



KEEP ME COMPANY FOR 15 MINUTES

Our Lady to Sr. Lucia, 10th December 1925

First Saturday of the Month



The Fourth Glorious Mystery

The Assumption of Our Lady
Our Merciful Advocate with God

Introduction:

Let us begin our First Saturday devotion by meditating today on the 4th Glorious Mystery: The Assumption of Our Lady.

In celebrating Mary's entry into Heaven in body and soul, the Church recognizes in her the "woman clothed with the sun" (Rev. 12:1), the Queen who shines at the throne of God, and there intercedes for men as a mighty Advocate, full of mercy for each of us.

Meditation Setting

For our Meditation setting, let us imagine Mary passing peacefully away and angels bearing her immaculate form upward. She ascends through ranks of cherubim and seraphim, their luminous choirs parting in reverence. A radiant path welcomes her to the Father's throne, where Christ embraces her amid the Trinity's eternal light. Crowned in quiet glory, she assumes her role as Mother of the Church, gazing mercifully upon her children.



"The Assumption"
De la Hyre

Preparatory Prayer

O Queen of Fatima and of the entire Universe, who in your glorified body and soul dwell in eternal bliss, cast your kind and motherly gaze on each one of us, and obtain for us the graces necessary to make a good meditation on this Mystery of the Rosary which exalts your Assumption into Heaven, and from it to reap fruits for our sanctification. Amen.

Book of Revelation (12:1):

Then a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet and a crown of twelve stars on her head. Amen.

I - BODY AND SOUL SANCTIFIED

In 1950 Pope Pius XII defined the Assumption of Mary as a truth of faith that must be accepted and believed by every Catholic. Therefore, we must firmly believe that the Most Holy Virgin, at the end of her life, was welcomed by God into Heaven “body and soul” and crowned fully and definitively with the glory that the Lord has prepared for his saints. Just as she was the first to serve Christ in the Faith, she was the first to participate, body and soul, in the fullness of His glory in heaven.

1. Full of perfection & holiness

Our Lady, being immaculate, never suffered sickness, nor was she touched by any shadow of sin. Her body was not subject to the decomposition of the sepulchre, this being one of the reasons for her Assumption to Heaven.

In her, everything was virtue and holiness, from the first moment of her being. Therefore, at the end of her life, Our Lady possessed a love for God so intense and such a fullness of grace that her body could no longer sustain the soul, and she took her flight to heaven.

Mary’s absolute holiness—free from original sin by the Spirit’s overshadowing—preserved her body incorrupt, a living temple of the Word Incarnate. United wholly to Christ’s redemptive oblation, she shared fully in His Resurrection and Ascension. Thus, at life’s end, heaven claimed her body and soul undivided, the spotless Ark entering glory. In her Assumption, we behold sin’s defeat and the Church’s destiny: total divinisation in the Trinity’s embrace.

2. The Assumption invites us to be attentive to things above

The Holy Catholic Church, in commemorating the Solemnity of the Assumption of Mary in the liturgy, prays: “Eternal and almighty God, who raised the Immaculate Virgin Mary, Mother of your Son, grant that we may live attentively to the things above, so that we may share in His glory.”



“The Assumption of the Virgin Mary”
Rubens

Here is one of the first invitations made to us by the Assumption of Mary: to be attentive to the things from above. Indeed, our human condition, so full of struggles and dramas, but also of graces, tends to make us turn to the concrete realities that surround us - health, money, relationships, and so on, and forget the supernatural. But in fact, it is this contemplation which is essential if we are to share in the glory of Our Lady in eternity.

II - IN GLORY, INTERCEDING FOR US

1. Incomparable joy at Mary's entry into Heaven

Saint Paul the Apostle said that human intelligence cannot grasp the immense glory that God has prepared in heaven for his servants who love him on earth. And so, we can thus understand how great was the glory he bestowed on His Most Holy Mother, who in this world loved more than all the Angels and Saints.

Although her Divine Son was already resurrected in the company of the elect, the fact that Mary united with them, being the most beautiful, elevated, and holy of pure creatures, was an outbreak of consolation for those who were waiting for the resurrection of their bodies.

Imagine the unspeakable joy of our first parents, Adam and Eve, and of the glorious Saint Joseph and of all the righteous of the Old Testament as they saw enter eternal bliss, in body and soul, the one who was our Co-redemptrix. And also consider the immense joy of the Angels as they contemplated their august Queen finally taking her place on the magnificent throne that God had prepared for Her from all eternity.

2. Our Queen and Advocate

Let us rejoice with Mary for the glory to which God has raised her, but let us rejoice also for our sake, for at the same time that Mary was raised to the dignity of Queen of the Universe, our Advocate with the Lord was likewise constituted. She defends all sinners who recommend themselves to her. No, let us never forget this merciful Intercessor that the Lord has given us at his side, and let us always turn to Our Lady for all our needs.

We should ask how we have guarded our devotion to so caring a mother, and if we have had the love and trust of children who are loved without measure by Her.

III. THE GUARANTEE OF OUR OWN RESURRECTION

Saint Paul says that "by a man death came, and by a man comes the resurrection of the dead. As in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will live" (1 Cor 15:21-22). By drawing a parallel between Christ and Adam, the Apostle shows that we would not know death if it were not for the sin of the first man. And so it was necessary that another man should triumph over the evil done by the first man.

Our souls are purified from the stain of original sin by Baptism, but we still need to overcome death with our resurrected bodies. "But each in a certain order: first, Christ; then those who belong to Christ at his coming" (1 Cor. 15, 23).

Among those who belong to Him, Our Lady stands out, the most exalted human creature, who occupies a special place in Heaven as the Mother of God.



1. Assurance of our own resurrection

For this reason, the Assumption of Mary offers us a pledge of hope, a certainty of our own resurrection. For in Her passage from this world to eternity we can already see what will happen to us at the Last Judgment, after we have surrendered our soul to God.

2. Let us follow in desire the path opened by Mary

This glorious Mystery therefore opens a beautiful path for us, full of light, as far as our eternal salvation is concerned. We should mutually consider one another according to this ideal, and act as if we were already resurrected, far above the despondency and trials of this life, in expectation of the hope of glorification towards which we are heading, a glorification which Mary's assumption exemplifies.

Let us live seeking heavenly goods, and may our thoughts follow the path followed by the Virgin Mary. She entered Heaven in body and soul and was exalted; if we cannot enter it physically, let us do so at least in desire. Let us turn to the throne of Mary Assumed, so that through her we may receive graces and give thanks for guiding us along this path to a joyful resurrection and eternity, when our bodies will be gloriously restored to us.

3. Shortest and most perfect way to find Jesus

Resorting to the protection of Our Lady is the shortest way to find Jesus Christ, either because in her there is no danger of going astray, or because in her one walks with more joy and ease, and therefore more readily. The Blessed Virgin is a perfect way to go and unite with Jesus Christ, because She is the most perfect and the holiest of pure creatures, and Jesus Christ, who came perfectly to us, chose no other way on his great and wonderful journey. Our Lady is also the safe way to go to Jesus Christ, because the characteristic of the Holy Virgin is to lead us safely to Jesus Christ, as the very nature of Jesus Christ is to lead us safely to the eternal Father.

All this is the teaching of the great Saint Louis Grignion de Montfort. Let us be convinced that the more present Mary is in our prayers, contemplations, actions, and sufferings, the more perfectly shall we find Jesus Christ, who is always with Mary, great, powerful and active, more than in any other creature in the universe. Let us therefore enter this heavenly path which is Mary Most Holy and let us walk by that path day and night, until we reach full union with Jesus in Heaven.

Conclusion

In body and soul with God, Our Lady is responsible for the treasures of graces that Divine Providence wishes to bestow on us. From the heights of Heaven, where she reigns as Mother over all the universe and its creatures, she knows best our needs and weaknesses, and is willing to help us whenever we ask her for help.

So, at the end of this meditation, let us turn once more confidently to the Glorious Virgin Assumed into Heaven and let us ask that her eyes filled with mercy may obtain for us all the graces we need. Above all those that help us to grow in love for God, in devotion to her and in the practice of virtue. This way we will achieve the holiness to which we were called and, one day, enjoy the presence of Jesus and Mary in the Heavenly Paradise.

