



### ***Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Mother***

Ancient tradition tells us and our own faith assures us of what the Church has solemnly proclaimed: the Virgin Mary has entered, body and soul, into heaven. After her death the Virgin Mother of God, without undergoing corruption, has entered heaven, by a special privilege of God, with her body glorified as was her Son's. As God had preserved her from the stain of original sin, made her a mother and yet preserved her as a virgin, so also has He brought her to Himself in her integral human nature of body and soul. The origins of this feast are very ancient and date to a period some time before the sixth century. Although it has been an ancient tradition to venerate the bodies of the saints, there never has been any mention of there being any veneration to the body of the Virgin. This is an added witness to the truth of the bodily assumption of the Virgin Mary. This feast is celebrated in the Churches of both East and the West under a variety of titles.

On November 1, 1950, Pope Pius XII defined the Assumption of Mary to be a dogma of faith: "We pronounce, declare and define it to be a divinely revealed dogma that the immaculate Mother of God, the ever Virgin Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul to heavenly glory." The pope proclaimed this dogma only after a broad consultation of bishops, theologians and laity. There were few dissenting voices. What the pope solemnly declared was already a common belief in the Catholic Church.

Since Mary is closely associated with all the mysteries of Jesus' life, it is not surprising that the Holy Spirit has led the Church to believe in Mary's share in his glorification. So close was she to Jesus on earth, she must be with him body and soul in heaven. May our Virgin Mother intercede for us and may her prayers protect us. Amen. (Maronite Prayer of the Faithful)

#### **Scripture Readings**

**Sunday, August 15, 2021, Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

Rom 12: 9-15; Lk 1:46 -55

**Sunday, August 22, 2021, 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost**

1Thes 2:1-13; Lk 10:37- 42

**Sunday, August 29, 2021, 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost**

1Thes 1: 1- 10; LK 7:36- 50

