

FEAST OF ASSUMPTION-2019

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."

This story illustrates the intercessory power of mother Mary. Due to her intercession even the hardened sinners who do not qualify to go to heaven can also get a grace of conversion and enter into heaven.

And in the feast of Assumption we celebrate how Mary herself was assumed into heaven body and soul. It is a celebration of God's saving power in Mary. She is the first fruit of Christ's redemptive works.

On November 1, 1950, Pius XII defined the Assumption of Mary to be a dogma of faith:

“We pronounce, declare and define it to be a divinely revealed dogma that the immaculate Mother of God, the ever-Virgin Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul to heavenly glory.”

Even before this declaration by Pope, The Catholics around the world have been celebrating the feast of Assumption on August 15 for hundreds of years.

We have no real knowledge of the day, year, and manner of Our Lady's death. The dates which have been assigned to her death vary between three and fifteen years after Christ's Ascension. Mary's tomb was presumably found in Jerusalem. It is believed that Mary died in the presence of all the Apostles, but that after her burial, her tomb, when opened, was found empty. Therefore, they concluded that her body had been taken up (assumed) into heaven.

Because Mary was never touched by the effects of Original Sin, and because she never chose to sin, she didn't suffer the corruption of her body. Because her body bore the second person of the Trinity. Her body was temple of the Holy Spirit in perfect sense, it is inconceivable that God would allow her body to go through the decay and decomposition after her death. So, she was assumed into heaven body and soul.

Mary's Assumption gives us the assurance and hope of our own resurrection and assumption into Heaven on the day of our Last Judgment. It is a sign to us that someday, through God's grace and our good life, we, too, will join the Blessed Mother in giving glory to God.

Since Mary's Assumption was a reward for her saintly life, this feast reminds us that we, too, must be pure and holy in body and soul, since our bodies will be glorified on the day of our resurrection. St. Paul tells us that our bodies are the temples of God because the Holy Spirit dwells within us. He also reminds us that our bodies are members (parts) of the Body of Christ.

And the best way to increase our devotion to Mary and make use of her intercessory powers to get into heaven will the Rosary.

May be if we continue to say rosary, either here in the church or privately, saying

“Pray for us sinners now and the time of our death.” there is better chance that Our mother Mary could be at our death bed. And through her intercessory prayers, we may get a grace of conversion even at the last minute and enter into heaven as the story I told illustrates.