

**The Reflection from Pastor Fr. John
Carlos, Holy Cross Church, Harrison, NJ,
August 15, 2021**

THE ASSUMPTION OF MARY



We might conclude that God who did a great thing for Mary in choosing her to be the mother of his Son, did another great thing for her at the end of her life. Rather than having her body undergo corruption, God allowed Mary to share in the resurrection of the body and life everlasting when her days on earth came to an end.

In the Assumption of Mary, the Church is given a reminder of what awaits those who strive like Mary to do what God asks of them, who strive to be faithful followers of Christ. In the resurrection, they will share in.

The new life that Mary now enjoys. As the Preface for the Mass of this feast proclaims, "The Virgin Mother of God was assumed into heaven as ... a sign of sure hope and comfort to your pilgrim people."

We can also gain some understanding into the Church's belief in the Assumption of Mary if we consider our own human experience. Just as we would desire to give the best of gifts to the mother who carried us in her womb, gave us life, and raised us, would not God want to do the same - to give the best gift possible to his mother - to bring her to the glory of heaven when her earthly life has ended?

The preface of the Solemnity of the Assumption answers that question as it speaks of God watching over Mary. It says, "... rightly you would not allow her to see the corruption of the tomb since from her own body she marvelously brought forth your incarnate Son, the Author of all life,"

While there is no account of the Assumption in the scriptures, the belief of the Church since the earliest centuries of Christianity and the love we have for our own mothers, give us ample reason to joyfully celebrate the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary!

With affectionate prayers,

Father John Carlos