

**HIS WORD TODAY**  
*by Rev. William J. Reilly*

**Assumption of the  
Blessed Virgin Mary  
August 15, 2021**

“And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me... Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled.”

Our Catholic faith informs us that at the end of her earthly life, Mary was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory. She who was conceived free from original sin, who gave birth to our Savior, was now rewarded as she was reunited with her Divine Son in heaven.

Try to imagine the awesomeness of that meeting. If the conversation between Mary and Elizabeth in Luke's gospel led to the beauty of the Magnificat, perhaps just the gaze of Mother and Son captured it all.

As we pray the rosary or recite the Hail Mary, we too have our conversation with her, as she did with her relative. May we be comforted by the example of Mary. With the horror of the coronavirus, may we devoutly ask her protection as we sinners pray, ‘now and at the hour of our death.’




# CHURCH OF ST. DENIS

MANASQUAN, NEW JERSEY

## STAFF

Reverend William J. P. Lago, Pastor  
Reverend James Burke, Weekend Assistant  
Rev. Joseph Miele, Weekend Assistant  
Rev. Lewis Papera, Weekend Assistant  
Mr. George R. Kelder, Jr., Deacon  
Mr. George J. Pstrak, Deacon

Mrs. Eileen Ziesmer, Pastoral Associate  
Mr. Mark Mataranglo, Director of Music Ministry  
Sr. Mary Guyer, SSJ  
Mr. Ralph Cabrera, Trustee  
Mr. Robert Butler, Trustee

BEACH CHAPEL .....	554 East Main Street		
RECTORY .....	90 Union Avenue	732-223-0287	FAX ..... 732-528-1901
CONVENT .....	117 Virginia Avenue		732-292-0772
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE .....	119 Virginia Avenue		732-223-1161
ST. DENIS CONFERENCE OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY .....			732-223-1383
CHURCH E-MAIL ADDRESS .....		st.denis@verizon.net	
PASTOR'S E-MAIL ADDRESS .....		wlago@dioceseoftrenton.org	
WEB PAGE ADDRESS .....		http://www.churchofstdenis.org	

### MASS SCHEDULE:

Weekday Masses: 7:30 AM (Mon.-Tues.-Wed.-Fri.) – St. Denis Church  
Saturday: 8:30 AM – St. Denis Church  
Saturday Evening: 4:30 PM (fulfills Sunday obligation) - St. Denis Church  
Sunday: 8:00 AM & 9:30 AM - St. Denis Church  
Mass is shown on the Parish Facebook Page each weekend.  
Sunday: 10:00 AM - Our Lady Star of the Sea Chapel  
Holy Days: See bulletin or website for schedule

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:** *By appointment only.*

**MIRACULOUS MEDAL DEVOTIONS:** Tuesday morning after the 7:30 AM Mass-St. Denis Church

**BAPTISM:** The sacrament of Baptism is celebrated on Saturday and Sunday afternoons. Parents must complete the required preparation with the Pastoral Associate and obtain godparent eligibility letters before a date for Baptism will be given. Please call the rectory for further details.

**MARRIAGE:** Please contact the rectory office for more information about weddings. All couples contemplating marriage are asked to give the priests one year prior notice in order that all the requirements for marriage can be satisfied. Do not reserve the reception hall before contacting the church; your requested date may not be available.

**CARE OF THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND:** We will gladly bring Holy Communion to anyone who is ill or otherwise unable to get to Mass. Please call the rectory to make arrangements. The priests and deacon make regular visits to the local hospitals. Please call the rectory if any loved one is hospitalized.

**RITE OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL:** At such times of deep pain and loss, we seek to offer our bereaved families comfort and hope as they commend their loved ones to God. Please note that, in accordance with Church regulations, eulogies are not permitted during Funeral Masses.

**RECTORY OFFICE HOURS:** Monday-Thursday 8:30 AM-12:00 noon & 1:00 PM- 4:30 PM, Friday 8:30 AM- 12:00 noon only. There are no office hours on Saturday & Sunday. Evenings are by appointment only.

**NEW PARISHIONERS:** Welcome! We encourage new families moving into the area to stop in or call the rectory to arrange for registration.

**CELIAC SPRUE PARISHIONERS** – Saint Denis provides a low gluten (<0.01% gluten content) host. Parishioners who are gluten-intolerant should see a deacon or priest prior to the start of Mass in order to be included in the reception of the Eucharist.

**VISIT US ON FACEBOOK-** Saint Denis Parish Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/churchofstdenis](http://www.facebook.com/churchofstdenis). You don't need to have a Facebook account to read parish news and updates, but would need one to leave comments and feedback.

**Saturday, August 14, 2021**

8:30 am Frances Vittoria by John & Tina O'Donnell  
 8:30 am Gerard Connelly by Bria & Charlie Graves  
 8:30 am Virginia Sanquini by Jim Hughes & Family  
 4:30 pm John Nielsen by his Sister  
 4:30 pm Rose & John Cafone, Sr. by their Children  
 4:30 pm Michele Bazzini, Tom Fancelli & Patrick Campbell by a Friend

**Sunday, August 15, 2021**

8:00 am For the People of the Parish  
 9:30 am Gertrude Weeks by Fran & Paul Weeks  
 9:30 am Brad Liggett by his Family  
 9:30 am Geraldine Caruso  
 by Luann & John Quigley & Family  
 10:00 am Marguerite Scott by Brad & Roseanne Wilson  
 10:00 am George & Judy Macor by their Children  
 10:00 am Marge & Tony Patullo by Mario Gentile

**Monday, August 16, 2021**

7:30 am Stella Wojton by her daughter, JoAnn  
 7:30 am Rocco Zito by Luann & John Quigley & Family  
 7:30 am Nick Sciarappa by Gene Bialas

**Tuesday, August 17, 2021**

7:30 am Dennis Datillo by Jeanne & Bill Buble  
 7:30 am Dora Blanchett by St. Denis Parish  
 7:30 am Roselyn Mutek by Fr. Bill & St. Denis Parish

**Wednesday, August 18, 2021**

7:30 am Nathan Belger by his Grandparents  
 7:30 am Joe & Lucy Soriano by the Family  
 7:30 am Greg Deppeler by Marge Heinrich

**Thursday, August 19, 2021**

No Mass

**Friday, August 20, 2021**

7:30 am Nancy & John Charlesworth by Catherine Campen  
 7:30 am Johanna Zenzayer by Steve & Kim Kostek  
 7:30 am Nicholas Sciarappa by Ellen & Ed O'Connor

**Saturday, August 21, 2021**

8:30 am Elizabeth Preston by the Prince Family  
 8:30 am Thomas S. Coyle by the Vernaglia Family  
 8:30 am Pauline Hayden by Mark & Martina Fox  
 4:30 pm Russell Hilbert by his Wife  
 4:30 pm Luke Wade by MCW  
 4:30 pm Estelle Spillane  
 by the Lay Carmelite Community of St. Dominic's

**Sunday, August 22, 2021**

8:00 am Frank Lineberry by Tom & Pat Coyle  
 8:00 am Joan Tighe by Jim  
 8:00 am Regina Sullivan by Bill & Jeanne Buble  
 9:30 am For the People of the Parish  
 10:00 am Nicholas Huth by Clare & Dan McAloon  
 10:00 am Edward Reuter by the Berry Family  
 10:00 am Teresa Beriont by Kathy Fenimore

**LOW-GLUTEN HOSTS** – Those in need of these specially approved Communion hosts at Mass are invited to receive from the deacon (if present at Mass) or the priest. Look for the small cup attached to the minister's ciborium, in order to receive the sacramental Body of Christ with a low-gluten host.



especially Mary Moran, Steve Ford, Elizabeth Ann Linden, Peggy Andrich, Mary Damico, Eileen Byrne, Amanda Castro, Dolores Palmisano, Holly Boyd, Mary Conlon, Albert Wood, Maiya Andrews, Velma Andrews, Katie Holbrook, Claire Meachum, Mike Pierce, Thomas Hayes, Jr., Thomas Evans, Catherine O'Connor, Edith Bean, Phyllis Van Salders, Joanne Panzarella, Taryn Rotondi, Kathy Wicks, Michael McNulty, Mary Jane Schaaf, Lisa Pirrello, Joseph Bick, Mary Collins, Robert Kelleher, Stephen Byrne, Denise Frank, Marie Tashjian, Angeline Hart, Cathleen Brenner, Nick Ljuljana, Patricia Blumenstock, Sue O'Connor, Baby Cayden Joseph, Thomas Fahey, Baby Kelly Grace, Nair Messias, Jennifer Noble, Scarlet Slotnick, Belle & Ashton, Karen Brown, Elizabeth Morgan, Frank Lopez, Christina Roundtree, Eugene Karpinski, Charlotte Pentek, Phillip Graceffa, Christian Russo, Rose DeMarco, Dee Vulgaris, Michael McGonigle, Baby Evelyn Mizer, Herbert "Butch" Wolfe, Leanna Rawson, Nannette Forkan, Nicole Giambone, Lisa Dunfee, Albert J. Cifelli, Brian Alberse, Stanley Bevan, Windell Rainey, Sadie Svenson, Barbara Magda, Paul Tuyp, Nancy Murphy, Bernadette Bevan, George Leonard, Teresa Hayes, Jeanne Hayes, Irene Hayes, Ronnie Micciulla, Cindy Tomkins, Joseph Fiamingo, Baby Colton Gardella, Anita McCudden, Catherine Kelleher, Baby Siena Grace Pizzillo, Samara Pirrong, Donna Schwear, Helen McGowan, Karen Williams, Timothy Michal Przywara, Christopher Kurtanick, Wes Pal, Neil O'Callaghan, Siobhan Vuono, Linda Lowery, Tanner Koch, Linda Custode, Marty Pirrong, Bridget Korn, Vincent Azzollini, Scott Burdett, Joan Lipscomb, Baby Lucy, Stephen Whyte, Christine Fields, Chris Faraca, Kathy Larkin, Gordon Justin, Jim Kazenmayer, Frank Meidenbauer, Sean Campbell, Joel Rivera, Jimi Hood, Al Ricciardi, Eileen Beesley, Beverly Heinz, Pauline Naturile, Haley Keating, John Fossani, Donna Morgan, Bill Koch, Doris Abruzzo, Sandy Heitner, Randy Farmer, Joseph Pastore, Christine Coburn, Julianna Grusso, Frank Dugan, Lori Hurd, John Gondek, Lois Borton, William Liao, Marylee Monsell, Norma Friel, Tony Picinich, the Borgias, Patricia Wolfe, Marian Keefe, David Smith, Marie Woodrow, Elizabeth Clos, Reverend Joseph Miele, Gail Fallon, William Pavincich, Patsy Pindar, Lois Brookes, Andrew Chermak, Mark Clarkin, Duane Danish, Hank Przybylowski, the Nesbitts and the Campbells.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE DECEASED** especially Stella Thompson.



**MASS INTENTIONS** for the weekend, as well as the coming week, can be found on our parish website on Friday mornings [www.churchofstdenis.org](http://www.churchofstdenis.org)



**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS NEWS-**

The month of August invites us to commemorate the witness of charity exemplified by Blessed Michael McGivney. In her wisdom, the Church placed his feast day (Aug. 13) between the day of his birth on earth (Aug. 12, 1852) and his entrance into eternity (Aug. 14, 1890). Pope Francis spoke about Father McGivney’s witness to the universal Church in remarks the day after his beatification, “Dedicated to evangelization, he did everything possible to provide for the needs of the needy, promoting mutual aid. May his example be an impetus for us to witness ever more to the Gospel of charity” (Angelus Remarks, Nov. 1, 2020). As we celebrate Blessed Michael McGivney’s witness to the Gospel of charity, may we show a similar impetus to those in need around us. In his Nov. 1 remarks, Pope Francis reminded the Church of the evangelical path taken by the saints and blessed: “Choosing purity, meekness and mercy; choosing to entrust oneself to the Lord in poverty of spirit and in affliction; dedicating oneself to justice and peace — all this means going against the current world’s mindset, in respect to the culture of possession, of meaningless fun, of arrogance against the weakest.” May Blessed Michael McGivney stir anew in us the charity that evangelizes. All men of the parish are invited to join the Knights of Columbus and continue the tradition of many men of faith in witness to Jesus through “charity that evangelizes.” Please contact the parish office for more information.

**WALKING WITH PURPOSE**

**Ladies**, You were raised in the Catholic Faith. You are raising your children in the Catholic Faith. **But do you really understand YOUR faith?**

**Walking with Purpose (WWP)** is a women’s study that dives into the Catholic faith in a way that is not intimidating or overwhelming. WWP will reveal your Catholic faith in a new way—giving you the answers and tools you need to raise your family in a world of uncertainty.

At WWP, we are moms too and we totally get it— life is crazy, raising a family these days is hard. At WWP we learn how to face life’s uncertainties and “walk” through life with peace, joy, and purpose.

**JOIN US FOR A WWP SUMMER SAMPLE.**  
Join us for some or all gatherings: **August 17, 24 & 31**  
7pm-8pm, St. Denis (School Building Cafeteria)  
Books provided. No cost, simply *Open Your Heart*.

Please call the rectory at 732-223-0287 to sign up. (Full WWP Study starts in Oct-- go to [www.wwpnjshore.com](http://www.wwpnjshore.com) for info.



**August 1, 2021**

Weekly Collection- \$10,977.00

Online Giving (6/15/21-7/28/21)- \$19,686.00

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY !**

**Are you willing to help our children  
be all they can be?**

**CATECHISTS/TEACHERS  
NEEDED AT DIFFERENT  
GRADE LEVELS FOR FALL RELIGIOUS ED.**

**Also, program volunteers  
for the office and hall monitors.**

It’s time for us to plan for Religious Education  
and recruit catechists for September.

Is the Holy Spirit calling you?

Please take some time to discern God’s call  
to minister to our parish children and help build their  
faith and encounter Jesus!

**Religious Education (CCD) classes are held on  
Mondays and Tuesdays,  
also on Sunday mornings, 2X a month.**

**GRADES AND DAYS NEEDED**

**MONDAY 4:15-5:30 pm**

**First Grade, Fourth Grade and Fifth Grade**

**MONDAY NIGHT 6:30-7:45 pm**

**Sixth Grade, Seventh Grade and Eighth Grade**

**TUESDAY 4:15-5:30 pm**

**First Grade, Second Grade and Fourth Grade**

**SUNDAY MORNINGS- 2X a month**

**First Grade, Fourth Grade and Seventh Grade**

**Contact the Religious Ed Office  
(732) 223-1161 or [office@stdenisccd.com](mailto:office@stdenisccd.com)**

**You will grow in your own faith,  
learn the teachings of the Church,  
and deepen your relationship with Jesus.**

**Children, in today’s world,  
more than ever, need to hear  
the Good News of Jesus  
and encounter role models of the faith.**





### BISHOP'S ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS-

Couples celebrating their 1st, 25th or 50+ wedding anniversary during the 2020 or 2021 calendar year are invited to share the Eucharist, reaffirm your sacred wedding vows, and receive Bishop O'Connell's Episcopal Blessing. Anniversary Couples from Burlington and Mercer Counties may attend the Sunday, October 3, 2021 Mass and Blessing at 3 pm at St. Mary Cathedral in Trenton. Couples from Ocean and Monmouth Counties may attend the Mass and Blessing at the Co-Cathedral of St. Robert Bellarmine in Freehold on Sunday, October 10, 2021 at 3 pm. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, attendance at Mass is limited but both events will be livestreamed. Couples may register through their parish or online pending approval of their parish. For more information or to register online go to [www.dioceseoftrenton.org/bishops-anniversary-blessing](http://www.dioceseoftrenton.org/bishops-anniversary-blessing). The registration deadline for all anniversary couples is **September 15, 2021**.

**MATER DEI PREP'S TRANSFER TUESDAY**— Mater Dei, a Catholic Preparatory School, invites all to its Transfer Tuesday (an instant decision opportunity) on August 17, 2021, 5:30-7:30 pm. The school is located at 538 Church Street in Middletown. You may register at [www.materdeiprep.org](http://www.materdeiprep.org). For more information please call 732-671-9100.

**ITALIAN FESTIVAL**— The Church of Epiphany invites all to its *Feast of the Assumption Italian Festival at the Jersey Shore*, August 19-22, 2021, 5-10 pm. The festival takes place on the church grounds at 615 Thiele Road in Brick. Admission and parking are free. For more information please call 732-458-0220.

**A NIGHT OF MUSICAL ADORATION OF JESUS IN THE BLESSED SACRAMENT**- Come and get your praise on!! He is worthy and we are glad. All are invited to attend, with musicians from the Diocese of Trenton, on Saturday, August 21, 2021, 6:00-9:00 pm at Saint Joseph Church, 685 Hooper Ave. in Toms River.

**A NIGHT TO REMEMBER**— Please join in a tribute to Father Paul Engel for 54 years of dedication as founder of Downey Side Adoption Agency. The celebration will take place on Thursday, September 9, 2021, 6:00-10:00 pm, at the Lobster Shanty Sunset Ballroom, Channel Drive in Point Pleasant Beach. There will be dinner, cocktails, dancing, a silent auction, a 50/50 raffle and gifts. Tickets are \$100 per person. Please call the rectory office at 732-223-0287 for information on how to purchase tickets.



### St. Vincent De Paul Society's Food Pantry at St. Denis Church Phone: 732-223-1383

Location: Msgr. O'Connor Hall (lower level of church)

There is curbside pick-up of prepackaged food with social distancing.

Questions or special food needs?

Please call our hotline number at 732-223-1383

Pantry hours:

Tuesdays: 1PM – 3PM and 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays from 10AM – 12 noon

Items needed at this time:

*Vinegar, instant white rice, & black pepper*

Thank you for your generous donations!



**WEEK OF AUGUST 8, 2021  
IN LOVING MEMORY OF JIM MAYWALT  
REQUESTED BY GENE BIALAS**

**HEALING THE WOUNDS OF ABORTION**-The psychological and spiritual wounds of abortion can be sharp, deep and crippling. You may feel a deep numbness and may not be able to name the pain or recognize any of the symptoms. It can also have a devastating impact on the father or grandparents of the aborted child and friend/s of the mother. You do not have to continue to hide in shame and fear. Rachel's Vineyard's Retreat is a chance to focus on this painful time in your life through a supportive non-judgmental process, in an atmosphere of confidentiality, understanding, and compassion. It is designed to help both women and men experience the mercy and compassion of God. If you have suffered through an abortion and have isolated yourself from healing and forgiveness, you might consider attending one our retreat weekends. For info, call Judy Warenkiewicz at 732-536-6871. All inquiries are strictly confidential. 2021 Weekend Retreat-August 27-29, 2021.

### THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL



Admission into heaven is something money cannot buy. The only currency that has any value to secure our entrance is that of love. In a world where so many things can be bought with money, our minds often center more on money than love. What Jesus is trying to tell us is that money is a good servant-but a bad master. When money is employed as a servant, it can bring joy and comfort to millions and especially to those who have little or none of it.

Our goal as members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, is to enable money to be a servant of the poor, but also to demonstrate the love of Christ to those we help. But, let money become our master, let it take first place in our lives and it can become a tyrant. It can harden our hearts and blind our vision of the supreme realities of our existence.

Millions of "dollars" passed through the hands of St. Vincent and he made every cent a good servant. Vincent regarded the money which he received or possessed as the "patrimony of the poor" and so it was always to be used for the benefit of the poor. The parishioners of St. Denis, in their generosity, continue to make it possible for us to make every dollar a "good servant."

If you have an interest in learning more about helping those in need, **come to the Society's next meeting on Wednesday, August 18, 2021 at 7:00 pm in the cafeteria of the school building.**

If you need assistance, please call the St. Vincent de Paul hotline at 732-223-1383.



**Summer Bible Series-** Summer... a time to bask in the sun and and bask in the Word of God in a more relaxed pace. Join in the following opportunity. This offering will be held twice, so choose which time works best for you – 11am or 7pm, see the description for location.

**Bring your Bible!** Tuesday, 24 August: “Canticles and Prayer: Part 2” – In this final installment of our Lutheran/Catholic Dialogue, join Fr. Bill at the St. Denis Cafeteria for a further look at two other Canticles from the Bible – The Canticle of Zechariah (*Benedictus*) and The Canticle of the Three Young Men in the Fiery Furnace (*Benedicite Dominum*). We’ll look at them in their context of the Bible and their use in liturgical/personal prayer.

**SAINT JOSEPH BY THE SEA RETREAT HOUSE**, 400 Route 35 North in South Mantoloking offers the following retreats in September:

September 7, 2021 – FRIENDS OF BILL W.– An Evening for Women in AA – Dinner and speaker. This event will occur once a month on the following dates: 9/7, 10/5, 11/9, 12/7, 1/4, 2/8, 3/8, 4/5, 5/10. Arrival: 5:30 pm/Departure: 8:00 pm. Cost: \$20

September 17-19, 2021 – BREATH OF GOD: SILENT RETREAT- Come to the Jersey Shore to encounter your God in the silent atmosphere of a private retreat. Eucharistic Liturgy and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will be included, massage therapy will be available. Arrival: 5:00-6:00 pm/Departure: 1:00 pm. Cost: \$300.

Please call 732-892-8494 to register for either retreat or for more information.

**JOIN OCEAN’S HARBOR HOUSE 25TH ANNIVERSARY RIDE FOR NEW BEGINNINGS**– The 2021 event is a summer-long in person/virtual/hybrid ride enabling participants to cycle and raise funds in the format of their choosing to benefit the youth served by Ocean’s Harbor House. The culminating event is a 25th Annual Celebratory Ride and Ceremony on 9/25/21 at Laurita Winery. The ride raises funds to provide the essential gifts of shelter, food, services and hope for vulnerable youth throughout Monmouth and Ocean counties. You can participate by \*serving as a sponsor \*registering to ride- join a group, or ride on your own in your neighborhood or park, or on your stationary bike \*sponsoring a rider or \*donating. For info visit <https://ridefornewbeginnings.org/>

**SAINT LEO THE GREAT RELIGIOUS STORE** carries a diverse variety of gifts for friends, family and clergy. There are rosaries from Italy, statuary, Miraculous Medals, wall plaques, holy cards and many books to help you grow in prayer and faith. The store is located at the lower level of the parish center, 50 Hurleys Lane in Lincroft. A chair lift is accessible. For more info visit on the web– [www.stleothegreat.com/](http://www.stleothegreat.com/) store or call 908-770-1989.

**OUR PROMISE TO PROTECT**

The Diocese of Trenton is committed to the initiatives outlined in the U.S. Bishop’s Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People in regard to the reporting and investigation of sexual abuse allegations involving minors. If you have been sexually abused as a minor by a member of the clergy or anyone representing the Catholic Church, or if you know of someone who was, you can report that abuse through the Diocesan Abuse Hotline: **888-296-2965**

**MESSAGE FROM FATHER BILL**

Happy Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. As it falls on a Sunday this year, we are celebrating Mass for this Holy Day, the patronal feast of the Diocese of Trenton, at all the Sunday Masses. We will also have a prayer service with a walk to the beach for the blessing of the water. All are invited to this yearly celebration which will take place at Our Lady Star of the Sea Beach Chapel at 6:30 pm, followed by the walk to the beach and a blessing of the ocean. May Mary Our Mother, Assumed into heaven, pray for us.

Another happy celebration occurs today, the birthday of Fr. Joe Miele! Fr. Joe turns 96 on this day and also celebrates his 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ordination to the priesthood. May Mary, Mother of the Church and Mother of Clergy, intercede for Fr. Joe. If any of you would like to extend your congratulations and well wishes to Fr. Joe, please send/drop-off notes to the rectory or in the collection basket. You can also email the parish email address and we will print them and send them along to Fr. Joe. Please keep Fr. Joe and Msgr. Valentino in your prayers – who both turn 96 this year. (You can send along notes/wishes to us to share with Msgr. Valentino as well!) We are thankful for the many years of priestly service of these two priests, continuing well into retirement and even past their turning 90! Ad Multos Annos (the priestly saying for “Many Happy Returns” literally meaning “For many more years”.) And remember what Fr. Joe always says, “God loves you and I love you.”

I thank you for your generosity in response to Mr. Conor Brooks who spoke with us last week about the good work of “Outreach to Haiti”, an initiative of the Diocese of Norwich. If you missed the opportunity to contribute to this mission, we will be accepting checks (payable to “St Denis Church” with Outreach to Haiti on the memo line) until the end of the month. Also, you can contribute directly and learn more about “Outreach to Haiti” by visiting their website: [www.outreachtohaiti.org](http://www.outreachtohaiti.org) Thank you again.

**MOVING?** Please inform the rectory office if you are moving out of the area or if you have a change of address, so the envelope company can be notified. Thank you!



especially Navy Lt. Rachael M. Honrath, Navy E3 Nora N. Honrath, Army Major Matthew Cauda, Navy LL. Edward P. Windas, Marine Lance Corporal Laura Licata, Contractor Benjamin Ostrow, Air Force Major David Smith, Army Major Sean Fessenden, Army Lt. Nikkole Crosson, Navy Captain Colin S. Walsh, Army Captain Dr. Justin Eisenman, Army Lt. Brian Quinn, Navy E4 Patrick Moynihan, Air Force 1st Lt. Dominic Celiano, Air Force Academy Cadet 2nd Class Slade Kelling, Air Force Academy, Coast Guard Petty Officer Joseph Beattie, Navy CM Taylor Nesbitt, Airman Devon Webster, Army Private 1st Class Cody Svenson, Lt. Jg. Mary T. Herman, Matthew Van Pelt, Army, USMC 2nd Lt. Philip Cahill, USMC 2nd Lt. Joanna Smith-Cahill, Navy MIDN Michael Zimmermann U.S. Naval Academy, Air Force 2nd Lt. Jason Trischitta, Allison M. Ingraham at West Point Academy, Lt. Col. Ivan Ingraham USMC, PFC Joseph J. Foley, Jr. USMC, Airman Andrew Halmi, Robert Halmi, U.S. Army, Corporal Jordan Basile USMC, PFC Neil Horenburg USMC.

## What is the meaning of the Assumption of Mary for us?

(Excerpt from Bishop O'Connell)

Mary's Assumption anticipates our ultimate union with Christ. The Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) states: "*Finally the Immaculate Virgin, preserved free from all stain of original sin, when the course of her earthly life was finished, was taken up body and soul into heavenly glory, and exalted by the Lord as Queen over all things, so that she might be the more fully conformed to her Son, the Lord of lords and conqueror of sin and death.*" *The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin is a singular participation in her Son's Resurrection and an anticipation of the resurrection of other Christians* (CCC, 966).

Mary's Assumption is a "type" of the Church and a model for all Christians. The Second Vatican Council reminded us: *By reason of the gift and role of her divine motherhood, by which she is united with her Son, the Redeemer, and with her unique graces and functions, the Blessed Virgin is also intimately united to the Church. As St. Ambrose taught, the Mother of God is a type of the Church in the order of faith, charity, and perfect union with Christ. For in the mystery of the Church, which is itself rightly called mother and virgin, the Blessed Virgin stands out in eminent and singular fashion as exemplar both of virgin and mother* (Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, "Lumen Gentium," 63).

Mary's Assumption is an example and teacher of prayer. In his apostolic exhortation, "Marialis Cultus," Blessed Pope Paul VI observed: *the last description of Mary's life presents her as praying. The apostles 'joined in continuous prayer, together with several women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers' (Acts 1:4). We have here the prayerful presence of Mary in the early Church and in the Church throughout all ages, for, having been assumed into heaven, she has not abandoned her mission of intercession and salvation* (Pope Paul VI, apostolic exhortation "Marialis Cultus," Feb. 2, 1974, 18).

Mary's Assumption teaches us trust and hope. Pope St. John Paul II preached that to succeed in your intentions, entrust yourselves to the Blessed Virgin Mary always, but especially in moments of difficulty and darkness. He wrote: *From Mary we learn to surrender to God's will in things. From Mary we learn to trust even when all hope seems gone. From Mary we learn to love Christ, her Son and the Son of God ... Learn from her to be always faithful, to trust that God's Word to you will be fulfilled, and that nothing is impossible with God* (Pope John Paul II, Homily in Washington, D.C., Oct. 6, 1979).

Mary's Assumption shows us our destiny in Christ. Pope St. John Paul II stated: *In her, assumed into heaven, we are shown the eternal destiny that awaits us beyond the mystery of death: a destiny of total happiness in divine glory. This supernatural vision sustains our daily pilgrimage. Mary teaches about life. By looking at her, we understand better the relative value of earthly greatness and the full sense of our Christian vocation* (Pope John Paul II, Homily at St. Peter's Basilica, Rome, Aug. 15, 1997).

Mary's Assumption reveals the power of love. Pope St. John Paul II proclaimed: *Taken up into heaven, Mary shows us the way to God, the way to heaven, the way to life. She shows it to her children baptized in Christ and to all people of good will. She opens this way especially to the little ones and to the poor, those who are dear to divine mercy. The Queen of the world reveals to individuals and to nations the power of the love of God whose plan upsets that of the proud, pulls down the mighty from their thrones and exalts the humble, fills the hungry with good things and sends the rich empty away* (cf Luke 1:51-53) (Pope John Paul II, Homily at St. Peter's Basilica, Rome, Aug. 15, 1999).

Mary's Assumption tells us that death is not the end. Pope St. John Paul II explained: *Mary's Assumption is an event that concerns us precisely because every human being is destined to die. But death is not the last word. Death – the mystery of the Virgin's Assumption assures us – is the passage to life, the encounter with Love. It is the passage to the eternal happiness in store for those who toil for truth and justice and do their utmost to follow Christ* (Pope John Paul II, Homily at St. Peter's Basilica, Rome, Aug. 15, 2001).

Mary's Assumption completes her work on earth and invites us to join her in eternity. In 2017, Pope Francis spoke to 20,000 pilgrims in St. Peter's Square on the Solemnity of the Assumption: *... she brings a new ability to overcome with faith the most painful and difficult moments; she brings the ability of mercy, to forgive each other, understand each other, support one another. ... We ask her to keep us and support us so that we may have a strong, joyous and merciful faith. May she help us to be holy, so that we might meet with her, one day, in Heaven* (Pope Francis, Angelus, Aug. 15, 2017).

The Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary is, indeed, more than just an obligation for Catholics. It is a truth of our faith that is rich and full of meaning, so much so that we are drawn to celebrate it regardless of its obligation in the Church's law. Every feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary during the Church's calendar year leads us closer to Christ her Son because of her maternal union with him. St. Bernard of Clairvaux expressed it beautifully: *In dangers, in doubts, in difficulties, think of Mary, call upon Mary. With her for your guide, you shall never go astray; while invoking her, you shall never lose heart; so long as she is in your mind, you are safe from deception; while she holds your hand, you cannot fall; under her protection you have nothing to fear; if she walks before you, you shall not grow weary; if she shows you favor, you shall reach the goal.*

May Mary, Mother of God and Mother of the Church, assumed into Heaven, pray for us, now and at the hour of our death. Amen!





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