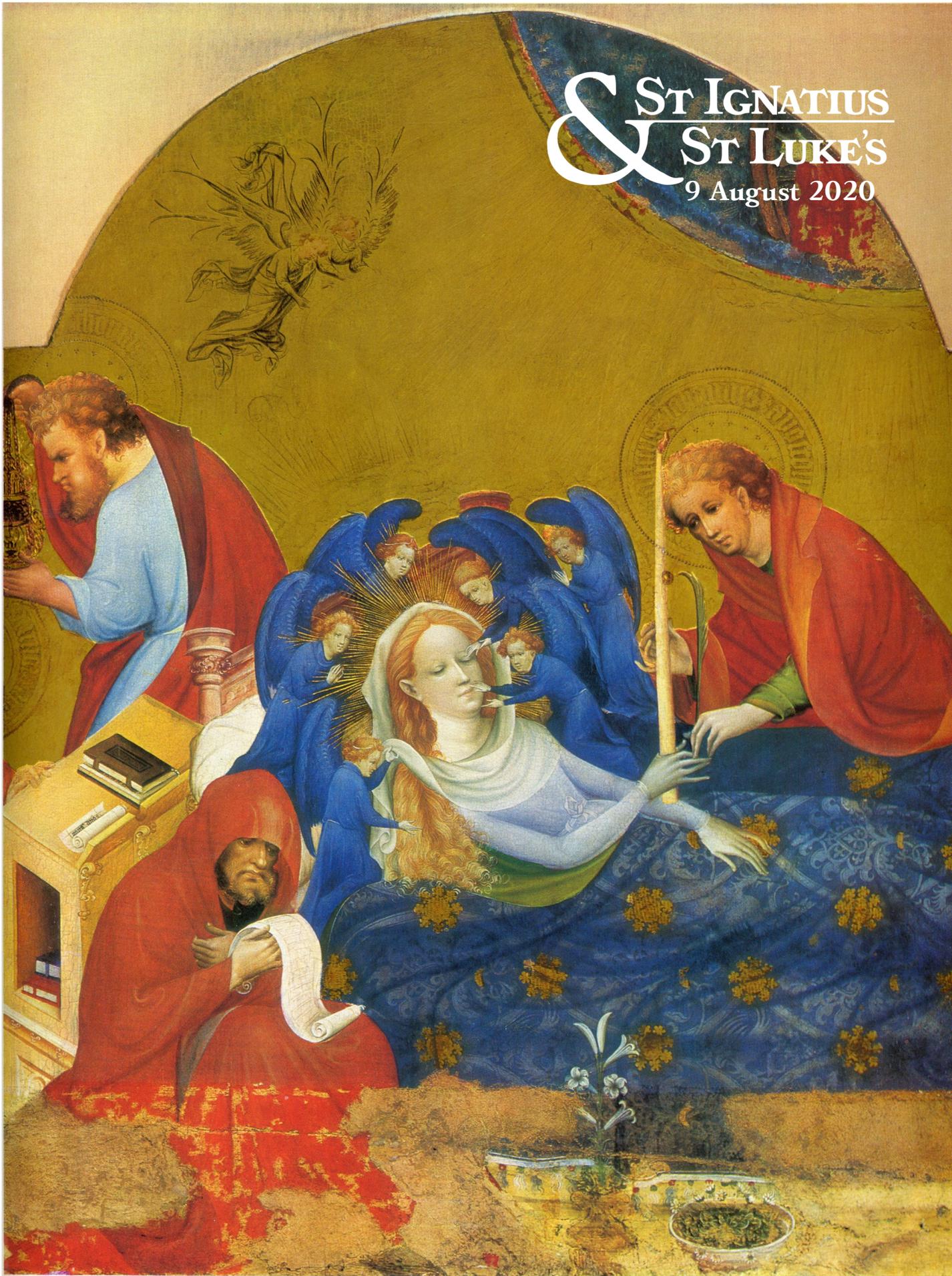


ST IGNATIUS
& ST LUKE'S
9 August 2020



THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Next Saturday, August 15th, is the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. While it is a holyday of obligation in the United States, as well as in many other countries, the obligation to assist at Mass on that day is abrogated this year because of its proximity to the Sunday observance.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church defines this great dogma:

The Most Blessed Virgin Mary, when the course of her earthly life was completed, 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 (974).

Although there was silence in the historical record concerning our Lady's death for the first few centuries of Christianity and no description of her death is contained in Sacred Scripture, an account of her end is given by St. John Damascene in a copy of a letter he preserved from a 5th century Patriarch of Jerusalem named Juvenalius to the Byzantine Empress Pulcheria. The Empress had apparently asked for relics of the most Holy Virgin Mary. Patriarch Juvenalius replied that, in accordance with ancient tradition, the body of the Mother of God had been taken to heaven upon her death, and he expressed surprise that the Empress was unaware of this fact (implying that it must have been more or less common knowledge in the Church at the time).

From the middle of the 5th century, a feast called "Commemoration of the Mother of God" was celebrated on August 15th in a shrine located near Jerusalem. Near the end of the 6th century this became a feast commemorating the end of Mary's sojourn on earth and was called the "Dormition of Our Lady." In the beginning of the 8th century, Pope Sergius introduced the feast into Rome together with three other feasts of the Blessed Virgin. From Rome it spread rapidly throughout western Europe. It was Pope Hadrian who, at the end of the 8th century, gave it the name of the "Assumption of St. Mary."

Certainly:

1. At no time in history has Christendom venerated a grave or tomb of the Blessed Virgin.
2. Until the 5th century of Christianity there was not even a legend concerning her place of burial.
3. There is absolutely no relic of Our Lady's body in existence; nor has any person or city ever claimed

possession of such a relic:

"From the earliest ages of the Church the faithful venerated the remains of the Saints, and in instances even strove for the honor of possessing them. Relics of the Apostles and of thousands of martyrs are preserved in richly adorned shrines and caskets. The sacred remains of Mary could not have been lost or neglected; that is a hypothesis which it would be impossible to entertain." (Father Canice, OFM Cap.).

4. In the first sixteen centuries of Christianity no reputable theologian or school of theology ever questioned the dogma of the Assumption. It is notable how theologians have been more unanimous in accepting the Assumption than the Immaculate Conception.

When Pope Pius IX defined the dogma of the Immaculate Conception in 1854, it drew attention to the possibility of a dogmatic definition of the Assumption. Both are truths not found explicitly in the Bible. Many began to petition the Apostolic See for its immediate definition. Between 1849 and 1940 more than 2,500 such petitions were received from bishops and superiors of religious orders. These represented 73% of the Catholic hierarchy. On May 1st, 1946, Pope Pius XII sent an Encyclical Letter (*"Deiparae Virginis"*) to all the bishops of the world asking them to make known to him the belief and devotion of themselves, their clergy, and their people regarding the Assumption. 1185 bishops answered that the dogma could safely be defined, and only 16 questioned the advisability of the proclamation at that time. It was therefore a quasi-unanimity. On November 1st of the Holy Year, 1950, the day after the closing of the 8th International Marian Congress, held that year in Rome, Pius XII solemnly defined the dogma of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary into heaven. This great event took place in the Piazza of St. Peter's in the presence of 40 Cardinals, 500 bishops, thousands of priests, and close to one million lay persons. The exact words of the dogma of faith definition, extracted from the Bull *"Munificentissimus Deus,"* were:

"Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory."

Just as Mary received Christ on earth, so Christ in turn received Mary in heaven. Having deigned to descend to her, it was fitting that he should raise her to himself in his glory.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

All who are suffering or sick and all caregivers who minister to the sick: Joe Coleman, John Hogan, Deirdre McQuade, Danny Hart, Amy Howard, Mary Morehead and family, Curtis Bailey, Leondre Massey, Sister Constance Ward, George Cochran, Mark Anthony Turner, Rachel Fisher, Patricia Ransom, Jacqueline Chancio, Beverly A. Woods, Kerianna Prather, Victoria P.; DKC, M.M., R.M., K.M., C.M., C.A., E.D., E.G., W.B., J.M., H.G., and J.G.

Please call or email the office to add a name to the prayer list.

Before calling, please be sure you have spoken to the person [or a member of his family] about adding the name—we do not want to inadvertently disregard someone's desire for privacy.

Names of those who are sick or suffering will be kept on the list for one month; to keep a name on the list for longer, you must email the parish office.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CLEARING THE PLAYGROUND

Last Sunday, volunteers started clearing out and sprucing up the playground after the 11 am Mass. They made great headway but there is more work to be done. Watch this space for details of the next workday, and email the office if you would like to get email notice of details of how you can help.

BIBLE STUDY HAS RESUMED

St. Ignatius Bible Study has resumed. Interested in learning more about your faith? Looking for a way to deepen your knowledge of Scripture? Join the group in the downstairs meeting room of the parish house, Wednesdays following the 9 am Mass in the chapel.

PEW PROJECT

The refinished sample pew is now back in place. And we are starting to take pledges and contributions for the refinishing of all the pews. Donation forms are available in the back of the church and in the auditorium entrance.

We have finished stripping the beadboard in the east wall of of the church, and are now working our way up the west wall. If you are interested in assisting in this work, usually on Monday each week, send an email to the office, and we will let you know when our workdays are scheduled.

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, 8 August

Anticipated Mass for Sunday

4:30 pm Susana Mercado + [Susie Martinez]

Sunday, 9 August

The Ninth Sunday after Trinity

8 am Pro populo

9:30 am Ellen Donovan [Jane Slattery]

11 am Edward Guinivan and companions

Monday, 10 August

Lawrence, Deacon and Martyr

9 am *no public mass*

Tuesday, 11 August

Clare, Virgin

9 am Anne and Russ White

Wednesday, 12 August

Jane Frances de Chantal, Religious

9 am Patrick Donovan [Jane Slattery]

Thursday, 13 August

Pontian, Pope, and Hippolytus, Priest, Martyrs

9 am Fr. Matt Whitehead

Friday, 14 August

Maximilian Mary Kolbe, Priest and Martyr

9 am Msgr. William J. O'Donnell +

Saturday, 15 August

THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

4:30 pm Helen Macko Michalco + [Rebecca Michalco]

Sunday, 16 August

The Tenth Sunday after Trinity

8 am Pro populo

9:30 am Ellen Donovan [Jane Slattery]

11 am Buddy Walker +

and those who mourn him [Maggen and Chad Dixon]

St. Ignatius Finance Council

Florian Hocke - *Co-Chair*

Jackie Chancio

Deacon Clark Glenn

Joseph Somerville

Clifford Woods

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