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AUGUST 16, 2026

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST
[PAGE 425 IN THE BOOK OF OFFERING]

The liturgy this week is offered for

HEALING AND A FULL RECOVERY FOR PAUL MAROON
REQUESTED BY THE NAPLES CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

MARONITE DIVINE LITURGY

SUNDAY, 9:30 A.M.
St. Agnes Chapel
7775 Vanderbilt Beach Road
Naples, Florida

WEDNESDAY, 12:00 NOON
Saint Peter the Apostle Catholic Church
5130 Rattlesnake Hammock Road
Naples, Florida

CONFESSION
Father will hear confessions
30 minutes before and 30 minutes after Mass.

MASS REQUESTS
To request a Mass for someone
or some special intention,
please email your request to
Father@NaplesMaronite.org

EPISTLE

1 CORINTHIANS 3:1-11

Brothers, I could not talk to you as spiritual people, but as fleshly people, as infants in Christ. I fed you milk, not solid food, because you were unable to take it. Indeed, you are still not able, even now, for you are still of the flesh. While there is jealousy and rivalry among you, are you not of the flesh, and behaving in an ordinary human way? Whenever someone says, "I belong to Paul," and another, "I belong to Apollos," are you not merely human? What is Apollos, after all, and what is Paul? Ministers through whom you became believers, just as the Lord assigned each one. I planted, Apollos watered, but God caused the growth. Therefore, neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who causes the growth. The one who plants and the one who waters are equal, and each will receive wages in proportion to his labor. For we are God's co-workers; you are God's field, God's building. According to the grace of God given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building upon it. But each one must be careful how he builds upon it, for no one can lay a foundation other than the one that is there, namely, Jesus Christ.

GOSPEL

LUKE 8:1-15



Afterward he journeyed from one town and village to another, preaching and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. Accompanying him were the Twelve and some women who had been cured of evil spirits and infirmities, Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, Joanna, the wife of Herod's steward Chuza, Susanna, and many others who provided for them out of their resources. When a large crowd gathered, with people from one town after another journeying to him, he spoke in a parable. "A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path and was trampled, and the birds of the sky ate it up. Some seed fell on rocky ground, and when it grew, it withered for lack of moisture. Some seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew with

it and choked it. And some seed fell on good soil, and when it grew, it produced fruit a hundredfold." After saying this, he called out, "Whoever has ears to hear ought to hear." Then his disciples asked him what the meaning of this parable might be. He answered, "Knowledge of the mysteries of the kingdom of God has been granted to you; but to the rest, they are made known through parables so that 'they may look but not see, and hear but not understand.' "This is the meaning of the parable. The seed is the word of God. Those on the path are the ones who have heard, but the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts that they may not believe and be saved. Those on rocky ground are the ones who, when they hear, receive the word with joy, but they have no root; they believe only for a time and fall away in time of trial. As for the seed that fell among thorns, they are the ones who have heard, but as they go along, they are choked by the anxieties and riches and pleasures of life, and they fail to produce mature fruit. But as for the seed that fell on rich soil, they are the ones who, when they have heard the word, embrace it with a generous and good heart, and bear fruit through perseverance.



THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER.
Ely Cathedral, Cambridgeshire, UK
Photo by Fr. Lawrence Lew, OP, via Flickr

THE ASSUMPTION OF MARY

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

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LAST SUNDAY'S NUMBERS

Attendance: 34
Collection: \$395.00

When you are out of town, you can still donate to the collection by using this link.
<https://naplesmaronite.org/donate>

We are grateful for all your generous financial support. The bank has requested that all checks must be made out to
Naples Maronite Catholic Community, Inc.

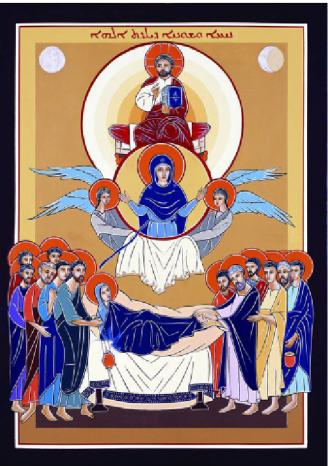
SAINTS FOR THIS WEEK

- 16 St. Roch, M
- 17 St. Myron of Cyzicus, M
- 18 The Letter of King Abgar to Christ
- 19 St. Luke of Baalbek, M
- 20 St. Bernard, Doctor of the Church, C
- 21 Samuel the Prophet
- 22 St. Symphorian, M

A NOTE FROM DEACON STEVEN

In your kindness and prayers, please ask for healing for Paul Maroon. He had surgery earlier in the week and we pray that our divine physician will bring him back to full health. Thank you all.

The Assumption, continued from page 2



THE ASSUMPTION - DORMITION OF MARY
written by Fr. Abdo Badawi.
Courtesy of St. Joseph Maronite Church, Waterville, Maine

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. 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."

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



THE ASSUMPTION OF MARY. The Maronite Icons: Modern Sacred Art. Dar Sader Publishers: Beirut 1999. Via Maronite Heritage.com/icons

WISDOM FROM THIS WEEK'S SAINTS

Mary is the violet of humility, the lily of chastity, the rose of charity.

There are those who seek knowledge for the sake of knowledge; that is Curiosity. There are those who seek knowledge to be known by others; that is Vanity. There are those who seek knowledge in order to serve; that is Love.

A saint is not someone who never sins, but one who sins less and less frequently and gets up more and more quickly.

St. Bernard of Clairvaux,
Feast day August 20



THANK YOU
FR. GEORGE YOUNES!
It was such a joy to welcome Abounna George for Sunday's divine liturgy. God bless you for being with us Abounna. You are always welcome In Naples at our mission!



WELCOME FATHER TOM!
We welcome back our good friend Fr. Tom this week and for the rest of August. Thank you, Abounna for being with us. We have missed you and are so grateful for your care!

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