

Dear Friends in Christ,

Today we celebrate the fact that Mary was assumed, body and soul, into heaven. Christians in both the East and the West have a long tradition of celebrating the dormition (“falling asleep”) of Mary. In large part because of these long-standing liturgical traditions, Pope Pius XII defined the doctrine of the Assumption of Mary on Nov. 1, 1950. In his encyclical *Munificentissimus Deus* (Generous God), he also cited Mary’s intimate connection with her Son – the new Adam – and his victory over sin and death.

To understand the end of Mary’s life, one will have to fully appreciate the beginning of it. From the moment of her otherwise normal conception by Saint Anne and Saint Joachim, Mary was free from sin (the Immaculate Conception). The Holy Spirit was preparing her by his grace so that she would be capable of welcoming the Son of God. Years later, when the Angel Gabriel approached this young maiden from Nazareth, her obedient “yes” was made possible by her deep faith.

Convinced that *nothing will be impossible for God* (Lk 1:37), Mary sets off to visit her cousin, Elizabeth. In today’s Gospel (the Saturday Vigil has different readings), Elizabeth names Mary as *blessed among women* and identifies her as *the mother of my Lord*. Indeed, the baby in her womb who leaped for joy was destined to become the greatest prophet to recognize the Messiah – John the Baptist.

And how does Mary respond to her cousin’s greeting? She responds in prayer. *My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my Savior for he has looked on his lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed: the Almighty has done great things for me and holy is his Name.* She gives all the glory to God! She goes on to name all that God has done to raise up the lowly. This must have been typical of Mary. If prayer is communion with God, she must have developed a life-long habit of prayer; and when she is in ultimate communion with the God she was carrying in her womb, how much easier it was to sing God’s praise. This “Magnificat,” or “Canticle of Mary,” is one of the most ancient Christian hymns. It is modeled after similar songs of praise in the Old Testament. We still use it in our liturgies, particularly at Evening Prayer.

Our life of faith, too, must be sustained in prayer – both personal and communal prayer. Our participation in the liturgy both expresses and nourishes our faith. Making

time in our day for personal prayer, too, enables us to appreciate God’s abiding presence and places us in deeper communion with him. If we follow Mary’s example – a routine of prayer, a habit of praise, and a total submission to God’s will – we will join in her heavenly reward.

Yours in Christ Jesus,
Fr. Marco

CHILDREN’S FAITH FORMATION REGISTRATION

Registration for the 2021-2022 school year is as follows:

Saturday, August 21st:

9 am to 5 pm: Open to ALL students

Sunday, August 22nd and 29th:

11:30 am to 3:30 pm: Returning Students ONLY

Tuesday, August 24th:

2 pm to 7 pm: NEW students, Homeschool students and Catholic School students in grades 2, 7 and 8 (or hoping to receive First Communion this year). By Appointment only. Please call 301-863-8793 or email cff@ihmrcc.org to make an appointment.

BACKPACK BLESSING Back to school is soon! Please bring in your backpacks to a weekend Mass on August 28th or 29th for a blessing on the backpacks and for the upcoming school year.

75th ANNIVERSARY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED We are looking for volunteers for the 75th Anniversary Celebration Planning Committee. If you are interested, please call the parish office at 301-863-8144.

KNOWLEDGEABLE OF PARISH HISTORY? As part of that 75th Anniversary celebration, we are hoping to print a parish history book. If you have knowledge of memorable parish events and other history, or would like to help compile the book please contact the parish office at 301-863-8144 or speak with Fr. Marco.

CATHOLIC GRANDPARENTS ASSOCIATION “To Help Grandparents pass on the Faith and to keep prayer at the heart of Family Life.” The Catholic Grandparents Association (CGA) is a global organization of the faithful. A new chapter will soon be established at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church. The CGA acts as a prayer and support group for Grandparents. Grandparents have a unique vocation that must be fostered and cherished in the spirit of Saints Joachim and Anne, the grandparents of Jesus and parents of Mary. Please accept our invitation for the first meeting soon TBA. Saints Joachim and Anne, Pray for us! Please contact James or Malani Baker for further information and to leave your contact info. Please call 301-247-6229.

ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY



August 16 — August 22

Monday	Judge 2:11-19/Ps 106:34-37, 39-40, 43-44/ Matt 19:16-22
9:00 am	Frank Chan (D)
Tuesday	Judge 6:11-24/Ps 85:9, 11-14/ Matt 19:23-30
5:30 pm	Msgr. Henry Otero-Diago (D)
Wednesday	Judge 9:6-15/Ps 21:2-7/ Matt 20:1-16
9:00 am	Eleanor Marie Holland (D)
Thursday	Judge 11:29-39/Ps 40:5, 7-10/ Matt 22:1-14
5:30 pm	Hannah Thompson (L)
Friday	Ruth 1:1, 3-6, 14-16, 22/Ps 146:5-10/ Matt 22:34-40
9:00 am	Robert Bahl (D)
Saturday	Ruth 2:1-3, 8-11; 4:13-17/Ps 128:1-5/ Matt 23:1-12
9:00 am	Devin DeChello (L)
4:00 pm	Mary Stevens (L)
Sunday	Josh 24:1-2, 15-18/Ps 34:2-3, 16-21/ Eph 5:21-32/Jn 6:60-69
8:30 am	All IHM Parishioners
11:15 am	Charis Joy Thompson (L)
1:00 pm	William Flores Trujillo (D)

BULLETIN DEADLINE Please email your submission to bulletin@ihmrcc.org by Wednesday at 10 am prior to the Sunday of publication. All entries are subject to editing.

THANK YOU! To Nicolletti's Pizza for dedicating a day of their fundraising month to Immaculate Heart of Mary.

LAZARUS COMMITTEE If interested in joining the Lazarus committee or for more information, please contact Pat at 301-863-5133 or Linda at 301-862-4180.

LOCK IN The Lock In for both the Pre-Confirmation and Confirmation classes will be on Saturday, August 21st from 10 am until 6:30 pm. To RSVP or for more information call 301-904-8784 or email williamwaldron@md.metrocast.net

CHOIR PRACTICE The IHM Adult Choir will be starting practice again on Wednesday, August 18th. Practices are Wednesdays in the church from 7 pm to 8:30 pm. This group is open to anyone from High School on up, with some music reading ability. Come and share your talents with your parish family! Questions? Call Mary at 240-434-8876.

RETREAT FOR PARENTS WHOSE CHILDREN ARE AWAY FROM THE CHURCH Parents are invited to join St. Catherine and St. Ignatius Parish in Port Tobacco, MD for an in person retreat for parents whose children are away from the Church. The retreat will be held on September 18th from 8:00am – 2:30pm and will include prayer, hope-filled talks, small and large group discussions, and witness talks. The cost of the retreat is \$10.00 per person with breakfast and lunch included. To register email the parish at stcatherine-alexandria.md@adw.org or call 301-934-9630 or click here for online registrations.

FIRST TUESDAY COFFEE The next First Tuesday Coffee will be held on Tuesday, September 7th from 9 am until 11 am in the church hall, bring a friend and a non-perishable item for the food pantry.



ALMOST IMMACULATE IHM THRIFT STORE is in need of help! Please stop by the store during operating hours to check out what we do. Then, if you want to help, please contact Deacon Mike 240-542-8369. We are located in the Kerr House (white building at the street entrance). The thrift store is open Fridays from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm, and Saturdays from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Donations (no clothing) accepted during those hours. The thrift shop supports the food pantry and our local community, so stop by and see what you can do!

IHM MUSIC MINISTRY If you are interested in sharing your musical talents with the parish, there is a place for you in this ministry! Please call Mary at 240-434-8876 (leave a message!).

PLEASE PRAY FOR

THE SICK

THAT THEY MAY BE RESTORED TO FULL HEALTH

Audrey Somers, Louise Shafer, Helen Daye, Kathleen Floyd, Mary Oliver, Judith Ann Allgood, Vince Guerin, Jane Keyon, Linda F. Gieser, Jim Brown, Ralph Gough Sr., Betty LePore, Dinnette Briscoe, Bill Wagoner, Paula Coxon, Vincent Campanella, Ray Dion, Joseph Hugh Weiland

Please note: names will remain on this list for two months, unless otherwise notified. To keep a name on the list, please resubmit by contacting bulletin@ihmrcc.org, or call the Parish Office.

PAPAL PRAYER INTENTION FOR AUGUST

Let us pray for the Church, that She may receive from the Holy Spirit the grace and strength to reform herself in the light of the Gospel.

Follow us on



AUGUST 14 & 15, 2021

CRAB FEAST Loyola Retreat House is hosting a Crab Feast on Sunday, September 12th from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm. Come enjoy all you can eat on site: Crabs, chicken, hamburgers, hotdogs, corn on the cob and more! Beer, Soda, and water will be available as well. Early Bird-Adult tickets are \$50, Children 7-12 are \$35, 6 and under are free. After September 1st, all tickets are \$65. To make reservations, go to www.loyolaonthepotomac.com or call 301-392-0806.

PRE LABOR DAY DRIVE-THRU DINNER St. Peter Claver is hosting a drive-thru dinner on Sunday, September 5th from 12:00 noon to 6:00 pm. Included in the dinner is BBQ Pork, Fried Fish and Fried Chicken with parsley potatoes, green beans, coleslaw, beets and a roll. Each dinner is only \$28.00 when prepaid by August 22nd. To order dinner either to www.stpeterclaverchurch.org (donation tab) or call 301-872-5460 (Parish Office) for special arrangements.

ST. JOHN'S SCHOOL CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT On Saturday, September 11th. Competitive and social tournaments are available. Prizes, raffles, food, drinks, and more! Cost is \$40 per social team, \$60 per competitive team. Competitive check-in begins at 10 a.m. Social check-in begins at 2 p.m. Sponsorships available! For more information you can send an email to sjscornholetournament@sjshollywood.org.

CAMP MARIA RAFFLE First prize is 5,000.00, Second prize \$1,500 and third prize is \$500. Tickets are \$25 each and five tickets for \$100. Only 800 tickets will be sold. The drawing will take place at the Camp Maria Annual Oyster Scald on Sunday, October 10th at Camp Maria Retreat Center. You need not be present to win, but we'd love to see you at the Oyster Scald. There are several options to purchase tickets. You may go to www.campmaria.org and make a purchase or you may complete and mail in the attached order form with money for tickets to Camp Maria Retreat Center, 41290 Camp Maria Rd, Leonardtown MD 20650.

DINNER DANCE St. George Catholic Church will be having a fundraising evening of food and fun is planned for Friday, August 27. Come join us for a spaghetti dinner followed by a participatory modern square dance demo. Cost is \$10. Dinner: 6:30 – 7:30. Dance: 7:45 – 9:00. Please email Jim at jimcooney13@gmail.com so enough food and drinks are on hand. Event will be held at the St. George Community Center 19197 St. George's Church Road Valley Lee, Maryland 20692.

YOU DON'T DESERVE TO BE ABUSED Domestic violence refers to a pattern of violent and coercive behavior by one adult over another in an intimate relationship. It can consist of repeated severe beatings or subtle forms of abuse, including threats and control. If you experience any form of abuse, please know that there is help. Call the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-7233. To learn more about domestic violence, please visit www.catholiccharitiesdc.org/familypeace.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL OF IHM Our food pantry provides food to those who need assistance. We'd like to have you help us bag groceries from the food in our food pantry for our clients, or to pick up food from grocery stores in our area that donate to us. We do this throughout the week, excluding weekends. We have meetings just once a month. If you'd like to volunteer in our food pantry, please call 301-863-8193 on Mondays, Wednesdays or Fridays from 8:30 to 11:30 am, which is when the pantry is open. Leave your name and number and we will work to get you started as soon as you'd like.

HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE WITH FR. JACK Fr. Jack Kennealy, Pastor of St. Matthias in Lanham, MD and former IHM pastor, is leading a tour to the Holy Land May 22-June 2, 2022. Major biblical sites including Jerusalem, the Dead Sea, Mt. Carmel, Mt. Tabor, the Sea of Galilee, Bethlehem, are included. The cost is \$4,280, which includes hotel, airfare, and many meals. For additional information, please e-mail kennealyj@adw.org.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES As our region reopens after the devastating coronavirus pandemic, now is the time to give back to our community members! Until September 15th, Catholic Charities is recruiting dedicated individuals to make a once-a-week, yearlong commitment to serve as mentors, pro bono professionals, behind-the-scenes supporters, and more! Learn more and apply on our website: Say Yes!: Fall Call for Volunteers.

YOUNG ADULT SWING DANCE Young adults aged 18-30 are invited by the St. Francis de Sales Young Adults to a swing dance on Friday, August 20th from 5 pm until 10:30 pm at 105 Vianney Ln, Prince Frederick, MD. There is a \$10 entrance fee. There is Free parking and snack and drinks will be available. For more information, Text 443-404-3078.

August 15, 2021

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab | 1 Cor 15:20-27 | Lk 1:39-56

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

There are very few things in this world that are perfectly united, though many attempts have been made, think peanut butter and chocolate, Batman and Robin. But there is one example, and that is the Blessed Virgin Mary is perfectly united with Jesus' life and redemptive work. Though fully human, she is completely without sin – she is, as we pray in echoing God's angel, "full of grace." Thus she shares, as we do, in Christ's heavenly destiny but with an immediacy that we do not have. Upon her death she was instantly assumed into heavenly glory, body and soul, as the first of all the faithful who will eventually join with Christ in eternity upon death and purification. In celebrating this great Solemnity, the Church celebrates what lies ahead for those of us who imitate Mary's total trust in God. She had complete faith in God and his promises, and is a living example of the power and generosity of our God. We can follow her lead, engaging in a life of witness (proclaiming God's greatness) and gratitude (have a rejoicing spirit) for the sake of the world.

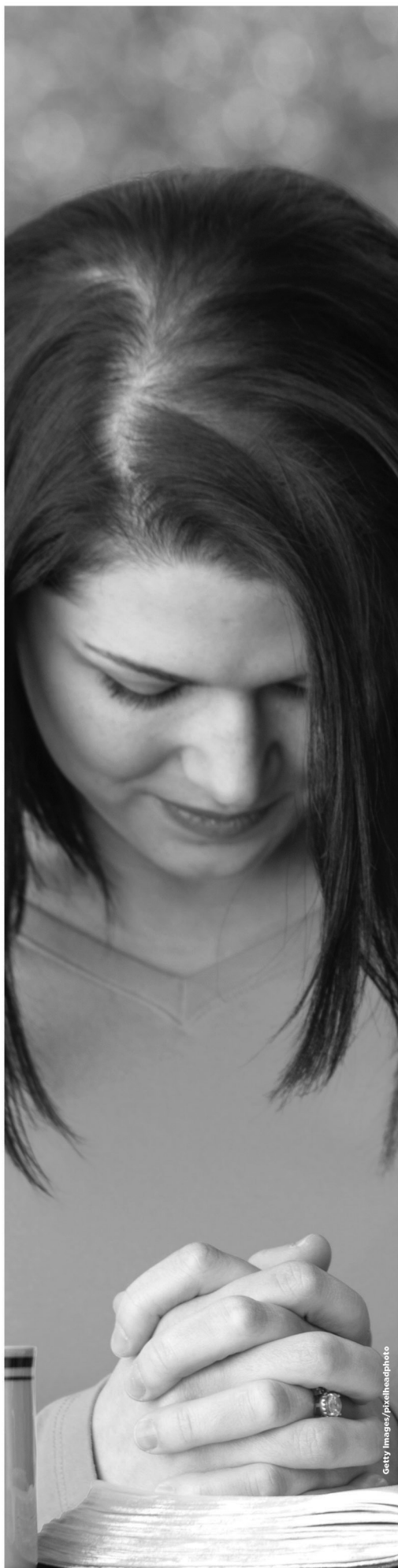
GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Sometimes, when hearing or talking about Mary's *fiat*, I first see it as a "yes" in modern, human terms. "Yes, I'll serve on that committee." "Yes, I'll organize that party." "Yes, I'll stay late to finish that project." It doesn't take long for our little "yesses" to turn into an adamant "Noooooooooooo," also known as burnout. Thankfully, Mary's yes was far more than just an acquiescence to a small request – it was the commitment of her entire self to the choice God had placed before her. And she was rewarded with a special seat in heaven near her Son. In today's Gospel, Elizabeth immediately recognizes the true meaning of Mary's *fiat*: "Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled." What can we learn from Mary's example? We can learn trust. We don't need to sign up for every volunteer opportunity (though volunteering is a great and worthwhile thing to do), but we can say "yes" to what God is asking of us according to the gifts and graces he has given us. Through daily prayer and seeking the intercession of Mary and Jesus, we can grow closer to the Lord and prepare ourselves for the day we meet Jesus and Mary face to face.

PRAY A lot of misunderstanding surrounds Catholic devotion to Mary.

We do not worship Mary – that is reserved for God alone. Yet we do revere her and honor her unique and important role in God's saving plan. Pray the Magnificat or the Rosary, paying close attention to their scriptural foundation and what was happening in the "stories" within those Scriptures.



Getty Images/Pixelpointphoto