15, is the Feast of the Assumption of our Lady and is a **Holyday of Obligation**. Masses in the Abbey Church will be at 6:00 AM, 8:00 AM, and 7:00 PM. **It is NOT a day of fast or abstinence – meat may be eaten at all meals this Friday.**
 4. Please pray for all the Sick and Shut-ins of our Chapels. LET US ALSO PRAY FOR EVERYONE. Let us pray for ALL the priests and religious men and women of the world. NO MAN, WOMAN, OR CHILD SHOULD BE LEFT OUT OF OUR PRAYER. God made all men to be with Him in heaven for all eternity, and this includes every human being on earth, regardless of station or condition or place. While Our Blessed Lord was hanging on the Cross He did not look around and pick and choose those for whom He was dying. He did not exclude a single member of the Human Race – even His enemies – from the wounded Love that came forth from Him during those momentous moments. Weak human nature and erroneous persuasions will prevent some from achieving the purpose intended for them by God, but that matter remains entirely between all such and God. Our only duty is to pray for **souls**. We make **no** judgments concerning such matters. If there is any sifting to be done, it is to be done by God, Himself **alone**. We are **NOT** the ones to do the sifting.
 5. **MASSES FOR THE WEEK:** (Father Abbot Leonard's schedule only)
 - SUNDAY: For the People of our Chapels
 - MONDAY: For Sister Philomena, OSB (*Name day*)
 - TUESDAY: Deceased Marguerite McGill
 - WEDNESDAY: Deceased Rama Coomaswamy
 - THURSDAY: For the Poor Souls in Purgatory
 - FRIDAY: **For Our Benedictine Monks and Nuns and Oblates**
 - SATURDAY: Special intention of Alfred and Aurora Krebsbach

A Thought To Remember ...

It is indeed sad that the seeds of confusion and misstatement and doubt and suspicion and religious deception have been sown so thoroughly and with such evil intensity at a time when Christ's scattered flock is most desperately searching and sincerely seeking for the WORD OF TRUTH.