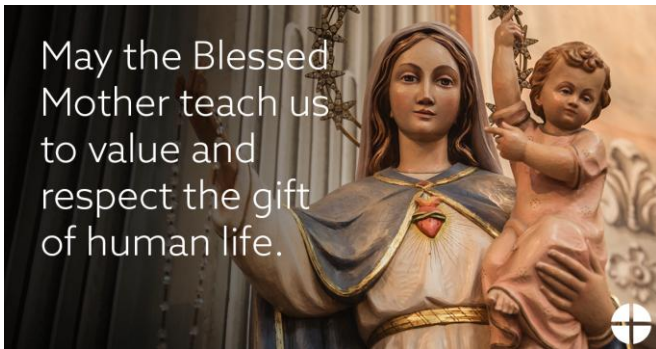


INTERCEDE



PRAY

Our Father, 3 Hail Marys, Glory Be

REFLECT

The Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary celebrates the Blessed Mother's entrance into heavenly glory. Mary's Assumption into heaven reminds us that life on earth is a pilgrimage to our ultimate destination. We prepare in hope for our own passage into eternal life by the choices we make today. When we choose to love and follow God in our daily lives, we strengthen our relationship with Him, and this relationship is the true meaning of heaven: "To live in heaven is 'to be with Christ'" (CCC, 1025).

We can see how, throughout her life, the Blessed Mother continually chose to go deeper into her relationship with God. She modeled how to value and respect His precious gift of human life, from the moment of conception to its natural end. In the Annunciation, through her "yes," Mary witnessed to the undeniable humanity of pre-born children as she conceived and carried the Christ child in her womb. After the Annunciation, having learned that her cousin Elizabeth was with child, she went in haste to her aid.

Our Blessed Mother shows us how the way we live *today* can prepare us, in hope, to also enter into heavenly glory at the end of our lives. Are we open to God's precious gift of new life? How do we support pregnant mothers and parents? Do we prioritize showing our love to those who are ill or aging? Do we care for them in a way that respects God's gift of life?

Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

ACT (choose one)

- Read and meditate on the Mass readings for the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (bit.ly/assumption-2026). Reflect on how the Blessed Mother consistently exemplified how to welcome and cherish God's gift of human life.
- Choose one night to sleep without your pillow or on the floor. Consider how Mary welcomed the Christ-child in humble surroundings and pray for mothers who welcome their children amidst poverty and difficult circumstances today.
- Offer some other sacrifice or prayer that you feel called to do for this month's intention.

ONE STEP FURTHER

Read the short reflection, "Called to Serve Moms in Need," and reflect on how the Blessed Mother shows us how to support mothers and their children: respectlife.org/called-to-serve-reflection.

Catechism of the Catholic Church, second edition © 2000 LEV-USCCB. Used with permission. All rights reserved.

