

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Submitted by Dr. Rosemary Murphy

Rejoice in God our Savior

In reflecting on today's Gospel, recall a small moment in your life that was filled with exceptional joy—the time you were on vacation and were struck with the incredible beauty of nature; the first time you realized you loved someone; the time you went to the humane society and spotted a perfect four-legged friend. Enjoy a small moment of today's exuberant Gospel joy!

Usually, the feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, celebrated annually on August 15th, falls on a week day. Sadly, in the course of busy lives even though we may attend Mass on this holy day of obligation, we easily miss the celebration and joy of Mary's important role in our salvation. In his November 1, 1950 apostolic constitution, *The most bountiful God*, Pope Pius XII declared "...that the Immaculate Mother of God, the ever Virgin Mary, having completed her earthly life was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory." (Munificentissimus Deus, 2)

Through this major feast, the Church recognizes not only Mary's place in salvation history but the preeminence of her example of discipleship. Through her humble acceptance of God's call, the Child of her womb became God's gift to Mary and God's gift to us. Today's Gospel, from Luke 1:39-56, expresses, in the precious encounter of two women—one about to become the mother of John the Proclaimer of the Christ and the other about to become the Mother of the Son of God—the great joy of every Christian who professes Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. In Mary's words:

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord;
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior
for he had looked with favor on his lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed;
the Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his Name.