

The feast of Assumption

God is walking around Heaven one day and notices a number of people on the heavenly streets who shouldn't be there. He finds St. Peter at the gate and says to him, "Peter, you've been remiss in your duties. You're letting in the wrong sort of people." "Don't blame me, Lord," replies Peter. "I turn them away just like You said to. Then they go around to the back door and Jesus' mother lets them in."

Today we celebrate the solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary as we honor Mother Mary in our faith. Mother Mary has an important role in our faith one way or the other. This feast was promulgated in 1950. Though it was remembered for over 1500 years, it was officially declared by Pope Pius XII on 1st of November 1950.

"Assumption" means that after her death, Mary was taken into Heaven, both body and soul, as a reward for her sacrificial cooperation in the Divine plan of Salvation.

The liturgy and the readings bring us God's victory over death and corruption. The first reading talks about three imageries. A woman, a child, and a dragon. The woman gives birth which brings a new life. the dragon was symbolized for the evil one. The fight between the woman and the dragon happened in heaven. The woman delivered the baby and caught up to heaven. The dragon was thrown away from heaven. God wins over the evil and brings salvation. Mary has been an instrument to bring the victory of salvation through her son Jesus Christ.

St. Paul in the second reading to the first Corinthians assured the hope of resurrection by Jesus' resurrection. He brings two ages of human existence. Adam and Christ. The first one brought death to humanity, the second one brought resurrection and new life after death. It is another proof that God wins over the evil.

The gospel brings the proclamation of Mary as Magnificat. She praised God for all the things he has done in this world. She praised how divine power worked through the humble who trust in God.

Pope Pius XII gives four theological reasons to support this traditional belief.

1: The degeneration or decay of the body after death is the result of Original Sin. However, since, through a special intervention of God, Mary was born without Original Sin, it is not proper that God would permit her body to degenerate in the tomb.

2: Since Mary was given the fullness of grace, Heaven is the proper place for this sinless mother of Jesus.

3: Mary was our co-redeemer, or fellow redeemer, with Christ in a unique sense. Hence, her rightful place is with Christ our Redeemer in Heavenly glory.

4: In the Old Testament, we read that the prophet Elijah was taken into heaven in a fiery chariot. Thus, it appears natural and possible that the mother of Jesus would also be taken into Heaven.

This feast gives us hope for our resurrection. As Mary was rewarded by God, when we live a holy and pure life we will be rewarded.