



Church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel
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FROM THE DESK OF FATHER JONATHAN

August 5, 2018

This coming Wednesday we celebrate the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Our mass times will be the same as in years past: 6:30pm (Tuesday vigil – English); 8:30am (English); 12:00pm (Italian / English); 6:30pm (Spanish / English).

This is a very holy day in our liturgical calendar where we give thanks to God for the gift of our Mother Mary. She took care of her son, Jesus, while on earth, and takes care of us now from heaven! Let's increase our conversation with her, asking her to teach us to imitate the virtues she models and for her intercession for all of our spiritual and material needs. I know it is not easy to make it to mass during the week if you are working full-time, but I invite you to plan ahead, make a sacrifice, and make it to mass this Wednesday, if not at Mt. Carmel, at another parish close to your place of work!

God bless, Father Jonathan

P.S. Below is some information about the origin and meaning of the Feast Day.

The **Assumption of Mary** into Heaven (often shortened to **the Assumption**) is, according to the beliefs of the Catholic Church, Eastern and Oriental Orthodoxy, as well as parts of Anglicanism, the bodily taking up of the Virgin Mary into Heaven at the end of her earthly life.

The Catholic Church teaches as dogma that the Virgin Mary "having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory". This doctrine was dogmatically defined by Pope Pius XII on 1 November 1950, in the apostolic constitution *Munificentissimus Deus* by exercising papal infallibility.^[5] While the Catholic Church and Eastern Orthodox Church believe in the Dormition of the Theotokos, whether Mary had a physical death has not been dogmatically defined. In *Munificentissimus Deus* (item 39) Pope Pius XII pointed to the Book of Genesis (3:15) as scriptural support for the dogma in terms of Mary's victory over sin and death as also reflected in 1 Corinthians 15:54: "then shall come to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory".

The New Testament contains no explicit narrative about the death or Dormition, nor of the Assumption of Mary, but several scriptural passages have been theologically interpreted to describe the ultimate fate in this and the afterworld of the Mother of Jesus.

In the churches that observe it, the Assumption is a major feast day, commonly celebrated on 15 August. In many countries, the feast is also marked as a Holy Day of Obligation in the Roman Catholic Church.