

Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (2026)

Today the Church celebrates one of the most beautiful mysteries of our faith: the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary into heaven, body and soul.

This feast is not only about Mary. It is also about Jesus Christ, the victory of His Resurrection, and the destiny that God desires for each one of us.

The readings today invite us to contemplate Mary under three titles: **the Ark of the New Covenant, the Woman Clothed with the Sun, and the Mother who reigns with her Son in heaven.**

Mary, the Ark of the New Covenant

The Book of Chronicles describes the transfer of the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem. The ark was Israel's most sacred object because it signified God's presence among His people.

St. Luke deliberately echoes that Old Testament story. Mary travels to the hill country of Judea. She remains with Elizabeth for about three months. Elizabeth is filled with such great joy that her son leaps in her womb.

These details are not accidental.

They remind us of King David's encounter with the Ark. David danced before the Ark with joy, and now John the Baptist leaps before Mary with joy.

The old Ark carried the stone tablets of the Law, the manna from the desert, and Aaron's priestly staff. Mary carries Jesus Christ within her, the fulfillment of the Law, the Bread of Life, and the Eternal High Priest.

Mary is the true Ark of the Covenant because she bears God Himself.

Yet she does not keep this gift to herself. Immediately after receiving Christ, she hastens to serve Elizabeth. Wherever Mary goes, she brings Jesus. Wherever Jesus is present, there is joy, grace, and blessing.

Mary, the Woman Clothed with the Sun

In the Book of Revelation, St. John sees "a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars."

His magnificent vision points us toward heaven. It reveals Mary in her glory.

The sun represents the glory of God that surrounds her. The crown of twelve stars points to the People of God, the twelve tribes of Israel and the Church, built on the foundation of the twelve Apostles. The moon beneath her feet signifies victory over mortality and death.

She is therefore a sign of hope for the Church. When we look at Mary, we see what God desires for all His faithful children.

Mary in Heaven, Body and Soul

As we honor Mary today, we are also reminded of our own destiny. We are pilgrims on a journey. We experience struggles, temptations, disappointments, and suffering. We live amid the ongoing battle between good and evil.

Conclusion

Today, then, let us fix our eyes upon Mary.

Let us see in her the New Ark who brings Christ into the world.

Let us see in her the Woman Clothed with the Sun, radiant with God's glory.

Let us see in her the Mother, assumed body and soul into heaven, already sharing fully in the victory of her Son.

And may we one day join her in the heavenly Jerusalem, where, together with all the saints, we shall behold the face of God forever.

Amen.