

### St. Joseph's Catholic Church



### Risen Lord Catholic Church



### All Saints Catholic Church



## Solemnity of the Assumption August 15

### St. Joseph's Catholic Church

78 St. Josephs Lane  
Woodlawn VA 24381-1101  
Sunday English Mass 11:30am  
Spanish Mass: 2:30 PM  
Daily Mass: Wednesday & Friday  
9:00am  
Spanish Weekday Mass : Thurs. 6:00  
pm  
Sacrament of Reconciliation  
Before Mass 11:00-11:15 am

### Risen Lord Catholic Church

59 Mountain View Park  
Stuart, VA 24133  
Sunday Mass: 8:30 AM  
Sacrament of Reconciliation: Sun. 7:45-

### All Saints Catholic Church

598 Needmore Lane, NE  
Floyd, VA 24091 (540)763-6000  
Mass: English  
Saturday Vigil at 5:00 PM  
Sacrament of Reconciliation: Sat. 4:15-  
4:45pm  
First Saturday of the month: Traditional Latin  
Mass 10am, followed by Holy Hour and Bene-  
diction.

### **Father Herman Katongole, Pastor**

Pastor's E-mail: [pas-tor@stjosephswoodlawn.org](mailto:pas-tor@stjosephswoodlawn.org)  
**Ken Miller - Admin. Assistant/  
Bookkeeper**  
Office Hours : Tue-Thu 8:00 AM– 3:00PM  
E-mail: [office@stjosephswoodlawn.org](mailto:office@stjosephswoodlawn.org)  
Website for all parishes: <http://stjosephswoodlawn.org>  
Mailing Address for All Parishes  
78 St. Josephs Lane  
Woodlawn, Virginia 24381-1101  
(276)236-7814

On November 1, 1950, Pius XII defined the dogma of the Assumption. Thus he solemnly proclaimed that the belief whereby the Blessed Virgin Mary, at the close of her earthly life, was taken up, body and soul, into the glory of heaven, definitively forms part of the deposit of faith, received from the Apostles. To avoid all that is uncertain the Pope did not state either the manner or the circumstances of time and place in which the Assumption took place — only the fact of the Assumption of Mary, body and soul, into the glory of heaven, is the matter of the definition. Now toward the end of the summer season, at a time when fruits are ripe in the gardens and fields, the Church celebrates the most glorious "harvest festival" in the Communion of Saints. Mary, the supremely blessed one among women, Mary, the most precious fruit which has ripened in the fields of God's kingdom, is today taken into the granary of heaven.



— Pius Parsch, *The Church's Year of Grace*

**August 2021**

<b>St. Joseph Pastoral Council:</b>		<b>Risen Lord Pastoral Council:</b>		<b>All Saints Pastoral Council :</b>	
Mickey Dubs	276-236-5688	John Abadie	276-930-2298	Deanna Boswell	540-285-0039
Richard Koske	276-235-0142	Marcus Brinks		JJ Mammi	540-763-2253
Ken Miller	276-779-4068	Julia Hennessy	276-694-3883	Monica Ogle	540-789-4789
Fabian Hernandez	276-728-0130	Nichols Hughes	276-694-5471	Dana Postiglione	919-201-6449
Gregorio Sierra	276-233-8954	Brunilda Seda	276-694-9939	Kevin Stokes	540-312-5841
		Stephanie Flores	571-926-0297	Vicky Borin	704-534-9108
<b>St. Joseph Finance Council:</b>		<b>Risen Lord Finance Council:</b>		<b>All Saints Finance Council:</b>	
Barbara Dwyer	276-728-2045	John Coffey	276-694-4360	Mary Belcher	540-593-2113
Olga Carranza Torres	276-238-4635	Helen Barnard	276-694-3504	Susan Edwards	540-745-3361
Bisia Moreno	276-233-4604	Sue Ann Ehmann	276-957-4479	Lorna Wanner	540-929-8006
Michael Riccitiello	276-728-0130	Jim Keesee	276-591-7013	Nanette Showalter	540-789-4123
Cristina Hernandez	276-233-0518	Steve Jones	276-591-7013	Chris Borin	704-534-9108
Amy Theuer	276-744-2613				

#### FATHER HERMAN'S MESSAGE TO THE PARISH

I was ordained a priest August 03 2002, it is 19 years since then. Ordinations in the Diocese of Masaka Uganda, Covid-19 pandemic regulations withstanding, take place on the first Saturday of August. Time runs so first, it appears as if I was ordained yesterday.

In priesthood you can't easily know your next station. I served as a parochial Vicar in Uganda for four years and 7 years as a pastor and I spent one year preparing to come to United States. As a parochial vicar I served as a chaplain to all elementary schools in the parish. There were 70 schools in the parish. My duty was to celebrate Mass for the children in their respective schools, coordinate First Holy Communion and Confirmation classes. I remember between 2002 and 2006 the candidates for confirmation in that parish were always slightly above 600 children.

During my term of office as a chaplain for schools, I discovered that if pastoral work in schools is done most efficiently, even lapsed catholic parents find themselves being prompted to return to church. For this reason, we have to make sure that each and every young adult in our parishes of St. Joseph, All Saints and Risen Lord, come to attend Religious education classes in preparation for the reception of their relevant sacraments.

After four years serving as a chaplain in schools, I was made a pastor and transferred to a rural parish that had 16 sub-parishes or mission parishes. We were 3 priests in the parish. In Uganda and in most parts of Africa, since most people don't generally have means of transport, it's the priests to go in their neighborhoods and celebrate mass for them. Almost every few villages have a church, and that sub-division of a cluster of 2 to 3 villages in a parish is referred to as a sub-parish. Every sub-parish has its own parish council and the Catechist is the head of the sub-parish. The catechist is the representative of the Pastor in the sub-parish. Besides real pastoral work, there is also much ongoing construction in these sub-parishes coupled with scarcity of funds to run both the parish and the sub-parishes.

In 2014, I came to Richmond Diocese having been sent by my Bishop in Uganda. I was assigned to St. Bede Williamsburg as a parochial Vicar for one year.

My Pastoral work in St. Bede Parish took me almost daily to nursing homes to celebrate Mass for Catholic residents and to hospitals and people's homes to anoint the sick.

In 2015 I was assigned to St. Timothy, Tappahannock as a pastor for four years. In 2019 I came to St. Joseph's Catholic church cluster. This has been my journey so far in priesthood. I have found it very interesting and I have nothing to regret about it. It is in this line that I encourage more of my brothers in the faith to join in this task of serving God in his people. At every moment in life there are people who sacrifice something valuable for the service of their community. We are gifted differently and in life, there are various vocations in which we can engage ourselves to serve our communities.

I would like to thank all of you for your support and encouragement in my priesthood journey. As I begin another year in my priesthood I feel energized and ready to do more to serve God as he will enable me. I pray to God to enable me to fulfill what I promised to do for him on the day of my ordination. St. John Mary Vianney, Patron of Priests, Pray for us.

#### MENSAJE DEL PADRE HERMAN A LA PARROQUIA

Fui ordenado sacerdote el 3 de agosto de 2002, han pasado 19 años desde entonces. Las ordenaciones en la Diócesis de Masaka Uganda, a pesar de las regulaciones de la pandemia Covid-19, tienen lugar el primer sábado de agosto. El tiempo corre tan primero que parece como si fuera ordenado ayer.

En el sacerdocio, no es fácil saber cuál es su próxima estación. Serví como vicario parroquial en Uganda durante cuatro años y 7 años como pastor y pasé un año preparándome para venir a los Estados Unidos. Como vicario parroquial, serví como capellán de todas las escuelas primarias de la parroquia. Había 70 escuelas en la parroquia. Mi deber era celebrar la Misa para los niños en sus respectivas escuelas, coordinar las clases de Primera Comunión y Confirmación. Recuerdo que entre 2002 y 2006 los candidatos a la confirmación en esa parroquia siempre fueron algo más de 600 niños.

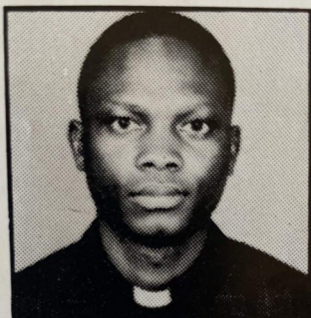
Durante mi mandato como capellán de escuelas, descubrí que si el trabajo pastoral en las escuelas se realiza de la manera más eficiente, incluso los padres católicos ausentes se ven impulsados a regresar a la iglesia. Por esta razón, tenemos que asegurarnos de que todos y cada uno de los jóvenes adultos en nuestras parroquias de San José, Todos los Santos y Señor Resucitado, asistan a clases de educación religiosa en preparación para la recepción de sus sacramentos relevantes. Después de cuatro años sirviendo como capellán en las escuelas, me nombraron pastor y me trasladaron a una parroquia rural que tenía 16 subparroquias o parroquias misioneras. Éramos 3 sacerdotes en la parroquia. En Uganda y en la mayor parte de África, dado que la mayoría de la gente generalmente no tiene medios de transporte, son los sacerdotes quienes deben ir a sus vecindarios y celebrar la misa por ellos. Casi todos los pueblos tienen una iglesia, y esa subdivisión de un grupo de 2 a 3 pueblos en una parroquia se conoce como subparroquia. Cada subparroquia tiene su propio consejo parroquial y el catequista es el jefe de la subparroquia. El catequista es el representante del párroco en la subparroquia. Además del trabajo pastoral real, también hay mucha construcción en curso en estas subparroquias junto con la escasez de fondos para administrar tanto la parroquia como las subparroquias.

En 2014, vine a la Diócesis de Richmond después de que mi obispo en Uganda me envió. Me asignaron a St. Bede Williamsburg como vicario parroquial durante un año.

Mi trabajo pastoral en la parroquia de St. Bede me llevó casi a diario a hogares de ancianos para celebrar la misa para los residentes católicos y a hospitales y hogares para unir a los enfermos.

En 2015 me asignaron a St. Timothy, Tappahannock como pastor durante cuatro años. En 2019 vine al grupo de iglesias católicas de St. Joseph. Este ha sido mi viaje hasta ahora en el sacerdocio. Lo he encontrado muy interesante y no tengo nada que lamentar. Es en esta línea que animo a más hermanos en la fe a sumarse a esta tarea de servir a Dios en su pueblo. En todo momento de la vida hay personas que sacrifican algo valioso por el servicio de su comunidad. Tenemos dones diferentes y en la vida, hay varias vocaciones en las que podemos comprometernos para servir a nuestras comunidades. Me gustaría agradecerles a todos por su apoyo y aliento en mi jornada del sacerdocio. Al comenzar otro año en mi sacerdocio, me siento lleno de energía y listo para hacer más para servir a Dios en la medida que él me capacite. Le pido a Dios que me permita cumplir lo que prometí hacer por él el día de mi ordenación. San Juan María Vianney, Patrón de los sacerdotes, ruega por nosotros.

#### PRIESTLY SOUVENIR Jjukira okusabiranga



**REV. FR. HERMAN KATONGOLE**  
**LWAGGULWE PARISH**  
**MASAKA DIOCESE**

Deacon : 4/08/01

Priest: 3/08/02



#### **MATTHEW 25 PILL BOTTLE MINISTRY**

In developing countries, medicines—when actually obtainable—are often dispensed into hands, pockets, leaves or any other available container. Matthew 25 Ministries accepts donations of empty pill bottles to help improve health care quality in developing nations. Donations of clean, unlabeled pill bottles help the poorest of the poor in many ways: Medicine can be distributed in sterile containers. Pill bottles that are not appropriate for shipping are recycled for cash that goes towards Matthew 25:Ministries' programs.

This plastic recycling program keeps thousands of bottles out of landfills each year.

**Matthew 25: Ministries** accepts the following types of empty pill bottles: Prescription pill bottles, all sizes Pill bottles with and without child resistant caps Over-the-counter pill bottles.

**Bring your bottles to any Parish and they will be delivered to Risen Lord.**



#### **RISEN LORD YARD SALE**

Risen Lord is planning a return of it's annual yard sale fundraiser.. The dates are September 3 and 4 and the hours will be from 7:00AM until 3:00PM daily.

We will need help after mass on Sunday August 29th to move the chairs in the church to put the tables in the church

#### **Religious Education/ Sacramental Prep**

Sacramental preparations and religious education classes will resume at all parishes.

To sign up for First Eucharist and Confirmation formation or for more information please see

**Mary Beth Coffey– Risen Lord (Stuart)**

**JJ Mammi– All Saints (Floyd)**

**Onelia Cuevas– St. Joseph (Woodlawn)**

#### **2021 DIOCESAN HOME MISSION GRANT AWARDS**

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith released notifications for mission parishes that were awarded Home Mission Grants in 2021.

The Church of the Risen Lord Stuart was awarded \$3796.00 for security doors, windows and steel post guards intended to improve security at the church.

St Joseph Woodlawn parish was awarded \$9,600.00 for the remodeling of the wall behind the altar .

The Diocesan Home Mission Grant is funded by your donations to the Annual Diocesan Appeal. Our parishes are grateful for these grant awards as they enable projects that would be difficult to fund independently.

#### **ST JOSEPH COVERED DISH**

St. Joseph parish will host a covered dish on the third Sunday of the month following the 11:30 AM Mass beginning this August 15. Parishioners are encouraged to bring their favorite dish to share (salads, meats, vegetables and starches of all varieties are always welcomed)

#### **TRI AREA PREGNANCY CENTER BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN**

Of the 50 bottles distributed at St. Joseph for support of the Tri-Area Pregnancy Center approximately 25 have been returned .If you have a baby bottle (or a check) for this campaign there is still time to return it to St. Joseph Woodlawn

**All Saints will host a Latin Mass on the first Saturday of each month at 10:00AM followed by a Holy Hour and Benediction**

#### **ALL SAINTS COVERED DISH**

Parishioners of All Saints will resume their covered dish on the third Saturday of each month following the 5:00 Mass Covered Dish will be held Lutheran Church Hall across the street from All Saints. All are welcome!

#### **ALL SAINTS**

#### **PARISHIONERS HELP THE NEEDY**

During the month of July All Saints Floyd VA delivered eighty-six pounds of food to local food pantry Plenty . At this time, Plenty is looking for donations of canned tomatoes, canned chicken, and ESPECIALLY canned tuna.



# August 2021

August 2021

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

September 2021

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>Aug 1</b> 8:30am RL Sunday Mass 11:30am SJ Sunday Mass 1:30pm Misa en Español	2	3 AS Parish Council	4 9:00am SJ weekday Mass	5 6:00pm SJ Misa en Español seguida con Adoracion del Santisimo Sacramento	6 9:00am SJ weekday Mass	7 10:00am AS Latin Mass 10:00am, followed by Holy Hour and 5:00pm AS Sunday Vigil Mass
8 8:30am RL Sunday Mass 11:30am SJ Sunday Mass 1:30pm Misa en Español	9	10 6:00pm RL Finance Council	11 9:00am SJ weekday Mass 5:30pm SJ Parish Council	12 6:00pm SJ Misa en Español seguida con Adoracion del Santisimo Sacramento	13 9:00am SJ weekday Mass	14 5:00pm AS Sunday Vigil Mass
15 8:30am RL Sunday Mass 11:30am SJ Sunday Mass 1:30pm Misa en Español	16	17	18 9:00am SJ weekday Mass	19 6:00pm SJ Misa en Español seguida con Adoracion del Santisimo Sacramento	20 9:00am SJ weekday Mass	21 5:00pm AS Sunday Vigil Mass 6:30pm AS Covered Dish
22 8:30am RL Sunday Mass 11:30am SJ Sunday Mass 1:30pm Misa en Español	23	24 AS Finance Council	25 9:00am SJ weekday Mass	26 6:00pm SJ Misa en Español seguida con Adoracion del Santisimo Sacramento	27 9:00am SJ weekday Mass	28 5:00pm AS Sunday Vigil Mass
29 8:30am RL Sunday Mass 11:30am SJ Sunday Mass 1:30pm Misa en Español	30	31	Sep 1	2	3	4

1 August 2021 – Sunday	8 August 2021 – Sunday	15 August 2021 – Sunday	22 August 2021 – Sunday	29 August 2021 – Sunday
EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	ASSUMPTION OF THE Blessed Virgin MARY Solemnity / Vigil	TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
<b>First Reading:</b> Exodus 16: 2-4, 12-15	<b>First Reading:</b> First Kings 19: 4-8		<b>First Reading:</b> Joshua 24: 1-2a, 15-17, 18b	<b>First Reading:</b> Deuteronomy 4: 1-2, 6-8
<b>Responsorial Psalm:</b> Psalms 28: 3-4, 23-24, 25, 54 (24b)	<b>Responsorial Psalm:</b> Psalms 34: 2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9 (9a)	<b>First Reading:</b> First Chronicles 15: 3-4, 15-16; 16: 1-2	<b>Responsorial Psalm:</b> Psalms 34: 2-3, 16-17, 18-19, 20-21, 22-23 (9a)	<b>Responsorial Psalm:</b> Psalms 15: 2-3, 3-4, 4-5 (1a)
<b>Second Readings:</b> Ephesians 4: 17, 20-24	<b>Second Reading:</b> Ephesians 4: 30 – 5: 2	<b>Second Reading:</b> Ephesians 4: 30 – 5: 2	<b>Second Reading:</b> Ephesians 5: 21-33 or Ephesians 5: 2a, 25-32	<b>Second Reading:</b> James 1: 17-18, 21b-22, 27
<b>Gospel:</b> John 6: 24-35	<b>Gospel:</b> John 6: 41-51	<b>Gospel:</b> Luke 11: 27-28	<b>Gospel:</b> John 6: 60-69	<b>Gospel:</b> Mark 7: 1-8, 14-15, 21-23
2 August 2021 – Monday	9 August 2021 – Monday	15 August 2021 – Sunday	23 August 2021 – Monday	30 August 2021 – Monday
<b>First Reading:</b> Numbers 11: 4b-15	<b>First Reading:</b> Deuteronomy 10: 12-22	ASSUMPTION OF THE Blessed Virgin MARY Solemnity / Day	<b>First Reading:</b> First Thessalonians 1: 1-5, 8b-10 and 9b	<b>First Reading:</b> First Thessalonians 4: 13-18
<b>Responsorial Psalm:</b> Psalms 81: 12-13, 14-15, 16-17	<b>Responsorial Psalm:</b> Psalms 142: 12-13, 14-15, 19-20		<b>Responsorial Psalm:</b> Psalms 149: 1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b	<b>Responsorial Psalm:</b> Psalms 96: 1 and 3, 4-5, 11-13
<b>Gospel:</b> Matthew 14: 13-21	<b>Gospel:</b> Matthew 17: 22-27	<b>First Reading:</b> Revelation 11: 19a; 12: 1-6a, 10ab	<b>Gospel:</b> Matthew 23: 13-22	<b>Gospel:</b> Luke 4: 16-30
3 August 2021 – Tuesday	10 August 2021 – Tuesday	16 August 2021 – Monday	24 August 2021 – Tuesday	31 August 2021 – Tuesday
<b>First Reading:</b> Numbers 12: 1-13	<b>First Reading:</b> Second Corinthians 9: 6-10	<b>First Reading:</b> Judges 2: 11-19	<b>First Reading:</b> Revelation 21: 9b-14	<b>First Reading:</b> First Thessalonians 5: 1-6, 9-11
<b>Responsorial Psalm:</b> Psalms 51: 3-4, 5-6ab, 6cd-7, 12-13	<b>Responsorial Psalm:</b> Psalms 51: 3-4, 5-6ab, 6cd-7, 12-13	<b>Responsorial Psalm:</b> Psalms 106: 34-35, 36-37, 39-40, 43ab and 44	<b>Responsorial Psalm:</b> Psalms 145: 10-11, 12-13, 17-18	<b>Responsorial Psalm:</b> Psalms 27: 1, 4, 13-14
<b>Gospel:</b> Matthew 14: 22-36 or Matthew 15: 1-2, 10-14	<b>Gospel:</b> John 12: 24-26	<b>Gospel:</b> Matthew 19: 16-22	<b>Gospel:</b> John 1: 45-51	<b>Gospel:</b> Luke 4: 31-37
4 August 2021 – Wednesday	11 August 2021 – Wednesday	17 August 2021 – Tuesday	25 August 2021 – Wednesday	
<b>First Reading:</b> Numbers 13: 1-2, 25 – 14: 1, 26a-29a, 34-35	<b>First Reading:</b> Deuteronomy 34: 1-12	<b>First Reading:</b> Judges 6: 11-24a	<b>First Reading:</b> First Thessalonians 2: 9-13	
<b>Responsorial Psalm:</b> Psalms 106: 6-7ab, 13-14, 21-22, 23	<b>Responsorial Psalm:</b> Psalms 18: 15-20	<b>Responsorial Psalm:</b> Psalms 85: 9, 11-12, 13-14	<b>Responsorial Psalm:</b> Psalms 139: 7-8, 9-10, 11-12ab	
<b>Gospel:</b> Matthew 15: 21-28	<b>Gospel:</b> Matthew 18: 15-20	<b>Gospel:</b> Matthew 19: 23-30	<b>Gospel:</b> Matthew 23: 27-32	
5 August 2021 – Thursday	12 August 2021 – Thursday	18 August 2021 – Wednesday	26 August 2021 – Thursday	
Ordinary Weekday / Dedication of the Basilica of Saint Mary Major in Rome	<b>First Reading:</b> Joshua 3: 7-10a, 11, 13-17	<b>First Reading:</b> Judges 9: 6-15	Ordinary Weekday	
<b>First Reading:</b> Numbers 20: 1-13	<b>Responsorial Psalm:</b> Psalms 114: 1-2, 3-4, 5-6	<b>Responsorial Psalm:</b> Psalms 21: 2-3, 4-5, 6-7	<b>First Reading:</b> First Thessalonians 3: 7-13	
<b>Responsorial Psalm:</b> Psalms 95: 1-2, 6-7, 8-9	<b>Gospel:</b> Matthew 16: 13-23	<b>Gospel:</b> Matthew 20: 1-16	<b>Responsorial Psalm:</b> Psalms 90: 3-5a, 12-13, 14 and 17	
<b>Gospel:</b> Mark 16: 13-23	13 August 2021 – Friday	19 August 2021 – Thursday	<b>Gospel:</b> Matthew 24: 42-51	
	<b>First Reading:</b> Joshua 24: 1-13	<b>First Reading:</b> Judges 11: 29-39a		
	<b>Responsorial Psalm:</b> Psalms 136: 1-3, 16-18, 21+22 and 24	<b>Responsorial Psalm:</b> Psalms 40: 5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10		
	<b>Gospel:</b> Matthew 19: 3-12	<b>Gospel:</b> Matthew 22: 1-14		
6 August 2021 – Friday	14 August 2021 – Saturday	20 August 2021 – Friday	27 August 2021 – Friday	
TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD Feast	<b>First Reading:</b> Daniel 7: 9-10, 13-14	<b>First Reading:</b> Ruth 1: 1, 3-6, 14b-16, 22	<b>First Reading:</b> First Thessalonians 4: 1-8	
<b>First Reading:</b> Daniel 7: 9-10, 13-14	<b>First Reading:</b> Joshua 24: 14-29	<b>Responsorial Psalm:</b> Psalms 146: 5-6ab, 6c-7, 8-9a, 9bc-10	<b>Responsorial Psalm:</b> Psalms 97: 1 and 2b, 5-6, 10, 11-12	
<b>Responsorial Psalm:</b> Psalms 97: 1-2, 5-6, 9	<b>Responsorial Psalm:</b> Psalms 16: 1-2a and 5, 7-8, 11	<b>Gospel:</b> Matthew 19: 13-15	<b>Gospel:</b> Matthew 25: 1-13	
<b>Second Reading:</b> Second Peter 1: 16-19				
<b>Gospel:</b> Mark 9: 2-10				
7 August 2021 – Saturday		21 August 2021 – Saturday	28 August 2021 – Saturday	
<b>First Reading:</b> Deuteronomy 6: 4-13		<b>First Reading:</b> Ruth 2: 1-3, 8-11; 4: 13-17	<b>First Reading:</b> First Thessalonians 4: 9-11	
<b>Responsorial Psalm:</b> Psalms 18: 2-3a, 3c-4, 47 and 51		<b>Responsorial Psalm:</b> Psalms 128: 1b-2, 3, 4, 5	<b>Responsorial Psalm:</b> Psalms 98: 1, 7-8, 9	
<b>Gospel:</b> Matthew 17: 14-20		<b>Gospel:</b> Matthew 23: 1-12	<b>Gospel:</b> Matthew 25: 14-30	

The Assumption is the oldest feast day of Our Lady, but we don't know how it first came to be celebrated.

Its origin is lost in those days when Jerusalem was restored as a sacred city, at the time of the Roman Emperor Constantine (c. 285-337). By then it had been a pagan city for two centuries, ever since Emperor Hadrian (76-138) had leveled it around the year 135 and rebuilt it as *Aelia Capitolina* in honor of Jupiter.

For 200 years, every memory of Jesus was obliterated from the city, and the sites made holy by His life, death and Resurrection became pagan temples.

After the building of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in 336, the sacred sites began to be restored and memories of the life of Our Lord began to be celebrated by the people of Jerusalem. One of the memories about his mother centered around the "Tomb of Mary," close to Mount Zion, where the early Christian community had lived.

On the hill itself was the "Place of Dormition," the spot of Mary's "falling asleep," where she had died. The "Tomb of Mary" was where she was buried.

At this time, the "Memory of Mary" was being celebrated. Later it was to become our feast of the Assumption.

For a time, the "Memory of Mary" was marked only in Palestine, but then it was extended by the emperor to all the churches of the East. In the seventh century, it began to be celebrated in Rome under the title of the "Falling Asleep" ("Dormitio") of the Mother of God.

Soon the name was changed to the "Assumption of Mary," since there was more to the feast than her dying. It also proclaimed that she had been taken up, body and soul, into heaven.

That belief was ancient, dating back to the apostles themselves. What was clear from the beginning was that there were no relics of Mary to be venerated, and that an empty tomb stood on the edge of Jerusalem near the site of her death. That location also soon became a place of pilgrimage. (Today, the Benedictine Abbey of the Dormition of Mary stands on the spot.)

At the Council of Chalcedon in 451, when bishops from throughout the Mediterranean world gathered in Constantinople, Emperor Marcian asked the Patriarch of

Jerusalem to bring the relics of Mary to Constantinople to be enshrined in the capitol. The patriarch explained to the emperor that there were no relics of Mary in Jerusalem, that "Mary had died in the presence of the apostles; but her tomb, when opened later . . . was found empty and so the apostles concluded that the body was taken up into heaven."

In the eighth century, St. John Damascene was known for giving sermons at the holy places in Jerusalem. At the Tomb of Mary, he expressed the belief of the Church on the meaning of the feast: "Although the body was duly buried, it did not remain in the state of death, neither was it dissolved by decay. . . . You were transferred to your heavenly home, O Lady, Queen and Mother of God in truth."

All the feast days of Mary mark the great mysteries of her life and her part in the work of redemption. The central mystery of her life and person is her divine motherhood, celebrated both at Christmas and a week later (Jan. 1) on the feast of the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. The Immaculate Conception (Dec. 8) marks the preparation for that motherhood, so that she had the fullness of grace from the first moment of her existence, completely untouched by sin. Her whole being throbbed with divine life from the very beginning, readying her for the exalted role of mother of the Savior.



The Assumption completes God's work in her since it was not fitting that the flesh that had given life to God himself should ever undergo corruption. The Assumption is God's crowning of His work as Mary ends her earthly life and enters eternity. The feast turns our



SAINT JOSEPH FINANCIALS LAST MONTH AND YTD JULY 2021		ALL SAINTS FINANCIALS LAST MONTH AND YTD JULY 2021		RISEN LORD FINANCIALS LAST MONTH AND YTD JULY 2021	
INCOME	\$8,220.00	INCOME	\$5,174.25	INCOME	\$7,816.00
EXPENSES	\$5,547.27	EXPENSES	\$2,916.57	EXPENSES	\$3,338.74
NET +(-)	\$2,672.73	NET +(-)	\$2,257.68	NET +(-)	\$4,477.26
<b>YEAR TO DATE</b>		<b>YEAR TO DATE</b>		<b>YEAR TO DATE</b>	
INCOME	\$8,220.00	INCOME	\$5,174.25	INCOME	\$7,816.00
EXPENSES	\$5,547.27	EXPENSES	\$2,916.57	EXPENSES	\$3,338.74
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Source: PARISHSoft® Accounting State- ment of Activity FYTD through JULY 2021		Source: PARISHSoft® Accounting State- ment of Activity FYTD through JULY 2021		Source: PARISHSoft® Accounting State- ment of Activity FYTD through JULY 2021	

eyes in that direction, where we will follow when our earthly life is over.

The feast days of the Church are not just the commemoration of historical events; they do not look only to the past. They look to the present and to the future and give us an insight into our own relationship with God. The Assumption looks to eternity and gives us hope that we, too, will follow Our Lady when our life is ended.

In 1950, in the Apostolic Constitution *Munificentissimus Deus*, Pope Pius XII proclaimed the Assumption of Mary a dogma of the Catholic Church in these words: "The Immaculate Mother of God, the ever-virgin Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heaven."

With that, an ancient belief became Catholic doctrine and the Assumption was declared a truth revealed by God.

—Excerpted from Fr. Clifford Stevens in *Catholic Heritage*

In an age of sensuality and materialism the Assumption points out the dignity and destiny of our human body, extols the dignity of womanhood, and turns our eyes to the true life beyond the grave. At Mass today ask Mary for the grace to keep your mind fixed on things above and to aspire continually to be united with her and to be brought to the glory of the Resurrection.

## The Catholic Church dedicates the month of August to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

### Prayer in honor of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

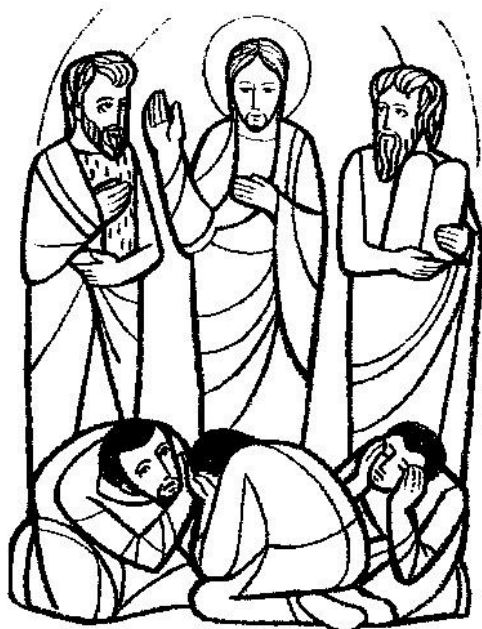
*O heart of Mary, mother of God, and our mother; heart most worthy of love, in which the adorable Trinity is ever well-pleased, worthy of the veneration and love of all the angels and of all men; heart most like to the Heart of Jesus, of which thou art the perfect image; heart, full of goodness, ever compassionate toward our miseries; deign to melt our icy hearts and grant that they may be wholly changed into the likeness of the Heart of Jesus, our divine Savior. Pour into them the love of thy virtues, enkindle in them that divine fire with which thou thyself dost ever burn. In thee let Holy Church find a safe shelter; protect her and be her dearest refuge, her tower of strength, impregnable against every assault of her enemies. Be thou the way which leads to Jesus, and the channel, through which we receive all the graces needful for our salvation. Be our refuge in time of trouble, our solace in the midst of trial, our strength against temptation, our haven in persecution, our present help in every danger and especially at the hour of death, when all hell shall let loose against us its legions to snatch away our souls, at that dread moment, that hour so full of fear, whereon our eternity depends. Ah, then most tender virgin, make us to feel the sweetness of thy motherly heart, and the might of thine intercession with Jesus, and open to us a safe refuge in that very fountain of mercy, whence we may come to praise Him with thee in paradise, world without end. Amen.*

In this prayer in honor of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, we ask the Blessed Virgin to guide us in our journey, so that we might receive the graces necessary to live virtuous lives and to persevere at the hour of our death.

## August 6, 2021 Feast of Transfiguration?

All three synoptic gospels tell the story of the transfiguration of Jesus (Matt. 17:1-13; Mark 9:3-13; Luke 9:28-36)—frequently a sign of the importance of an event from Jesus' life for the early Christian community. Its origin is debated. Some scholars say the transfiguration episode is really an

account of Jesus' resurrection which was moved to a different part of the gospels. Others think it has its roots in an actual visionary event of some kind.



Wherever it came from, the transfiguration is a highly symbolic story. Jesus took his inner circle of apostles—Peter, James, and John—up a mountain, which in the Bible

is a place of revelation, so it was clear something important was about to happen.

These three apostles then saw Jesus as part of another important trio, completed with Moses and Elijah, symbols of Israelite tradition. As if that weren't spectacular enough, the voice of God itself made an appearance, uttering two thundering phrases: "This is my Son" and "Listen to him."

Unfortunately, none of the apostles' reactions showed that they understood what had just happened. First of all, they were half-asleep when the whole thing started—not the last time that would happen at a key moment. They were also terrified to the point of talking nonsense about building shelters for the holy figures. Then on the way down they started an off-topic debate about the resurrection and Elijah.

What the apostles didn't grasp right away was the significance of the fact that Moses and Elijah were "talking with" Jesus. This sacred conversation identified Jesus with the law and the prophets. It showed how Jesus had the same authority as these two pillars of Israel's tradition and how that authority came from the same God. To leave no doubt, God's voice drove home the point with words heard at an earlier affirmation of Jesus' status, his baptism: "This is my son, the beloved" (Matt. 3:17).

What the apostles also didn't get at first was that they couldn't stay on the mountain. One can sympathize with their desire for such a wondrous break from the difficult path of discipleship. Down the mountain and back to that task, however, they had to go.

The Gospel of Luke adds a delicious detail: Moses and Elijah had been speaking with Jesus "of his exodus that he was going to accomplish in Jerusalem." His exodus? That loaded word points back to the sometimes arduous journey of following Jesus, and that's what the transfiguration is about. It's wonderful to find inspiration in a shining vision of Jesus, but the message to the church then and now is that witnessing glory is one thing, following is another. After the vision is over, you look up and see, as the apostles did, "Jesus only," and you realize that, to get to the further glory of eternal life, you have to follow him to the cross.

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