



The Catholic Cathedral of The Immaculate Conception Parish Bulletin



August 2018

(Year B)

Vol. XVI No. 8



Liturgy



Meditation



The Pope



Reflections



Parish News

LITURGY — SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR AUGUST 2018 (YEAR B)

Eighteenth Sunday of the Year – 5 August 2018

First Reading (Ex 16:2-4.12-15). God feeds his people in the desert.

Second Reading (Eph 4:17.20-24). Paul urges the Ephesians to live lives that are in keeping with their baptismal calling.

Gospel (Jn 6:24-35). Jesus declares that he himself is the true bread from heaven of which the manna provided by Moses was but a foreshadowing.

Nineteenth Sunday of the Year – 12 August 2018

First Reading (1 Kgs 19:4-8). Fed by an angel, a broken and dispirited Elijah is able to walk all the way to the mountain of God.

Second Reading (Eph 4:30-5:2). St Paul urges the Ephesians to walk in the way of love and thus live up to their calling.

Gospel (Jn 6:41-51). Jesus is the new manna from heaven. Those who eat this food will live forever.

Twentieth Sunday of the Year – 19 August 2018

First Reading (Prov 9:1-6). Wisdom is described in terms of a banquet. Christians will see this as a foreshadowing of the Eucharistic banquet.

Second Reading (Eph 5:15-20). The wise Christian will make the most of the present time, being alert to the will of God, and shaping conduct accordingly.

Gospel (Jn 6:51-58). This contains Christ's great promise of eternal life to those who eat his body and drink his blood (in the Eucharist).

Twenty-first Sunday of the Year – 26 August 2018

First Reading (Josh 24:1-2.15-18). Joshua confronts the people with a vital decision – to serve the one true God or to serve false gods.

Second Reading (Eph 5:21-32). St. Paul uses the image of a marriage relationship to express the bond that exists between Christ and the Church.

Gospel (Jn 6:60-69). Disciples of Jesus are faced with a vital decision – to stay with Jesus or leave him.

Liturgy - Relevant Websites:



- ♦ For meditation, prayer, spirituality – Bible, Prayer & Homiletic Resources (www.frtommylane.com)
- ♦ For evangelization and life in the Spirit – Christ is the key (www.christkey.com)
- ♦ For prayers on line – It's PC to Pray - Sacred Space (www.sacredspace.ie)



- ♦ The Parish Bulletin is also available on the Cathedral website: www.cathedral.catholic.org.hk
- ♦ For Parish info., please contact : (852)2522-8212 or fax: (852)2521-7957 or email: cathedral@catholic.org.hk

MEDITATION

TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD

Feast Day – 6th August

All three Synoptic Gospels tell the story of the Transfiguration (Matthew 17:1-8; Mark 9:2-9; Luke 9:28-36). With remarkable agreement, all three place the event shortly after Peter's confession of faith that Jesus is the Messiah and Jesus' first prediction of his passion and death.



“And he was transfigured before them; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became white as light. A bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my beloved son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.” (Matthew 17:2.5)

The Gospels draw heavily on Old Testament descriptions of the Sinai encounter with God and prophetic visions of the Son of Man. Certainly Peter, James and John had a glimpse of Jesus' divinity strong enough to strike fear into their hearts. Such an experience defies description, so they drew on familiar religious language to describe it. And certainly Jesus warned them that his glory and his suffering were to be inextricably connected—a theme John highlights throughout his Gospel.

Tradition names Mt. Tabor as the site of the revelation. A church first raised there in the fourth century was dedicated on August 6. A feast in honor of the Transfiguration was celebrated in the Eastern Church from about that time. Western observance began in some localities about the eighth century. On July 22, 1456, Crusaders defeated the Turks at Belgrade. News of the victory reached Rome on August 6, and Pope Callistus III placed the feast on the Roman calendar the following year.



QUEENSHIP OF MARY

Feast Day – 22nd August

Pius XII established this feast in 1954. But Mary's queenship has roots in Scripture. At the Annunciation, Gabriel announced that Mary's Son would receive the throne of David and rule forever. At the Visitation, Elizabeth calls Mary “mother of my Lord.” As in all the mysteries of Mary's life, Mary is closely associated with Jesus: Her queenship is a share in Jesus' kingship. We can also recall that in the Old Testament the mother of the king has great influence in court.

MEMORARE

a prayer that St. Bernard used to pray daily to Mary:

Remember, O most loving Virgin Mary,
that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection,
implored your help, or sought your intercession was left unaided.

Inspired with this confidence, we turn to you,
O Virgin of virgins our Mother.

To you we come, before you we stand, sinful and sorrowful.

O Mother of the Word Incarnate, do not turn away from us,
but in your mercy hear and answer us. Amen





ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Feast Day – 15th August

by Friar Jim Van Vurst, O.F.M.

Every August 15, the Catholic faithful all over the world celebrate the Feast of the Assumption of Mary into Heaven. This feast day recognizes the Catholic belief that at the end of her life on earth, the body and soul of Mary, the mother of Jesus, was taken (*assumed*) by God into heaven. This means that Mary's body took on a glorified presence—as will all who enter heaven—as a result of their complete union with God. Every person in the state of grace on earth is in union with the Trinity. Our earthly union with God is still incomplete and unfulfilled. Heaven, however, is by definition perfect, complete and total union with God. That's what happened to Mary at the time of her assumption.

Pope Pius XII proclaimed this event to be a doctrine of Catholic belief on November 1, 1950, though for many centuries this belief had already been embraced by many Catholics worldwide. It had been the common belief of Christians from early centuries that Mary, conceived without sin, would never suffer the corruption that all other people do after death. This belief is just one more example of the place of honor the mother of Jesus has held in the eyes of Catholic faithful.

Some Christians will argue that there is nothing in the Scriptures that in any way would prove what they see as an outlandish teaching. But while many Christian denomination base their beliefs on "Scripture alone," our Catholic faith is based not only on God's revealed Scripture but also on the Sacred Tradition that has been revealed by the Holy Spirit and through which the Holy Spirit has guided the Church's teachings for 2,000 years.

The doctrine of Mary's Assumption is based on something called a theological conclusion. The Scriptures contain indirect references to the concept of the Assumption, even if the word itself isn't used. For example, at the Annunciation (celebrated March 25th, nine months before December 25th), the Angel Gabriel declared Mary to be "full of Grace" and "God's highly favored daughter" (Lk 1:28). Mary conceived Jesus, the Son of God, by the power of the Holy Spirit as a consequence of accepting God's plan for her. Further, when Mary visited her cousin Elizabeth, who herself was pregnant with John the Baptist, she addressed Mary with the words, "Who am I that the mother of my Lord should come to me?" (Lk 1:42).

All these biblical statements led the Church to conclude that because of her role as Mother of the Messiah, Mary would be preserved from Original Sin and its consequences. Her freedom from sin was accomplished by reason of Jesus' foreseen redemptive death on the cross. And so, Mary was redeemed by Jesus just as all of us are. Thus, God would not allow Mary, whose womb carried the Son of God, to suffer the corruption of her body that all people experience after death. The Assumption, then, is really a logical conclusion that follows from her Immaculate Conception.

PRAYING FOR THE POPE'S MONTHLY INTENTION (AUGUST 2018)

Universal: – The Treasure of Families

That any far-reaching decisions of economists and politicians may protect the family as one of the treasures of humanity.



REFLECTIONS

THE FEAST DAY OF ST. MONICA — 27TH AUGUST



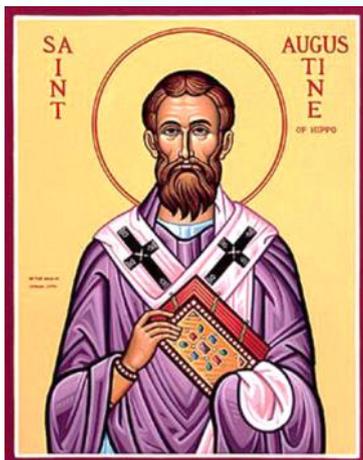
O Lord, Who taught Monica to persevere for the good of her family, help me to be a better parent to my children.

Help me to have patience with them when they misbehave and give me the strength to guide them gently to the right path.

Permit me always to forgive their misdeeds and keep me from speaking harshly or punishing unwisely. Please help me to be a beacon of goodness for them as they grow to adulthood and to be a good example to them in all I say and do.

Amen

THE FEAST DAY OF ST. AUGUSTINE — 28TH AUGUST



Prayer and quotes of
St. Augustine

Breathe in me O Holy Spirit.

That my thoughts may be all holy.

Act in me O Holy Spirit.

That my work, too, may be holy.

Draw my heart O Holy Spirit.

That I love only what is holy.

Strengthen me O Holy Spirit.

To defend all that is holy.

Guard me, then, O Holy Spirit.

That I always will be holy.

“You have created us for Yourself.

O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in You.”

“To fall in love with God is the greatest of romances, to seek Him the greatest adventure, to find Him the greatest human achievement.”

