



**The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
August 15, 2021**

Blessed are you among women,  
and blessed is the fruit of your womb.

— Luke 1:42

**THE DESTINY OF ALL MORTAL FLESH**

The celebration of today's feast on a Sunday is unusual on our Roman Catholic calendar. Our observance of the Lord's Day is held in such high esteem that few other feasts replace it. Occasionally there is a feast—usually of one of the saints—in which the saving power of God in Christ is so uniquely focused that the Roman rite deems it worthy of celebration on the Lord's Day. Today is such a feast. Yet some are surprised at the brevity of the dogma in its entirety: "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 Roman Catholic Church never defined any specifics or particulars about the event itself. It is not in the scriptures. There are no verifiable eyewitness accounts. At its core, the dogma reveals in Mary the destiny of all mortal flesh, and reinforces our creedal belief in resurrection of the body. This feast strengthens our faith, defined last week in Hebrews as the realization of things hoped for. We find, in Mary, that realization of what we all hope for, what Paul today affirms: "In Christ shall all be brought to life" (1 Corinthians 15:22).  
-J. S. Paluch Co.

**FEAST OF FAITH**

**The Shape of the Eucharistic Prayer**

Our Eucharistic Prayers originated in the traditional Jewish meal prayers known as *berakah*, which were prayers of thanksgiving used at meals. Over the centuries, the Christian thanksgiving, or Eucharist, gradually took shape. While in the East the Eucharistic Prayers (called *anaphora*) took many forms, in the Roman Church there was for many centuries just one Eucharistic Prayer, called the Roman Canon (now known as Eucharistic Prayer I). Almost all Eucharistic Prayers include the same basic elements. They begin with thanksgiving and acclamation. Then there is an *epiclesis*, as the priest calls down the Holy Spirit upon the gifts. Then follows the institution narrative and consecration, as the words that Jesus spoke at the Last Supper are repeated. After the consecration, we remember in an explicit way all that Christ has done for us—this is the *anamnesis*, or remembering. The prayer concludes with the offering, the intercessions—prayers for the Church, our leaders, ourselves—and a final doxology of praise.

The reforms of the Second Vatican Council enriched our liturgy with additional Eucharistic Prayers, including both ancient texts (Eucharistic Prayer II is based on the most ancient of all existing Eucharistic Prayers) and new compositions.

-Corinna Laughlin, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

- Monday: Jgs 2:11-19; Ps 106:34-37, 39-40, 43ab, 44; Mt 19:16-22
- Tuesday: Jgs 6:11-24a; Ps 85:9, 11-14; Mt 19:23-30
- Wednesday: Jgs 9:6-15; Ps 21:2-7; Mt 20:1-16
- Thursday: Jgs 11:29-39a; Ps 40:5, 7-10; Mt 22:1-14
- Friday: Ru 1:1, 3-6, 14b-16, 22; Ps 146:5-10; Mt 22:34-40
- Saturday: Ru 2:1-3, 8-11; 4:13-17; Ps 128:1b-5; Mt 23:1-12
- Sunday: Jos 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b; Ps 34:2-3, 16-21; Eph 5:21-32 [2a, 25-32]; Jn 6:60-69

**Finance Corner: Your generosity is greatly needed and appreciated!**

For the month of August offerings: PLEASE put in Mass collection box or mail to St. Philip/St. Teresa Parish, P. O. Box 339, Occidental CA 95465. Or donate at our website [www.stphilipstteresa.org](http://www.stphilipstteresa.org) via Paypal or card. Please include your offering envelope # [if you have one] with your donation. Bless you!



**8/8: 1<sup>st</sup> collection: \$2667. Op. Exp: \$685. Peter's Pence: \$350.**

8/15: Capital Expenditures & Assumption. 8/22: Weekly Church Offering.

**Mark your Calendar for Future Events & Meetings:**

- Parish Council [PC]:** TBA
- Finance Council [FC]:** Tues., 9/7/21, at 3pm on Zoom:: call Jim to RSVP at 707-292-6092
- Liturgy Committee [LC]:** TBA
- St. Teresa Ladies Guild:** Contact Diane, 823-6044
- St. Philip Ladies Guild:** Contact Penny, 559-367-7403

**✠ ♥ ✠ Mass Intentions ✠ ♥ ✠ Schedule**

- 8/14 Sat. 5pm Mass for the People
- 8/15 Sun. 8am Mass ✠ Denis & Josephine Poynter
- 8/15 Sun. 9:30am Mass for the Papke Family special intention
  
- 8/21 Sat. 5pm Mass for the People
- 8/22 Sun. 8am Mass ✠ Emily & Joe Palmer
- 8/22 Sun. 9:30am Mass

**Prayer Requests: Please leave a message at 707-408-2650.**

Teresa K., Pat K., Thomas T., Susan B., Lorri McC., Sarah, Clifford J., Terri A., Fred P., Theresa S., Sara, Mary Anne P., Barbara, Dave C., Jim P., William, Parson P., Dave, Mary O., Bill Z., Daniel, Sally T., Michael D., Richard M., Kathleen, Peter, Rosa S., Susan B., Joyce D., Anita C., George H., Mimi H, Steve, Barry, Lorrin K., Hugh P., Robert S., Britney N., Chuck, Rebecca A., April K., Jacinta G., Leo A., Ed C. family, Kathy R., Donna W., Jim K., Sherry S., Papke family., Gail F., Marie N., Christine, James G., Gary S., Peter R., Gerry N., Diane K., Janet K., River M.; Nikkie; and for repose of the soul of Claudia Munoz's mother.

**Mission San Diego**



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## RURAL FOOD PROGRAM UPDATE for August 2021

On Tuesday, August 10, 46 families, 114 individuals received nutritional support during our modified distribution at the St Philips Parking lot and parish hall.

We will continue to look at a variety of ways to distribute food as the COVID pandemic restrictions change. If you are aware of a family which needs nutritional assistance, please let them know about our program. Leave a message at the parish office, (707) 408-2650 to get a call back with additional information.

This program is funded through monthly Rural Food Collection, private donations and the dedicated, awesome volunteers. Thank you for your generous donations as we strive to meet the nutritional needs of all attendees at our food distributions.

### RURAL FOOD VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES in the Parish Hall and parking area:

**Saturday, September 11 , 9-10:00 am repackaging;  
Monday, Sept 13, 9 -11:00am set up; and  
Tuesday, September 14, 7:30a - 11:00a to distribute food to clients.**

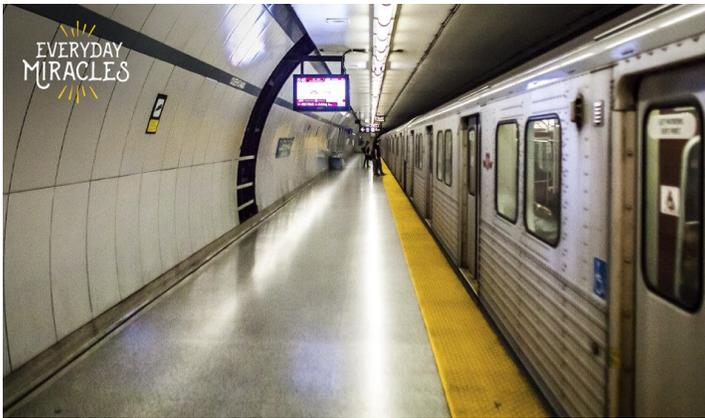


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## ***Mother Mary in the subway | Everyday Miracles***

*by Rodney Leung*

*Life is a gift from God which brings us miracles every day.*

One of these everyday miracles happened to me several years ago when I first started working at Salt + Light Media.

Some kind person had donated some used religious items to us – statues, works of art, crosses, prayer cards, etc. – and the management decided to give them out to all the staff. We could just take whatever we wanted.

For me, it was a real blessing, and I thought this is the kind of “year-end bonus” that only happens in a Catholic organization. I was so excited and went to make my choice

immediately. My eye was immediately caught by two statues of Mary, each about 3 feet tall, one made out of plaster and the other one out of resin. Since I was taking public transport to work at that time, I decided to take the resin statue because it was lighter. It is a statue of Our Lady of Fatima.

I looked for a bag I could put it in to keep it safe on the subway, and the only one I could find that was big enough was a transparent garbage bag, so Our Lady was on full display as I travelled home all the way to the end of the line. It was rush hour, and there were so many passengers that it was impossible for me to find a seat or a space to put the statue down. So I held it in my arms until the second-to-last station, when I finally found a seat and was able to put the statue on the floor.

And that’s when the miracle happened.

A middle-aged lady approached me. She looked kind but very tired. She started talking to me, and she asked, “Is that Mother Mary?”

I replied with a smile, “Yes, it is.”

Then she touched it, with tears in her eyes, and she said, “I couldn’t have imagined I would see Mother Mary in the subway. I feel so tired after work, and I have to travel a long way home every day. I feel so blessed to see Mother Mary, and it’s given me such a relief from all my stress.”

The subway stopped at the last station, and we walked out together. I said, “Let’s stay for a while and say a prayer.” We thanked the Lord for giving us a brand new day and a beautiful moment in the subway. We offered our joy, anger, and sorrow to the Lord, and we asked Mary to pray for us. At the end, we prayed a Hail Mary together.

This time, her tears were full of happiness. Then we said goodbye, and she went to take another bus home.

To me, this was a miracle. Whatever she was going through, this lady experienced healing from God and from Mother Mary through our encounter that day. And I was blessed to be God’s instrument to pass this healing moment on to her. We never know what God’s plan is, but HIS plan is always good.

Miracles are happening every day, and you can be the one to bring miracles to others. As Saint Teresa of Calcutta (Mother Teresa) often shared, “We can do no great things, only small things with great love.”

Let us live this quote out in our community and build heaven on earth together.

Our Lady of Fatima, pray for us!

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***“Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph? Do we not know his father and mother? Then how can he say, ‘I have come down from heaven?’”***

We live in the age of statistics. The daily newspaper seems dominated not so much by words as by numbers: percentages, rates, stock market averages to say nothing of

dollars into the trillions; the weather statistics in Fahrenheit or Celsius degrees. Today I go to the doctor's office and he reads off 5.9 of this and 6.2 of that and body temperature and blood pressure millimeters, glucose at milligrams per deciliter. And then there are miles per hour, the number of light years to a distant galaxy; the average wait in an office . . .

Or let's just limit ourselves to sports statistics. The analysis of a baseball game is framed within batting averages, the frequency of errors, earned run averages, the speed of a pitch, plus every statistical performance of every player and team back beyond the last century. I knew fellows who bet dimes and nickels per pitch on the possibilities of every pitch being a strike, ball, single, double, etc. or out. And now there is a new statistic displayed after every game showing the changing *probability* of a team's winning or losing inning by inning – almost like a cardiogram of the event. And then there is this daily need to report pandemic data . . . I mean every day public health confronts us with how many cases, vaccinations, hospitalizations, deaths to keep the disease under control.

It all has to do with – as we used to say – getting down to brass tacks, i.e. being “correct” about what's happening physically, socially, fiscally, health wise, technologically – as the most dependable way of getting to the “truth” of things and thus managing and controlling things. Even as with Gulliver who was all tied up by the Lilliputians, so also our whole globe is entangled in mathematics.

*But does math, conceived as the most “correct” means for telling the truth, tell the whole truth?* What then do we make of the whole of biblical discourse, of philosophical speculation, the Odyssey of Homer, the plays of Shakespeare, the poetry of Walt Whitman and Emily Dickenson, the novels of Dickens and Hemingway, of musicals like *Les Miserables* . . . of graphic excursions into the fascinating dimensions of human nature or of a sunset or turbulent sea or the roses in our yard or the mystery of a new born child – or Ella Fitzgerald singing: *what is this thing called love?* How can you add that up? “Correct” begins to shrink amid such excursions into the warmth and fear and joy and fright and depth of such discourse – as more than true.



John's Gospel begins with the phrase: *The Word became Flesh and dwelt among us.* We take that to refer to the incarnation of Christ – that he was both human and divine. But it can also be read as Christ bringing our distant idea of God as author of the abstract laws of the universe,

high above the heavens, *down to earth.* His Gospel unveiled divinity as flesh and blood, warmth, care, a capacity to suffer as we suffer – as “this thing called love” – encouraging us to become more than “correct” in our ways – but *true* in the sense of really real – even godly.

-Geoff Wood, 8/08/21



**The Assumption is the oldest feast day of Our Lady, but we don't know how it first came to be celebrated. See the article at this [EWTN link](#).**

**Spruce up St Philip grounds on Saturday, August 28, 2021 sponsored by the Boosters Club.**



Join parishioners & friends to tidy up the grounds around our Occidental parish church and hall. We will begin at 9 am and plan to finish by 12 noon.

Tasks include: pick up trash; sweep patio and walkways; power wash; pull weeds; trim hedges, trees, vines, and shrubs; clean gutters; rake leaves, and other possible tasks.

Choose a task you can help with and bring your gardening tools.

After completing tasks, enjoy a **FREE LUNCH** of hot dogs, pizza, chips, soda, and ice cream.

For questions and to choose a task, please call Kelly & Cathy McCool at (707) 861-9302.

Thank you!



**Current Mass Schedule:**

St. Philip, *Occidental*: 8am Sun.; 9am Wed. & Fri.

St. Teresa, *Bodega*: 5pm Sat.; 9:30am Sun.; 9am Tues. & Thurs.