

*Feast of the Assumption
August 15*



***“Woman, great is your faith!
Let it be done for you as you wish...”***

(Mt 15:28)

Divine Liturgy

Sunday at 11:30 pm

Our Lady of Victory

1559 Roxbury Rd.

Columbus, OH

**ON THE EVE OF THE FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION,
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MONDAY, AUG 14 AT 7 P.M.



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First Reading: Ephesians 3:1-13

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles — for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ.

In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him. I pray therefore that you may not lose heart over my sufferings for you; they are your glory.

The Gospel: Matthew 15:21-28

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." Jesus answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed instantly.

"The Dormition of The God-bearer"



Christians of both East and West jointly celebrate the Feast of the Assumption into Heaven of Mary Most Holy.

On November 1, 1950 Pope Pius XII infallibly declared the doctrine of the Assumption a dogma:

"By the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, of the Blessed Apostles Peter and Paul, and by our own authority, we pronounce, declare, and define it to be a divinely revealed dogma: that the Immaculate Mother of God, the every Virgin Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory."

But Pope Pius was not declaring the belief in the Assumption as something novel. There is widespread evidence of the belief as early as the 4th century. In fact, it's been celebrated liturgically as early as the 5th century in the East. It was celebrated in the West under Pope Sergius I in the 8th century and Pope Leo IV then confirmed the feast as official.

St. John of Damascus, in the 8th century, relates how

"St. Juvenal, Bishop of Jerusalem, at the Council of Chalcedon (451), made known ... that Mary died in the presence of all the Apostles, but that her tomb, when opened, upon the request of St. Thomas, was found empty; wherefrom the Apostles concluded that the body was taken up to heaven."

Pope Benedict XVI, in his Angelus address on August 15, 2011 explains: "In the East, it is still known today as the "Dormition of the Virgin". An ancient mosaic in the Basilica of St Mary Major, Rome, that was inspired precisely by the Eastern image of the "Dormitio", portrays the Apostles, who, alerted by Angels of the end of the earthly life of the Mother of Jesus, gathered at the Virgin's bedside. In the centre is Jesus, who has a little girl in his arms: she is Mary, who has become "little" for the Kingdom, being taken to Heaven by the Lord."



It has not been dogmatically defined whether Mary actually died or not – Pope Pius XII left this question open when he said “having completed the course of her earthly life,” and the Eastern tradition nuances it by using the word “dormition,” which means “falling asleep.”

A word from our Pastor...

This week offers us the inspiring examples of two women: the Virgin Mary, whose Dormition/Assumption we celebrate this Tuesday, and the Canaanite woman, hero of this Sunday's Gospel.

The common denominator between both of these women is their perseverance.

The Virgin Mary was taken up into heaven because throughout her life, from conception to dormition, she persevered in her faith and purity, and thus received her crown of glory.

The Canaanite women, faced with so many challenges, being a woman, a stranger to Jesus, a pagan, reprimanded by the Apostles and getting a seeming rejection from Jesus himself, still persevered and received the miracle she was asking for.

In them we also have two contrasting attitudes, one passive ("may it be done unto me according to thy word") and another aggressive ("she keeps shouting after us" and her arguments).

In both cases, God reaching toward us or us having a request from him, we learn from these bold women the power of perseverance in accepting his message and in requesting our intentions.

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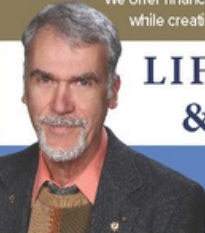
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