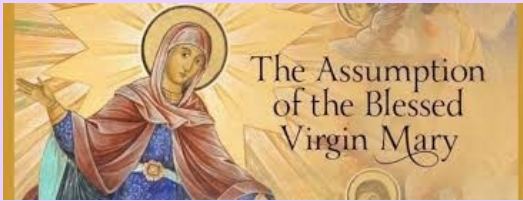


August 15, 2023



The Feast of the **Assumption of Mary** is a Christian feast that marks the Virgin Mary, the Mother of Jesus Christ, being taken up into heaven at the end of her life. It is a holy day of obligation for Catholics that is celebrated annually on **August 15**.

Some people **wrongly** believe Mary actively "ascended" into heaven by her own power (in the same way as Jesus Christ), but this is **not** supported by the Bible. Instead, Mary was "assumed", meaning taken into heaven by God.

Catholics believe that not only Mary's soul, but also her **body** were received into heaven. They hold that the decaying of the human body after death is caused by the **deceased's sins** committed during life. But, since **Mary** was **sinless**, it makes sense for her to have been **assumed bodily**.

Assumption Day is a very important day for the Catholic Church and for Catholics worldwide. It is one of the largest religious **festivals** and a public holiday in more than **40 countries**.

To celebrate the day, popular festivals, colorful street processions, and parades accompany the religious Assumption festivities. The faithful attend Mass, with the subject of the sermon usually being the Virgin Mary. Some services incorporate a **blessing** of the harvest. Despite the church **never** pointing to any tangible historical or explicit biblical support, and the Assumption **not** having been made a **dogma** (declared an article of faith) until **1950** the holiday has not only endured but has prospered to this day.

The feast is also known as the **Dormition** ("falling asleep", meaning death).

Hail Mary full of grace!