

## Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

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

### Monday August 16

Judges 2:11-19  
Ps 106:34-37,39-40,43ab,44  
Matthew 19:16-22

### Tuesday August 17

Judges 6:11-24a  
Ps 85:9,11-14  
Matthew 19:23-30

### Wednesday August 18

Judges 9:6-15  
Ps 21:2-7  
Matthew 20:1-16

### Thursday August 19

Judges 11:29-39a  
Ps 40:5,7-10  
Matthew 22:1-14

### Friday August 20 St. Bernard

Ruth 1:1,3-6,14b-16,22  
Ps 146:5-10  
Matthew 22:34-40

### Saturday August 22 St. Pius X

Ruth 2:1-3,8-11;4:13-17  
Ps 128:1b-5  
Matthew 23:1-12

The scriptures for this solemnity can help us understand Mary's holiness and how it affected her physically. They answer the question: How could she pass directly from earth to heaven without experiencing the corruption of death in her body?

Mary was the only human after Adam and Eve who was conceived without inheriting their Original Sin. God the Father arranged this so that Jesus the Son – who was completely holy and fully God – could reside within her human body during pregnancy and then live in a very holy family.

This gave Mary an advantage of grace that you and I do not have. Adam and Eve had it, but when faced with temptation, they chose to sin. As a new Eve, Mary faced temptation but chose to remain close to God.



saying no to temptation. Since we fail at this, Jesus died on our behalf so that we can get to heaven anyway, as long as we don't completely turn away from God's grace. He gave us the Sacrament of Baptism to free us from the inher-

itance of Adam and Eve's Original Sin. But we don't have to be satisfied with the minimum. God wants to give us much more grace!

We have the Holy Spirit so that we can resist temptation and be holy.

God gave Mary a ministry that did not end when she was transferred from earth to heaven. Her calling was – and still is – an eternal vocation of sharing the gift of grace that she received from God. Thus, she is able to care for us like a real mother and help us to grow in our love for Jesus and in our desire to resist temptations.

### Reflect & Discuss:

1. How similar to Mary are you?
2. What do you need from Mary so you can become more like her?
3. Share the story of a time when you prayed the Rosary or consecrated yourself to Mary and a miracle happened.

Thus remaining full of God's grace, she was able to live in complete holiness and never experience the corruption of sin and death. When she reached the end of her time on earth, God's divine life raised her from the earth and immediately resurrected her earthly body into her glorified body.

To live in God's grace, we have to cooperate with it by