**Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

The 15th of August, an important day for our Parish

No later than 602 AD, this day is set aside to commemorate the Mary’s entrance into Heaven in the Christian Byzantine Empire.

- No later than 700 AD, this feast is well established and celebrated in Rome and elsewhere in Western Christendom.
- In 1534, the “Society of Jesus” was founded by St. Ignatius Loyola, St. Francis Xavier and five other men. Members of the Society are called “Jesuits” and our parish began as a mission church of the Jesuits.
- Is the feast of the Assumption, the namesake of the earlier “Conewago Chapel”
- In 1851, Archbishop Francis Kenrick of Philadelphia consecrated our church.
- In 1947, India achieved independence from Great Britain. (Our own Deacon Nobert Suresh is from India.)
- In 2012, the day that Monsignor George Rost died. He had served as the pastor of the Basilica from 1980-2000.

*(From Father Dwight) Reflection on the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary: August 15*

The Solemnity of the Assumption celebrates the Blessed Mother’s entrance into heavenly glory. The *Catechism* explains that Mary “was taken up body and soul into the glory of heaven, where she already shares in the glory of her Son’s Resurrection, anticipating the resurrection of all members of his Body” (CCC, 974).

Mary’s Assumption into heaven reminds us that life on earth is a pilgrimage to our ultimate destination. We prepare in hope for our own passage into eternal life by the choices we make today. When we choose to love and follow God in our daily lives, we strengthen our relationship with Him, and this relationship is the true meaning of heaven: “To live in heaven is ‘to be with Christ’” (CCC, 1025 citing S. Ambrose, *In Luc.*, 10, 121:PL 15 1834A.).

We can see how, throughout her life, the Blessed Mother continually chose to go deeper into her relationship with God. She modeled how to value and respect His precious gift of human life, from the moment of conception to its natural end.

In the Annunciation through her “yes,” Mary witnessed to the undeniable humanity of unborn children as she conceived and carried the Christ child in her womb. After the Annunciation having learned that her cousin Elizabeth was with child, she went with haste to her aide.

Our Blessed Mother shows us how we can prepare for our own transition from this life to the next. Are we open to God’s precious gift of new life? How do we support expectant mothers and parents of young children? Do we prioritize showing our love and care for loved ones who are ill or aging? Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

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**Mass Intentions**

- **Sat. 5:30p.m.** Kathy Strausbaugh
- **Sun. 7:30a.m.** Keith A. Adams
- **10:00a.m.** The People of the Parish
- **Mon. 7:00p.m.** Katherine Sneeringer
- **Tues. 8:00a.m.** James Lawrence & family
- **Wed. 8:30a.m.** Warren & Loretta Carbaugh
- **Thurs. 8:00a.m.** George A. Smith
- **Fri. 8:00a.m.** Ron Smith
- **Sat. 5:30p.m.** Living & deceased members of William H. Smith Sr. and John Timmins family
- **Sun. 7:30a.m.** Msgr. Tom Smith
- **10:00a.m.** The People of the Parish

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**Offertory Procession**

- **Sat. Aug. 14th** 5:30p.m. Volunteers please
- **Sun. Aug. 15th** 7:30a.m. Rob & Karen Little
- **10:00a.m.** Volunteers please
- **Sat. Aug. 21st** 5:30p.m. Tom & Janet Myers
- **Sun. Aug. 22nd** 7:30a.m. Volunteers please
- **10:00a.m.** Volunteers please

Due to the Altars being renovated, the Church will be closed Monday during the day, but will be open for 7:00p.m. Mass, and closed Tuesday – Thursday after morning Mass. The Church will be open Friday.

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Every week we highlight a business that has advertised on our Bulletin. The money to advertise now comes directly to the Parish. Please remember to patronize our advertisers and let them know where you saw their advertisement. This week we would like to thank Hemler Family Eye Care for advertising in our Bulletin!

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**Catechism Registration Forms** are now available on our Parish website for the upcoming school year. Click on the “Faith Formation” tab. The first class will begin Wed. Sept. 22nd at 7:00p.m. in the School.

Mary's Assumption: A Sign of Good Things to Come

“For just as Jesus remained with us even after his ascension, so we too are already in heaven with him, even though what is promised us has not yet been fulfilled in our bodies.”

---Saint Augustine

Sermo de Ascensione Domini, Mai 98