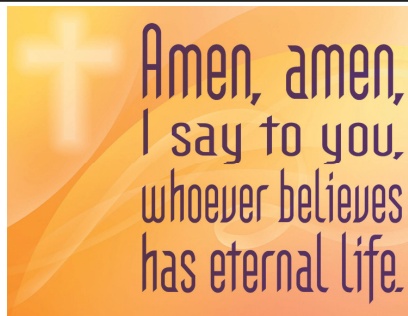


Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

"My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my savior. For He has looked upon His handmaid's lowliness; behold, from now on will all ages call me blessed." Luke 1:46-48





MASSES FOR THIS WEEK

Monday, August 13-St. Pontian & St. Hippolytus

7:00 am Jean Hutchison by Lou Ann Mack (Holy Family)

Tuesday, August 14-St. Maximilian Kolbe

Vigil Masses for The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary [Holy Day of Obligation]

5:30 pm Greg Feldman by Joe & Carrie Schonauer (Holy Family)

6:00 pm Sarah Alberts by Sharon Johnson (St. Mary's)

Wednesday, August 15-The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary [Holy Day of Obligation]

7:00 am John Fleshman by Mike Lach (Holy Family)

7:00 am All Souls (St. Patrick's)

6:30 pm Mary Lou Jason by Family & Friends (St. Thomas Aquinas)

Thursday, August 16-St. Stephen of Hungary

7:00 am Jerry & Nancy Overby by Jerry & Janet Langenbahn (Holy Family)

12 Noon Recitation of the Rosary (Holy Family)

2-5:30 pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament [with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament] (Holy Family)

5:30 pm Divine Mercy Chaplet Meditation with Benediction following (Holy Family)

Friday, August 17

7:00 am Judith Welch by the Welch Family (Holy Family)

Saturday, August 18

4:00 pm Epifania Laya by Mike & Judy Lumpp (Holy Family)

4:00 pm Thomas Fedor by Family (St. Patrick's)

Sunday, August 19-20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 am Agnes Reichle by Lou Ann (Holy Family)

8:30 am Rev. Robert O'Connor by the Estate (St. Patrick's)

9:00 am John T. Dee, Sr. [In Memory of His Birthday] by Kathleen Nicholas (St. Mary's)

10:00 am Wilfred & Gretchen Resch by the Struebing Family (Holy Family)

10:30 am Louise Cardoni by Ronald & Patricia Cardoni (St. Thomas Aquinas)

NOTE: Reconciliation at Holy Family Church, Lincoln, is held each Tuesday from 4:30-4:55 pm and each Saturday from 2:45-3:30 pm.

Reconciliation at St. Mary's Church, Atlanta, is held prior to the 9 am Sunday Mass.

Reconciliation at St. Patrick's Church, Elkhart, is held each Saturday from 3:15-3:45 pm.

Reconciliation at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Mt. Pulaski, is held prior to the 10:30 am Sunday Mass.

Based on the availability of clergy, this schedule is subject to change. Please check the parish calendar on the website for any changes or additions.

During the construction process of the new addition onto Holy Family Church, the use of bathroom facilities will be changed to the Casa, located in the white building across from Carroll Catholic School.

19th Sunday In Ordinary Time Cycle B

The gifts of God that the angel brought to Elijah—food, water, rest and encouragement—were given, not for his own good alone, but to strengthen him for service. How am I using my gifts to serve others?

Assumption

“After Jesus, it is the Blessed Virgin Mary who by her example most perfectly teaches the meaning of discipleship and stewardship . . . She was called and gifted by God; she responded generously, creatively and prudently; she understood her divinely assigned role as ‘handmaid’ in terms of service and fidelity.” (U.S. Bishops’ pastoral letter, Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response).

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THIS WEEK

Monday, August 13

Ezekiel 1:2-5,24-28 /
Psalm 148:1-2,11-14 /
Matthew 17:22-27

Tuesday, August 14

Ezekiel 2:8—3:4 / Psalm
119:14,24,72,103,111,131 /
Matthew 18:1-5,10,12-14

Wednesday, August 15

Revelation 11:19; 12:1-6,10 /
Psalm 45:10-12,16 /
1 Corinthians 15:20-27 / Luke
1:39-56

Thursday, August 16

Ezekiel 12:1-12 /
Psalm 78:56-59,61-62 /
Matthew 18:21—19:1

Friday, August 17

Ezekiel 16:1-15,60,63 / Isaiah
12:2-6 / Matthew 19:3-12

Saturday, August 18

Ezekiel 18:1-10,13,30-32 / Psalm 51:12-15,18-19 /
Matthew 19:13-15

Sunday, August 19

Proverbs 9:1-6 / Psalm 34:2-7 / Ephesians 5:15-20 / John 6:51-58

ST. MARY'S, ATLANTA

~Ministry Schedule for Tuesday, August 14:

Reader-Paul Eckert; Servers-Paige Johnson & Andrew O'Donnell; Greeters & Gift Bearers-Byron Jodlowski & Family

~Ministry Schedule for Sunday, August 19:

Reader-Paul Eckert; Servers-Nicholas O'Donnell & Zachary O'Donnell; Greeters & Gift Bearers-Gayle & Roslie Hamblin

~**Cleaning/Coffee & Donuts Committee** for August Amber & Susan Finchum

ST. PATRICK'S, ELKHART

~**Next Coffee & Donuts** will be **Sunday, September 30**, after the 8:30 am Mass. No coffee & donuts in August due to the Chicken Dinner.

~**Cleaning Committee** for August 26 Steve & Janet Allen. Please clean the week before you are scheduled.

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS, MT. PULASKI

~**Church Cleaning:** This **Tuesday, August 14** (second Tuesday of the month) those who are able to assist with cleaning the Church are asked to come to the Church at 4 pm. Volunteers are needed and appreciated. Your time allows us to keep our Church and lower level clean and it is a great way to make an important contribution to our parish facility.

~**Coffee & Donuts** will take place on **September 2**.

~**Thank you** to the St. Thomas Aquinas parishioners who helped host the Vonderlieth Living Center monthly birthday party on Sunday. Appreciation was expressed for the piano music, singing, desserts and for those who served. There was great parish support for this event!

Come Pray the Rosary!

Come join the residents at 10:15 am **this Monday, August 13**, in the St. Clara's Manor Chapel to pray the Rosary. A gathering to pray the Rosary takes place on the second Monday of each month at St. Clara's Manor.

~**Lunch & Learn:** The Area Agency on Aging for Lincolnland will sponsor a "Lunch and Learn" for caregivers of older family members & friends and grandparents & other relatives raising children from 12 Noon-1 pm **this Monday, August 13**-Beth Monnet, AAAL Understanding Medicare & **Monday, September 17**-Effective Communication with Michelle Ramlow, Manager Education & Outreach. No charge to attend, volunteer contributions are accepted. Lunch is provided and pre-registration is required. Call (217) 787-9234 to register.

~**Low Vision Support Group** will meet this Monday, August 13, from 1-2 pm at Lincoln Christian Church (204 N. McLean Street). Enter door under the green canopy. Speaker is Josh Dugan talking about mobility. Call 732-6528 with questions.

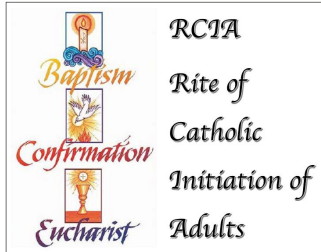
RCIA

(Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)

is a process of discerning and ritualizing stages of conversion leading to initiation through the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist.

Who is welcome to RCIA? —persons who have never been baptized; persons baptized in another Christian Church who desire to become Catholic; Baptized Catholics who have never received First Communion or Confirmation; Catholics who want to understand more about the practice of their Faith.

If you are interested in becoming part of our RCIA class for the Fall, or if you know someone who is interested, please call or have the interested person(s) call Sister Mary Lou at (217) 732-4019. Thank you.



St. Patrick's Church (Elkhart)

Old Fashioned CHICKEN DINNER

When: Sunday, August 26

Serving Time: 11 am to 1:30 pm

Where: St. Patrick's Church,
Elkhart

Eat in their air-conditioned hall in the basement OR get carry-outs, located in the outside tent.

Tickets: Available from any St.

Patrick's parishioner or at the door.

Adults/\$10

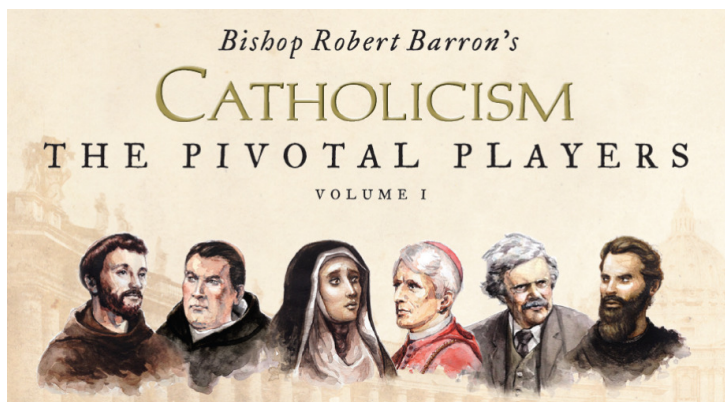
Children/\$5 (ages 5-12. . . .

. . . under 5 eat free)

Menu:

**Chicken, Mashed
Potatoes & Gravy,
Noodles, Green Beans,
Roll, Dessert &
Tea/Coffee**





Our Fall Adult Education classes will present Bishop Robert Barron's "Catholicism: The Pivotal Players". This series illuminates a handful of saints, artists, mystics and scholars who not only shaped the life of the Church but changed the course of civilization. Bishop Barron unlocks the truth behind the Catholic churches most influential people: St. Francis of Assisi, St. Catherine of Siena, St. Thomas Aquinas, Michelangelo, Blessed John Henry Newman and G. K. Chesterton. Christ's Incarnation is on display through the minds and lives of His Church's members. This series will start **September 12** and meet weekly through October 17, with 10 am and 7 pm sessions, to be held at the Lincoln Knight's of Columbus Hall. Mark your calendars. More info to follow in future bulletins.



FAMILY LUNCHEON

Parishioners and families from all four parishes are invited to come to the (September 2018-May 2019) monthly Family Luncheons with the first one for this school year to be held on **Thursday, September 13**, in the Carroll Catholic School cafeteria. Lunch will begin at 11:45 am. No fee required, but donations will be accepted.

UPCOMING FAITH EVENT

A Springfield Diocesan Adult Enrichment Conference will take place from **September 30-October 1, 2018**. This conference, "*Who Do You Say That I Am?*" will be a wonderful opportunity for school faculty, parish staff members, catechists, clergy, DRE's, educators, liturgists, musicians, RCIA teams, teachers, youth ministers and ALL adult Catholics. For more information call Christine Malmevik at (217) 696-8500.

GARDEN PRODUCE

The Logan County Catholic Community Food Pantry, has in the past and, will continue to accept garden produce for its patrons. If you wish to donate garden produce you may bring it to the pantry on any Wednesday. The food pantry is open from 10 am to 2 pm each Wednesday. Or you may bring your donations on a Tuesday. However, if you choose Tuesday, you must first call ahead at (217) 732-9592 to make arrangements to have someone meet you at the food pantry to accept your donations. Our food pantry serves patrons in all of the Logan County area. Thank you to everyone who supports the Logan County Catholic Community Food Pantry in any way.



Parishioners of all four parishes are invited to meet at Holy Family Church at 11 am on **Saturday, October 20**, for a Rosary Walk that will conclude two blocks away at Scully Park. Let us bring strength in numbers giving us a strong voice of prayer that is very much needed for our parishes and the world!!!

FEED MY LAMBS



The Logan County Catholic Community Food Pantry is in need of food staples such as: fruit, macaroni & cheese, vegetables, soup, cereal, and other such nonperishable items to help replenish the pantry shelves. To collect these items, at Holy Family there is a shopping cart located to the right in the main

entrance, at St. Mary's a box is provided in the gathering area, St. Patrick's and St. Thomas Aquinas items may be left in the main entrance. Thank you for all your past

INFANT BAPTISMS

Parents are asked to attend a baptism preparation session before the baptism of their child. Please call the parish office to register.



MARRIAGES

Please call the parish office at least six months prior to the desired wedding date.

Becoming Closer to God Through . . .

SCRIPTURE SHARING: An opportunity to break open the Word; an opportunity to meet new people takes place each Wednesday morning at the Casa, Lincoln, beginning at 10 am. Come join us for prayer, fellowship and reflection. We study the readings for the upcoming Sunday.

ROSARY: Each Thursday at 12 Noon in Holy Family Church, on the first Monday of each month at 9 am in St. Mary's Church and the second Monday of each month at 10:15 am in the chapel at St. Clara's Manor.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT: Each Thursday in Holy Family Church. Please see the "Masses for This Week" section for times.

DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET & BENEDICTION: Each Thursday in Holy Family Church at 5:30 pm.

COUNCIL

CORNER

The Logan County Parish Council met April 26th and May 31st. Security for the churches was discussed. There was a meeting with Logan County Officers Landers and Butterfield in April for all the Logan County churches. Representatives from our parishes were there and that information was shared with the council. Safety committees for each church will review their emergency plans with input from the Logan County Sheriff's Department.

The length of council member terms was discussed with a rotation of new/experienced members being the goal. This balance can be accomplished with term extensions for some council members.

A pictorial directory is being planned for the winter of 2019. More details will be forthcoming.

This year's Harvest Mass will be held on Sunday, September 9th at 8:30 am at St. Patrick's Church, in Elkhart. There will be a brunch following Mass in the Parish Hall with more information to follow in the bulletin.

WATCH is sponsoring a pilgrimage to Holy Hill and the Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help. The trip will be on September 7th and 8th with registration information and forms at all churches or on-line at www.logancountycatholic.org.

Our next scheduled meeting is **Thursday, September 20th** at 7 pm at the Knights of Columbus Hall.

Council members are

Co-Presidents Lori Bobell and Kathy Miller;

Holy Family: Julie Benedict, Bob Barger & Jim Wessbecher;

St. Mary's: Joe Bell, Jan Bicknell & Zach Craig;

St. Patrick's: Lori Bobell, Judy Horcharik & Blane Olson;

St. Thomas: Karen Edgecombe & Kathy Miller.

Prayer Works



*The more people
praying for an intention,
the stronger the prayer becomes.*

Prayer Chain: Request prayers by sending an email to lcc4-prayer-chain@googlegroups.com. If you would like to subscribe to the prayer chain, follow the "Join Prayer Chain" link

located on www.logancountycatholic.org. When your web browser opens click on "Subscribe to this group" option, then follow the instructions in the pop-up box. You should receive an email within 48 hours that indicates you have been accepted as a member of the prayer chain.

Offering Mass Intentions

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is our greatest prayer. Masses may be celebrated for the deceased and/or special intentions. If you are interested in having a Mass celebrated please call the parish office at (217) 732-4019.



Please Pray for the Sick by Remembering the following in your prayers:

Anne Lowry, Anna Beckers, Les Jarnagin, Steve Coogan, Mike Lowry, Paul Lowry, Matthew Lowry, Elijah Cox, Guinevere Decker, Laura Saladino, Joan Lewis, Boone O'Donoghue, Ruth Young, David Olson, Rodney Alberts, Jill Alberts,

Jan Loeffelholz, Linda Wright, Steve Schmidt, Ryan Butler, Donna Burr, Paula Rutherford, James Thean, Gavin Fox, Kevin McCrary, Joe Bell, Mark VanRheeden, Rita Johnson, Diana Brown, Adelyn Jones, McKayla Nye, Judy Morrow, Gavin Shuler, Phillip Brown, Christina Clementz, Mike Kavanaugh, E. J. Miley, Rosie Huber, Linda H., Mark L., Kay Rosner, Mary Ellen Thornton, Rita Faith, Steve Mitchell, Hank Barr, Angie Morey, Deb Jordan, Dwayne Knap, Jo Ellen Warren, Esme Avar, Rita Scanavino, Tanner Gillen, Rowena Bennett, Amy Talmage, Anna Link, Anthony J. Vespa and all the members of the armed forces of our country. If you would like to add a name to the list, call the Parish Office at (217) 732-4019 or email mklohrenz@logancountycatholic.org

The sanctuary candle on the altar at . . .

Holy Family Church is lit this week

In Memory of Donald Dean Shea
requested by Family.

St. Patrick's Church is lit this week

In Memory of Thomas Fedor
Requested by Family.

The blue candle at the foot of the Blessed Virgin Mary statue at . . .

Holy Family Church is lit this week

In Thanksgiving for
my son's addiction recovery.

SPONSOR A SANCTUARY CANDLE!!

Each sanctuary candle (red glass candle on altar) lasts for approximately a week at a time. For \$5 per candle you can sponsor a sanctuary candle in memory of a loved one or friend or for a special intention. The memorial/intention announcement will be placed in the Sunday bulletin each week. If you would like to sponsor a candle or candle(s), please contact Alicia Baker at (217) 732-4019 or email her at abaker@logancountyCatholic.org



Congratulations to

Brian & Missy Koning
as they celebrate their
25th Wedding Anniversary on August 14.

Venerable Mary of Agreda was a Spanish mystic from the 17th century whose body is incorrupt to this day. She was the abbess of the Conceptionist convent in Agreda, a small town situated between Madrid and Zaragoza in Spain. This convent is still there and the nuns are cloistered and wear a beautiful black, white and blue habit. Our Lady revealed to Venerable Mary of Agreda impressive details of her own life on earth and the text below is an excerpt dealing with her Assumption into Heaven.

Meditation on the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary into Heaven
by Venerable Mary of Agreda

More and more as the years passed, the Blessed Virgin felt torn between her ever-increasing longing for union with God in Heaven and her compassionate love for the Church and for mankind. She therefore had to strive to achieve the right adjustment between the active and the contemplative life...Consequently, while remaining actively attentive to the needs and welfare of all the children of the Church, she was also able to be continually absorbed in prayerful contemplation.

Toward the end of her life, through the intensity of her burning charity, the Blessed Virgin's soul had approached so closely to union with God that only the Lord's reluctance to deprive His Church of such an invaluable guide restrained Him from welcoming her forever into the glory of Heaven.

She then began to suffer a ceaseless spiritual martyrdom, for she could no longer hold back the overflowing force of her yearning for Heaven and the Beatific Vision of God; yet she was too humble ever to ask for the privilege of liberation from mortal life....

After the blessed virgin had passed her sixtieth birthday, the Holy Trinity, wishing to reward her perfect generosity in doing the will of God throughout her life, sent the Archangel Gabriel to reveal to her when she was destined to die.

Upon entering her oratory, the archangel found her prostrated on the ground in the form of a cross, praying for sinners. The Mother of God respectfully rose to her knees as soon as she perceived Gabriel, who was accompanied by many angels bearing crowns and palms as symbols of various rewards for their Queen.

Gabriel greeted Mary with these words:

"The Lord sends us to announce to thee in His name the happy end of thy pilgrimage up on earth. Exactly three years from today thou shalt be taken up and received into the everlasting joy of Heaven."

The Blessed Virgin bowed to the ground and replied gratefully: "Behold the handmaid of the Lord. Be it done unto me according to thy word"...and she asked the Lord and all the saints and angels to help her prepare for death...

She immediately wrote to the Apostles and disciples to encourage them in their missionary work, and she exercised still greater zeal in strengthening the faith of all the converts whom she met. Although she kept her secret, her conduct was that of a person who is preparing to depart and who wishes to leave all her friends rich in heavenly blessings.

A few days later, however, she said to St. John: "My son and master, in His condescending mercy the Lord has revealed to me that there remain only three more years until my passage into eternal life. I beseech you, my son, to help me during this short space of time to give the Almighty some return for the immense blessings which I have received from His generous love. And from the bottom of my heart I beseech you to pray for me."

Unable to restrain his tears, John answered: "My Mother and my Lady, help your poor child who is going to be left an orphan" Seeing that his tender heart was stricken with intense pain, Mary gently consoled him and assured him that she would ever remain his Mother and Advocate in Heaven.

Although John was at first permitted to reveal the secret of their approaching loss only to St. James the Less, by a divine inspiration the other Apostles and disciples, wherever they happened to be, began to realize that the beloved Mother of their Savior would not be with them on earth much longer.

In fact Almighty God filled the whole of creation with a mysterious sorrow over the prospective death of its Queen. The light of the sun and stars and planets lost some of its brightness during the last days of her life...St. John became so grief-stricken that often he was unable to hide his sorrow...

During the last two years of her life, the Blessed Virgin greatly increased her charity work. She healed in body and soul all the sick who came to her. She drew innumerable persons from sin to grace and made many new converts to the Church.

She relieved the misery of the poor by giving them whatever possessions or gifts she had and often by performing miracles for them. In every way she generously strove to help the faithful personally before her death. And above all she consoled and encouraged them by promising that she would continue to help all Christians until the end of time.

During the last days of her life, the Savior visited His Mother more often than before, comforting her affectionately and assuring her that He would soon place her on a royal throne in Heaven. On these occasions Mary fervently interceded for all living and future servants of the Church...

On the morning of her last day, the Blessed Virgin summoned the Apostles and disciples and Holy Women to the Cenacle. They were all deeply moved as they quietly gather around her. With sad hearts they gazed for the last time at the holy Mother of their God: she was as poor and humble and lovely as ever. They noticed an extraordinary celestial light that seemed to enfold her.

Mary rose from her couch, and after kneeling and kissing St. Peter's feet she went to each of the eleven other Apostles for his blessing, and with each she exchanged a touching farewell. She thanked St. John with special affection for all his kindness. She also asked him to distribute her few clothes to a servant woman and to a poor girl who often helped her.

Then, after a moment's recollection, the Blessed Virgin said to all who were present: "Dearest children, I have loved you with that tender love and charity which was given to me by my divine Son, whom I have seen in you, His chosen friends. My children, love the Church and love one another."

And turning reverently to St. Peter, she continued: "I commend my son John and all the rest to thee, Peter."

Then she added, for all of them: "I promise you that in Heaven I will ever look upon you as a Mother." As she ceased speaking, everyone was weeping. Mary's eyes too had filled with tears.

Then, glowing with a heavenly radiance, she sat on her couch. And as each of the Apostles, disciples, and Holy Women in turn knelt before her, she blessed them by touching their foreheads with her crossed hands.

Next Mary asked all her grieving friends to pray with her and for her in silence while St. Peter celebrated Mass at a small altar in an adjoining room.

Becoming absorbed in contemplation, she saw her divine Son coming down from Heaven in glory, accompanied by many saints and angels. Thereupon she prostrated herself before Him and kissed His feet, making the last and most intense act of faith, love, and humility in

all her life.

The Lord gave her His blessing and said to her: "My dearest Mother, the hour has come in which thou art to pass into the glory of My Father. And since, by My power and as My Mother, I have caused thee to enter the world exempt from sin, therefore also death shall have no right to touch thee at thy exit from this world. If thou wishest not to pass through it, come with Me now to partake of My glory, which thou hast merited."

But Mary joyfully replied: "My Son and my Lord, Thou didst suffer death without being obliged to do so. It is proper therefore that as I have tried to follow Thee in life, so I follow Thee also in death." The Savior approved her last, generous sacrifice.

While the angels began softly to sing verses of the Canticle of Canticles, and the Apostles sadly recited prayers for the dying, St. Peter entered the room and gave Mary her last Holy Communion, after which he anointed her with the oils of Extreme Unction.

At this solemn moment the Cenacle was filled with a marvelous light and fragrance which everyone perceived. The presence of the Lord was revealed to several of the Apostles, and the chanting of the angels was heard by many.

Now the Mother of God had reclined on her couch. Her plain mantle and tunic were neatly folded about her. Joining her hands in prayer she kept her eyes fixed on her divine and glorious Son. The intensity of her love for Him and the fervor of her longing to be with Him completely transfigured her radiant features.

She seemed to become utterly inflamed with the fire of her seraphic charity. On her beautiful face appeared an expression of heavenly joy, and her lips parted in the sweet, gentle smile of her youth.

Then, while a number of cherubic little angels hovered about her, and the choir of angels and archangels with singing the verses of the Canticle: "Behold, my beloved speaketh to me 'Arise make haste, my love, my dove, my beautiful one and come, the winter has passed...'" Mary whispered "Into Thy hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit."

Then the eyes of the Mother of God gently closed. And her soul, without effort, left her body.

She died of love....

When Mary's soul left her body, the soft chanting of the angels seemed to withdraw slowly from the Cenacle. Peter and John must have perceived the glory of her soul in this moment of its liberation, for they both looked up, while the other Apostles remained absorbed in prayer.

The Blessed Virgin's body lay radiant with light, surrounded by her thousand invisible guardian angels. Her eyes were closed, and her hands were folded on her breast....

On the day of the funeral, the Apostles took up the bier and bore it in a solemn procession from the Cenacle to the tomb in the Valley of Josaphat, near the Garden of Gethsemani.

All the Christians of Jerusalem, as well as an invisible multitude of angels, patriarchs, prophets and saints, accompanied the funeral, during which numerous miraculous cures and conversions of compassionate Jewish and Gentile spectators took place. Everyone was amazed at the delicious fragrance and heavenly music that followed the passage of Mary's remains.

When the procession reached the prepared tomb, St. Peter and St. John reverently carried the bier into the sepulcher, which was then filled with aromatic flowers and closed with a large stone, while everyone present wept and prayed in profound sorrow. The heavenly chanting of the angels continued, and many persons noticed an extraordinary light shining around the tomb...

Meanwhile, immediately after Mary's death, Our Lord had entered Heaven, conducting the pure soul of His Mother at His right hand. And presenting her before the throne of the Divinity, He said: "Eternal Father, it is right that to My Mother be given the reward of a Mother. And since during all her life and in all her works she was as like to Me as it is possible for a creature to be, let her also be like to Me in glory and on the throne of Our Majesty."

This decree was approved by the Father and the Holy Ghost. And Mary's soul was immediately raised to the right hand of her divine Son and placed beside the throne of the Holy Trinity.

Later, after the funeral, the Lord descended in a dazzling beam of light, to the tomb of the Blessed Virgin, accompanied by Mary's soul and by innumerable angels.

Then the holy soul of the Mother of God penetrated into her body in the sepulcher, reanimated it, and rose up again united to it, utterly radiant, gloriously attired, and indescribably beautiful.

Now amid celestial music a magnificent triumphant procession ascended from the tomb to Heaven. First came the rejoicing angels and saints, and then Christ the King with His Immaculate Mother at His side, while the souls of all the blessed in Heaven gladly welcomed and praised their new Queen...

Meanwhile, on the morning of Mary's Assumption into heaven, St. Peter and St. John had been watching and praying at her tomb with some of the faithful. Suddenly they noticed that the music of the angels had ceased. Looking up at the sky, the two Apostles were partly enlightened by the Holy Spirit and guessed that the Blessed Virgin's body might have been taken up to Heaven by God.

As they were debating whether to open the tomb, St. Thomas arrived from the Orient. When they told him that Mary was already dead, he burst into tears and earnestly begged them to allow him to have one last look at the Mother of his Lord. Peter and John consented and proceeded to open the tomb.

John and Thomas went in and reverently knelt down in prayer. Then John stood up, while Thomas held aloft a torch. There was nothing on the bier but Mary's robe and mantle.

In wonder and awe the two saints gazed at the ceiling of the tomb. Then John ran to the entrance and cried to the others outside: "Come and see - she is no longer here!"

St. Peter and the rest entered two by two in the narrow grotto. In mixed joy and sorrow they all wept as they slowly realized what an extraordinary honor and privilege God had accorded to Mary.

Peter carefully folded and took with him her mantle and robe. Then they all stood outside the tomb and sang hymns of praise to the Lord and to His holy Mother.

After they had replaced the large stone, they were standing gazing silently at the sepulcher when suddenly an angel appeared to them and said: "Men of Galilee, why do you tarry here? Your Queen and ours is now living body and soul in Heaven and reigning in it forever with Christ. She has sent me to confirm you in this truth. And she recommends to you again the Church, the conversion of souls, and the spread of the Gospel. She wishes you now to return to your ministry.

From her throne she will watch over you and protect you."

Then celebrating this first feast of Our Lady's Assumption with deep joy and peace of heart, the Apostles and disciples went back to the Cenacle, praying together and singing hymns of thanksgiving to God.

The information from these two pages was taken from the "americanneedsfatima" website and, according to the article, are church-approved private revelations from our Blessed Mother to Venerable Mary of Agreda. You may also visit the website to view and print a copy of the Novena of the Assumption.