

## From the Desk of the Pastor

**The Significance of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

As I write this, we are celebrating the Holy Day of the Solemnity of the Assumption the Blessed Virgin Mary into Heaven. This is such a significant day for the whole church but also for us individually. We celebrate the Blessed Virgin Mary going home to God, being assumed body and soul into heaven so that she could be at home with her Son, the very source of all life and love. She was given this particular grace by God because of her cooperation with God and the special role she was given in bearing the savior of the world. If we often associate our earthly home with the feeling of being surrounded by love, how much more does "the home" of heaven hold out promise, joy, hope and love for us all. So, this great feast reminds us of our true home and hopefully to live our lives on earth in a way that always follows the example of Mary's wholehearted yes to God.

Pope Benedict offered these reflections in a homily given on the significance of this great feast a number of years ago:

*But now let us ask ourselves: how does the Assumption of Mary help our journey? The first answer is: in the Assumption we see that in God there is room for man, God himself is the house with many rooms of which Jesus speaks (cf. Jn 14:2); God is man's home, in God there is God's space. And Mary, by uniting herself, united to God, does not distance herself from us. She does not go to an unknown galaxy, but whoever approaches God comes closer, for God is close to us all; and Mary, united to God, shares in the presence of God, is so close to us, to each one of us.*

*There is a beautiful passage from St Gregory the Great on St Benedict that we can apply to Mary too. St Gregory the Great says that the heart of St Benedict expanded so much that all creation could enter it. This is even truer of Mary: Mary, totally united to God, has a heart so big that all creation can enter this heart, and the ex-votos in every part of the earth show it. Mary is close, she can hear us, she can help us, she is close to everyone of us. In God there is room for man and God is close, and Mary, united to God, is very close; she has a heart as great as the heart of God.*



*But there is also another aspect: in God not only is there room for man; in man there is room for God. This too we see in Mary, the Holy Ark who bears the presence of God. In us there is space for God and this presence of God in us, so important for bringing light to the world with all its sadness, with its problems. This presence is realized in the faith: in the faith we open the doors of our*

*existence so that God may enter us, so that God can be the power that gives life and a path to our existence. In us there is room, let us open ourselves like Mary opened herself, saying: "Let your will be done, I am the servant of the Lord". By opening ourselves to God, we lose nothing. On the contrary, our life becomes rich and great.*

*And so, faith and hope and love are combined. Today there is much discussion on a better world to be awaited: it would be our hope. If and when this better world comes, we do not know, I do not know. What is certain is that a world which distances itself from God does not become better but worse. Only God's presence can guarantee a good world. Let us leave it at that.*

*One thing, one hope is certain: God expects us, waits for us, we do not go out into a void, we are expected. God is expecting us and on going to that other world we find the goodness of the Mother, we find our loved ones, we find eternal Love. God is waiting for us: this is our great joy and the great hope that is born from this Feast. Mary visits us, and she is the joy of our life and joy is hope. -POPE BENEDICT*

May Mary's total fidelity to her son help us to listen to him, to follow in his way, and to attain a place in heaven with him.

Blessings on your week!  
Fr Johnson

## WEEKLY CALENDAR

**Please note: no DAILY MASS on August 21**

**Monday, August 18**

9:00 AM Daily Mass

10:00 AM Women of Faith

4:00 PM Microsoft Confessions & Adoration

5:00 PM Microsoft Mass & social hour after

**Tuesday, August 19**

No Daily Mass

**Wednesday, August 20**

8:30 AM Confessions

9:00 AM Daily Mass

7:00 PM House of Prayer

**Thursday, August 21**

**No Daily Mass**

12:15PM Steps to Freedom

1:00 PM Rosary Cenacle

7:00 PM St. Vincent de Paul Meeting

**Friday, August 22**

9:00 AM Daily Mass

9:30 AM Benediction then Adoration until 9PM

**Saturday, August 23**

3:30 PM Confessions

5:00 PM Saturday Vigil Mass

**Sunday, August 24**

9:00 AM Sunday Mass

11:00 AM Sunday Mass

## SPECIAL COLLECTION



### SPECIAL COLLECTION:

#### Catholic Home Missions Appeal

##### *Strengthening the Church at Home*

Next week we will take up the Catholic Home Missions Appeal. Today, nearly 40% of dioceses in the United States and its current and former territories are unable to fund the essential pastoral work their communities need. Your support for this appeal helps them meet these faith formation and sacramental needs. Please prayerfully consider how you can support this appeal. Find more information at [www.usccb.org/home-missions](http://www.usccb.org/home-missions).

# FORMED

### FREE to all St. Jude Parishioners

Discover thousands of books, audio talks, movies, documentaries and studies... there is something for every member of the family to help them grow closer to Christ and His Church.

Available from home or on the go on any internet connected device, and FREE to all St. Jude Parishioners.

Go to [www.formed.org/signup](http://www.formed.org/signup) to get started.



**PARTNERS  
IN THE GOSPEL**

**WELCOME TO OUR PARISH FAMILY!**

St Jude | Holy Innocents  
Mission Church of St. Anthony

## 2025 Monthly Intercessions

### AUGUST

For our parish family, that over the coming years, we may continue to come together in faith and hope as disciples of Jesus Christ.

**“SO LONG AS  
SHE IS IN  
YOUR MIND,  
YOU ARE  
SAFE FROM  
DECEPTION.”**

ST. BERNARD



©LPI