Mass Schedule for the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Holy Day of Obligation

Wednesday, August 14th – Vigil at 5:10 PM
Thursday, August 15th – 7:15, 8:00 AM; 12:05, 5:10 PM
Prayer Books by the Oblates of the Virgin Mary

These books introduce the reader to the joys of praying the Rosary and of Eucharistic Adoration, while providing new insights, prayers and meditations for those who pray and adore regularly. Available at the gift shop!
A Reflection on the Assumption and Holy Days of Obligation
by Fr. James Doran, OMV

This Thursday, August 15, is the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary. It is a holy day of obligation.

Why do we have these holy days of obligation during the week? Three reasons: 1) to recall the mystery, 2) to thank God for the mystery, and 3) so that it will bear fruit in our lives.

The mystery is that God took His Mother to heaven, not just her soul but also her body. Why? Because She was and is the Mother of God, conceived without sin. He could not let this body that conceived and nurtured and carried His Divine Son decompose in the ground. We celebrate it every year so we do not forget. We have short memories. If we stop celebrating a certain event, after a couple hundred years we forget.

We celebrate so that it will bear fruit in our lives. How? It gives us hope, that just as God took care of His Mother, He will take care of us. “In My Father’s House there are many mansions. I go to prepare a place for you.” Mary is the model of all Christians. What happens to her should happen to us. Her bodily Assumption into Heaven anticipates our bodily resurrection and bodily presence in Heaven.

It will be a great family reunion. Just as He willed to be reunited with His Mother, He would not deny us the joy of being reunited with our loved ones, as long as we do not deny Him.

And if we have denied Him by mortal sin, we have the sacrament of Confession that reconciles us to Him.

So, the fruit of this feast is that we hope and strive to be worthy of His Father’s house and we can be sure that our Blessed Lady will aid us with her prayers.

So, let us thank God for this mystery. The greatest act of thanksgiving that we can offer is the Sacrifice of the Mass, the perfect sacrifice of praise. John Paul II says: “in it the Son of God unites redeemed humanity to himself in a hymn of thanksgiving and praise. Let us remember that the Hebrew word todah, translated "praise", also means "thanksgiving". The sacrifice of praise was a sacrifice of thanksgiving. At the Last Supper, in order to institute the Eucharist, Jesus gave thanks to his Father; this is the origin of the name of this sacrament.” Eucharist means “thanksgiving”.

On February 17, 1941, Maximilian Kolbe’s Franciscan monastery in Poland was shut down; Kolbe was arrested by the German Gestapo and eventually taken to Auschwitz. Toward the end of his second month in Auschwitz, men were chosen to face death by starvation to warn against escapes. Kolbe was not chosen but volunteered to take the place of a man with a family.

It is said that, during the last days of his life, Kolbe remained calm and led the prisoners in prayers to Our Lady. St. Maximilian Kolbe died on August 14 and his remains were cremated on August 15, feast of the Assumption.

— from catholic.org

St. Maximilian Kolbe’s relic, on permanent display at St. Francis Chapel, is taken from his beard shaved in 1940 prior to being sent to Auschwitz. The reliquary (pictured, right) represents the gate of Auschwitz (pictured, left), the words “Veritas Liberavit Vos” — “The Truth Makes you Free” from John 8:38 — and the two crowns of martyrdom and purity Our Lady offered to him when he was a boy.

Mass Intentions This Week

Sunday, August 11
8:00 AM + Claude Savoie
9:15 AM St. Maximilian Kolbe Novena Enrollees
10:30 AM + Mary & Kenneth West
11:45 AM + Laura Zizza
1:15 PM (esp) + Rodrigo Tehada
4:00 PM John Valleri — health
5:30 PM The Horsley Family, Living & Deceased

Monday, August 12
8:00 AM St. Maximilian Kolbe Novena Enrollees
12:05 PM Holy Souls in Purgatory
4:45 PM + Emmanuel R. David — 40th day

Tuesday, August 13
8:00 AM Holy Souls in Purgatory
12:05 PM St. Maximilian Kolbe Novena Enrollees
4:45 PM + Denton Lotz

Wednesday, August 14
8:00 AM + Joseph G. & + Mary A. Maciora
12:05 PM + Joan & + Amelia Martins
5:10 PM + Yukie Kubo

Thursday, August 15
7:15 AM + Frank & + Genevieve Palermo
8:00 AM Maria Assunta DiSilvio
12:05 PM Donald Trump
5:10 PM Marie Estimable and for conversion

Friday, August 16
8:00 AM + Patricia Borromeo
12:05 PM Holy Souls in Purgatory
4:45 PM + Marianne de los Santos

Saturday, August 17
9:00 AM + Claude Savoie
12:00 PM Alba Osuna — special intention

4:00 PM + Parents of Rose
5:30 PM + Dorothy M. Fitzgerald
7:00 PM (esp) + Efran Vanegas

Feast Days This Week

August 12: St. Jane Frances de Chantal
- Religious
August 13: Sts. Pontian, Pope & Hippolytus, Priest
- Martyrs
August 14: St. Maximilian Kolbe
- Priest and Martyr
August 15: The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
August 16: St. Stephen of Hungary
Oblates of the Virgin Mary—USA

The Oblates of the Virgin Mary is an international religious community of priests and brothers serving in Italy, France, Austria, Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Nigeria, the United States and the Philippines. The Oblates are involved in retreat and parish missions, spiritual direction, parish work, the mass media, clergy formation, and the foreign missions.

The US Province of the Oblates of the Virgin Mary is dedicated to St. Ignatius of Loyola, and includes communities in Massachusetts, Illinois, Colorado, California and the Philippines.

The OMV US Province House is at St. Clement’s in Boston.

The OMV motto, “MARIAM COGITA, MARIAM INVOCA” “THINK OF MARY, CALL ON MARY” is taken from a homily by St. Bernard.