



**Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
August 15, 2021**

**Revelation 11: 19A; 12: 1-6a, 10ab • I Corinthians 15: 20-27
Gospel of Luke 1: 39-56**

Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?"

For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."

And Mary said:

*"My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord;
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior
for he has looked with favor 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.*

*He has mercy on those who fear him
in every generation.*

*He has shown the strength of his arm,
and has scattered the proud in their conceit.
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,
and has lifted up the lowly.*

*He has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.*

*He has come to the help of his servant Israel
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
the promise he made to our fathers,
to Abraham and his children forever."*

Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS – POINTING TO MARY

In the reading from Revelation, our Church sees the woman in this vision as the Virgin Mary. She boldly faces the red dragon, the symbol of chaos. Salvation comes through Christ her Son. St. Paul offers a thesis: at the end of time, everyone ever created will rise from the dead, along with “those who belong to Christ.” We know and believe that Our Lady belonged to Christ. In the Gospel, Elizabeth and Mary pronounce the meaning of Jesus in God’s plan of salvation. We also see the role of Mother Mary, the dwelling place of the Lord, the servant of the Lord. She carried a child, took care of her family, remained faithful to God in prayer and traditions, and served her relatives and those around her just as we do today. Mary teaches that to rejoice in the Lord, we must know Him, and prayer is our pathway. The Magnificat, from Luke’s Gospel, is an element of Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer.

LIVING THE GOSPEL - TO FIND YOUR “MISSION”

Bishop Robert Barron reflects on the Gospel - *“I’ve always been fascinated by Mary’s “haste” in this story of the Visitation. Upon hearing the message of Gabriel concerning her own pregnancy and that of her cousin, Mary “proceeded in haste into the hill country of Judah” to see Elizabeth.*

Why did she go with such speed and purpose? Because she had found her mission, her role in the theo-drama. We are dominated today by the ego-drama in all of its ramifications and implications. ... The theo-drama is the great story being told by God, the great play being directed by God. What makes life thrilling is to discover your role in it. [Mary] has found her role—indeed a climactic role—in the theo-drama, and she wants to conspire with Elizabeth, who has also discovered her role in the same drama. Like Mary, we have to find our place in God’s story.”

1. Can you think of a time when you acted in haste? How did that work out for you? What propelled you to act?
2. Can you think of a time when you discovered your “purpose”, your “mission” – what was your reaction then? Haste? Hesitation?
3. Maybe you answered the above for one of your many vocations (parenthood, married life, coach, occupation) – what about your call as a disciple? As Bishop Barron points out like Mary, how do you work to find your place in God’s story? Who else is in your story (your “Elizabeths”)?

PRAY FOR THE INTERCESSION OF MARY

“On this Feast of the Assumption of Mary, the Church commemorates her being “taken up body and soul to the glory of heaven” (“Munificentissimus Deus,” No. 40). We join with the faithful throughout the world calling upon Mary’s great intercessory power before the very throne of the Living God to intercede for our world and its suffering; our Church in its call to discipleship; and our families, that like the Holy Family, they may grow in wisdom and grace.” – Fr. Charlie Mitchell, Bulletin, August 15, 2021

CATECHISM NOTES: What does our Church teach about the Assumption of Mary – the event contemplated in the fourth glorious mystery? Pope John Paul II said that the Assumption truly was an event of love, in which Mary’s ardent longing to be with her son was finally fulfilled.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church (see 966) teaches that Mary was taken body and soul into heavenly glory right at the end of her earthly life. One of the consequences of original sin is the corruption of the body (see CCC, 400; Genesis 3:19). As Mary was full of grace and did not suffer from original sin, it is fitting that she, like her son, would not experience such bodily corruption.