

Homily: The Assumption of Our Lady: 2021: Rev 11: 19a; 12: 1-6a, 10ab; Ps 45; 1 Corth
15: 20-27; Lk: 1: 39-56

“Mary as our spiritual Mother and source of encouragement in this Valley of Tears”

1. As I spoke about last weekend of how God gives us different gifts of encouragement to help us persevere in the trials and tribulations of earthly life, this weekend, in place of the normal Sunday, **we celebrate Mary sharing in the victory of her Son Jesus over Satan, sin and death**, which each one of us is called to share in as well. After falling asleep (her Dormition as it is called in the Eastern Church) in death our Blessed Lord raised her body and soul (her Assumption) to the glory of Heaven – it may have been just for a few minutes, but she wanted to be in solidarity with the human race like Jesus in death. She is a spiritual shining star now pointing us to the same destiny: eternal life in Heaven with the Trinity. It has been said that her Assumption is our Assumption since she is the model for the human race both in following the Lord Jesus in total self-giving love, and now in sharing in His victory. All human beings are all called to share in this same victory one day - if we are faithful to the Lord as Mary was in her life. **We now need to trust in her maternal intercession and everyday care for us to help us arrive at victory. This is now her God-given role in salvation history.** We are living in a tough time with so much corruption and even moral depravity in our culture: so many broken families and hearts, so much sexual immorality, so much death – be it thru abortion, euthanasia, mass shootings and just overall coarseness and contempt for God and the dignity of human life from conception until natural death, and all the selfishness that has come from the CV pandemic- not all have grown spiritually in this time of serious testing. It’s so easy to get discouraged and give up. **The life of Mary shows there is way out of this pit of darkness: by focusing on our union with the Blessed Trinity thru living our Catholic faith with integrity.** Let’s ponder the last 2 of the Glorious mysteries: the Assumption and the Coronation of Mary both show us in a beautiful way her role now as Spiritual mother of all the faithful in particular, but even of the whole human race, many of whom do not know who she is. I encourage you the works of St. Louis Marie de Montefort to get deeper insights

into this profound reality, especially his *True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin*, and *The Secret of the Rosary*, copies of which are in the Parish lending library.

2. **Mary is the truly the protector of our life in Christ.** She wants to take us spiritually by the hand into ever deeper union with Christ, in every aspect of our lives. She wants to help us do this well, in the midst of the serious challenge of living our Catholic Faith in the modern world surrounded by the prevailing spirit of disobedience and self-will which even crops into the life of the Church on a fallen human level, at times. *She also wants to help us, in contrast to the spirit of disobedience, to be ever more docile and obedient to her spiritual spouse: the Holy Spirit, who wants to form us, like He formed her, into the shining image of Christ: the perfect image of the Father.* Thus by growing in devotion and love for her, Mary will help us to come into closer communion daily with the Trinity. She is also the one who protects us from the wiles of the evil one (Satan) and his minions (the other fallen angels) who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls (c.f. 1 Peter 5:8-9). As we pray for in the **St. Michael prayer** at the end of every Mass since the pandemic started in March of 2020, and hopefully do daily in our families as well. Our Lady and St. Michael are our great protectors in the battle against the powers of spiritual darkness.

3. **Finally the Blessed Virgin Mary teaches us by her example and prayers not only how to love God better, but also how to love our neighbor better.** How beautiful it is to see her loving devotion to her elderly cousin St. Elizabeth in her pregnancy with St. John the Baptist. We could imagine that Mary would have been justified on some level to just be concerned about herself at that moment: since she just received, at the age of 14 or 15, the amazing announcement from the Archangel Gabriel that she was to be the mother of the long awaited Messiah. *However, that would fly in the face of her most noble quality besides her total devotion to God, which was: her tender love for the people around her while forgetting herself – beautiful sensitivity.* This neighborly charity in imitation of our Blessed Mother Mary especially applies to us in daily praying and trying to help the people who don't like us or we don't like for any reason, real or imagined,

but still willing the good for all in the Lord as our Lady always did, especially when her Divine Son Jesus was being unjustly persecuted and later put to the most horrible Passion and Death by His detractors and enemies both in the spiritual and human world. *By cooperating at each moment of her life with God's grace, Mary was full of His total self-giving love. Let us ask her to help us to grow in that virtue daily, so that we may truly learn in her maternal heart and under her spiritual mantle to love God with our whole heart, mind, soul and strength, and our neighbor as ourselves.* God bless you.