

August 12, 2018 The Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, August 11

5:00 p.m. **In Thanksgiving of St. Philomena**
By Barbara and Mary Kovacs

Sunday, August 12

8:00 a.m. **Special Intentions of Sam Saponaro**
By Mary Rupell

10:30 a.m. **+Victor W. Vallo, Sr.**
By Robert and Victoria Dicheck

Monday, August 13

8:45 a.m. **In Honor of the Madonna of Health**
By Angela Gross

Tuesday, August 14 Vigil of the Assumption

6:30 p.m. **+Marion Kelley**
By Theresa Saksa and Family

Wednesday, August 15 The Assumption

8:45 a.m. **Parishioners of Saint Theodore Church**

6:30 p.m. **Altar Rosary Society**

Thursday, August 16 NO MASS

Friday, August 17

8:45 a.m. **Blessings of Healing of Concetta Brodine**
By the Shipley Family

Saturday, August 18

5:00 p.m. **+Charlotte Agyekum**
By Kwadwo Ocran

Sunday, August 19

8:00 a.m. **Parishioners of Saint Theodore Church**

10:30 a.m. **+Julia Malia**
By Dorothy Decker



The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary August 15

Holy Day of Obligation

The Church does not just “assume” that any canonized saint is in heaven. Rather, it authoritatively declares that a person is in glory and should therefore be honored in liturgy and imitated in life. Our church calendar is filled with saints' days.

From very early times, August 15 has been observed as the “birthday” of our Blessed Lady. On this greatest of all Marian feasts we celebrate the greatest moment of her life – being permanently re-united with her son and sharing his glory.

All the saints experience the “beatific vision” upon their entry into heaven, and we celebrate this on every saint’s day. But there is something unique about Mary’s day. The Catholic Church teaches authoritatively that it is not just Mary’s soul that was admitted to God’s glory, but that at the end of her earthly life, Mary’s body as well as

her soul was assumed into heaven by the loving power of God.

There is no eyewitness account of this actual event recorded in the Bible. Come to think of it, though, no one witnessed the actual resurrection of Jesus either. The evidence was an empty tomb and eyewitness reports that the Risen Lord had appeared to them.

There is a tomb at the foot of the Mt. of Olives where ancient tradition says that Mary was laid. But there is nothing inside. There are no relics, as with other saints. And credible apparitions of Mary, though not recorded in the New Testament, have been recorded from the 3rd century till today.

Mary is not equal to Christ, of course. Jesus, though possessing a complete human nature, is the Eternal Word made flesh. Mary is only a creature.

But she is a unique creature, the highest of all creatures. This is not just because she was born without the handicap of original sin. Eve and Adam were born free of sin as well, but it did not stop them from sinning as soon as they had the chance. Mary instead chose, with the help of God’s grace, to preserve her God-given purity throughout the whole of her life.

The bodily corruption of death was not God’s original plan. It came into the world through sin, as St. Paul says “the sting of death is sin” (I Cor 15:56). So it is fitting that she who knew no sin should know no decay and no delay in enjoying the full fruits of her son’s work. It is fitting that she who stood by Christ under the cross should stand by him bodily at the right hand of the Father. “*The Queen stands at your right hand, in gold of Ophir*” (Ps 45). Enoch and Elijah, who the Old Testament says were assumed into heaven, were surely great in God’s eyes. But they do not begin to compare with the immaculate mother of His Son.

We too, one day, insofar as we accept God’s grace, will stand at His right hand. But Paul says that “all will come to life again, but each one in proper order” (I Cor 15:23). The Redeemer, of course, blazes the resurrection trail. But who is to be first among his disciples? The one who is last is first, the Lord’s humble handmaid who did no more than say yes, and keep saying yes, and whose soul magnified not herself, but the Lord.

“By contemplating Mary in heavenly glory, we understand that the earth is not the definitive homeland for us either, and that if we live with our gaze fixed on eternal goods we will one day share in this same glory and the earth will become more beautiful. Consequently, we must not lose our serenity and peace even amid the thousands of daily difficulties. The luminous sign of Our Lady taken up into Heaven shines out even more brightly when sad shadows of suffering and violence seem to loom on the horizon. “We may be sure of it: from on high, Mary follows our footsteps with gentle concern, dispels the gloom in moments of darkness and distress, reassures us with her motherly hand. Supported by awareness of this, let us continue confidently on our path of Christian

commitment wherever Providence may lead us. Let us forge ahead in our lives under Mary's guidance". — Pope Benedict XVI.

Mass Intentions

There are Masses available for 2018 from August 24 on. The Mass Intentions Book for 2019 is now open.

To schedule your Masses for 2019, please write your dates on a piece of paper, state if person is living or deceased. If any of your dates are not available, please indicate if it's ok to book any date closest to the original or if the date has to be a Saturday or Sunday. If not indicated, I will book the next available day. The stipend is still \$10 per Mass.

Thank you. —Mary Rupell



Our Sunday Offering

July 1: \$2,269 July 8:
\$2,371. July 15: \$2,379
July 22: \$1,888.
July 29: \$1,660

Our fiscal year ended June 30 and our operating need based on fiscal year 2017-2018 income and expenses is as follows:

Income: \$200,980

Expenses : \$213,021 (this includes \$11,200 balance owed from last fiscal year's Assessment)

Weekly needed: \$4,097.



On Monday, July 30 U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions announced that the Department of Justice is creating a religious liberty task force. He said the goal of the new task force will be protecting religious groups from persecution. He cited, "a dangerous movement, undetected by many, is now challenging and eroding our great tradition of religious freedom."

"The task force will help the department fully implement our religious liberty, guidance in the cases they bring and defend, the arguments they make in court, the policies and regulations they adopt and how we conduct our operations".

"That includes making sure that our employees know their duties to accommodate people of faith", Sessions said.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

It is time to register your child!

What is needed for Registration?

- Registration form completed for each child (one form per child)
- Your check is to be made out to St. Theodore Church.
- Payment -Anyone experiencing financial difficulties should still register & contact Fr. Damian.

What is the tuition cost?

\$120 for one child; \$200 for two, \$240 for three or more children.

Sacraments Fee Additional \$50 (Grades 2 & 8) For more information and to download forms go to <http://sttheodorenj.com> or call 908-689-8318, ext 2.

Religious Education Help Needed Mondays at 6 p.m.

An Aide Needed to assist Ginny
Substitute Aides needed to assist teachers



*Almighty and ever-living
God, physician who brings
eternal healing to those
who believe, hear us as we
ask your compassionate*

*help for your servants who
are sick.*

Stephen, Bridget M., Savannah Paine, Bobby Gross, Keira Hedges, Peter, Zachary, Logan Peter Saksa, Anna Saksa, Lauren Lane, Jay Mildrum, Philip Kinney, Peter S., Mary Rupell, Susan Reynolds, Maryanne C., Robert Dicheck, Christian, Tara, Zoe, Teagan, Eric Harding, Kathy & Bob Y., Irma Marquart, Dolores Staiano, Gerard Schnaars, Glenda L., The Rasimowicz Family, Michael Dante, Joseph Boyle, Tony Santos, Tina Delrosso, Gaspar Scozzati, Eleanor D., Tom and Jean C.

Give them back good health, and enable them to return thanks to you in the assembly of the faithful. Amen