



WHY THE HOLY MOTHER IS A BIG DEAL

For Catholics, Mary is the most honored saint—she is the holy Mother of God. She is a perfect example of what love and obedience to God looks like. There exist over 15 official liturgical feasts celebrating Mary! Each focus on different facets of her life and various roles she performs on behalf of Jesus. I like to think of these Marian feasts as theological check point—spiritual stops along our faith journey during the year. Ultimately, we celebrate and

honor Mary because she is the closest human to Christ. She is a holy role model for sinners. Why does the assumption of Mary matter? Let's first define this event in Mary's life. Then we will examine three reasons why this feast matters.

According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church: *"Finally the Immaculate Virgin, preserved free from all stain of original sin, when the course of her earthly life was finished, was taken up body and soul into heavenly glory, and exalted by the Lord as Queen over all things, so that she might be the more fully conformed to her Son, the Lord of lords and conqueror of sin and death."*

Logically flowing from the fact that Mary's was created without original sin, it makes sense that Her body and soul are assumed into Heaven. The faithful who pass from this life will be resurrected at the end of time. Our Blessed Mary is granted the gift of experiencing the fullness of Heaven before time and space pass away. St. Pius XII infallibly defined this doctrine in his encyclical *Munificentissimus Deus*. The pope clearly states, "that the Immaculate Mother of God, the ever Virgin Mary, having completed the course of Her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory." While this teaching ultimately remains a Mystery, we at least have a basic understanding of what the Church teaches about the end of Mary's earthly life.

Belief in the Assumption of Mary is not an option for Catholics. It is one of the hallmarks and chief doctrines of truth. Pope Pius XII explicitly declares in *Munificentissimus Deus*, "Hence if anyone, which God forbid, should dare willfully to deny or to call into doubt that which we have defined, let him know that he has fallen away completely from the divine and Catholic Faith" (no 45).

Catholics don't worship Mary. Instead venerate Her and look to Our Blessed Mother as a guide, a signpost, and a beacon that orients us toward God. The beauty and grandeur of Mary exists because She is the perfect mirror. She reflects God's love outward toward all of humanity. May we continue to grow closer to God and learn from the humble example of Mary to obey God in all things!

Please Pray for our family & friends

Brian Scharrer, Cecelia Hernandez, Cheryl Kartes, Christina Munoz, Dan McNicholl, David Pope, Don Taylor, Fred Hawkes, Gary Hanson, Gordon Bryson, Irv & Lucille Douroux, Jill Nagrodsky, Jim & Phyllis Carpenter, Jim & Debbi Keys, Joseph Graziano, Judy Lanphear, Julie Hogan, Karen Poelakker, Kitty Woolridge, Laura Fawson, Melissa Dorado, Nance Coggeshall, Nick Escamilla, Norm Engle, Patricia Flaherty, Patty Broyles, Phyllis Willame, Rae Crozier, Raul Reyna, Ray White, Rob Dwyer, Ruth Mounts, Samuel Scarth, Steve Kist, Sue Munoz, Tom & Carol Porter, Torii Cain, Tracy Goodin, Wendy, Lance Tanner and Wes Evans.

Please Pray for The Repose of the Soul of Our Departed Loved Ones

Alberto Jose Reyna, Angel Clingerman, Annette Smith, Arlene Strupp, Dionesio Briones, Doug Pope, Gabriel Garcia, Hector Garduno, Jean Bourque, Jim Scarth, Kyle Christianson, Kyle Hanson, Mary Wallace, Richard McAfee, Shaun Rich, Sylvia Romero Martinez, Vincent Guglielmetti SR, & Wanda Guglielmetti

We are a Mission of St George Catholic Church; our priests travel from St George to celebrate mass here.

CONTACT A PRIEST

Saint George Catholic Church
(435) 673-2604
www.saintgeorgecatholics.com

Pastor, Reverend
David Bittmenn,
Reverend Franklin Minzaki
Deacon Dan Weber

Communion to the
Sick & Homebound:
Please contact the church office.

PARISH CALENDAR

VIGIL MASS: Saturday 6pm

MASS: Sunday at 12:30pm

BIBLE STUDY: Mondays at 12:30pm

Advent Bible Study: Mondays in December
at 6pm

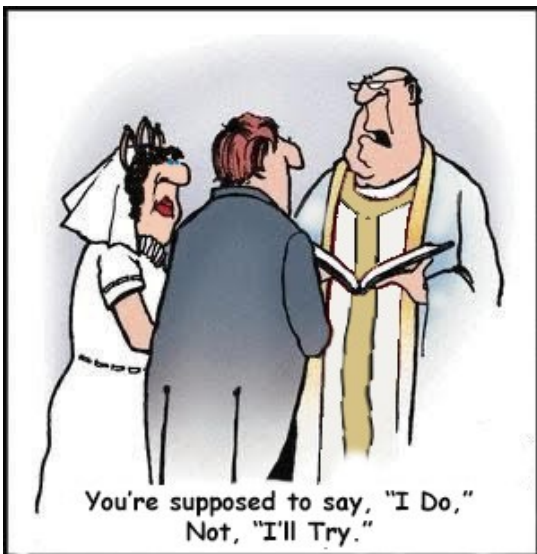
ROSARY: Mondays at 2pm

KNIGHTS ROUNDTABLE: Mon., Dec. 15 at 3pm

COMMUNION SERVICE: Wednesday at 9am

ADORATION: Wed. Dec. 10 - 9:30am - 10:00am
Sat. Dec 27 - 7:00pm - 8:00pm

Ladies Breakfast: Monday, December 15th
Please contact Susan Tovar (714) 488-3730



**Our Thrift Store for the month of November generated \$7,971 in revenue
Thank You Volunteers!!**

St Paul Thrift Store Hours

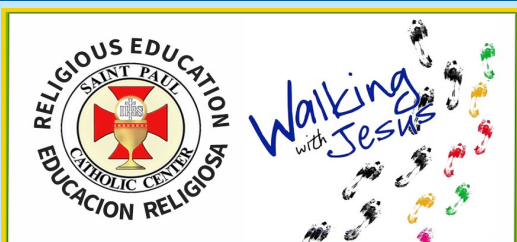
Wednesday: 10:30 am to 2:30pm

Thursday: 10:00 am to 4:00pm

Friday: 10:00 am to 4:00pm

Saturday: 10:00 am to 2:00pm

CLOSED for the HOLIDAYS
December 24th thru January 6th



www.stpaulcatholiccenter.org/religious-education.html



SIMON OF CYRENE THE PATRON SAINT OF PASSERSBY

Among the figures who cross the stage of the Paschal Triduum is a man considered the *patron saint of bystanders*, as well as a pretend bystander.

Jesus is on his way to his death, sentenced by Pilate to be crucified, carrying his cross down the Via Dolorosa out of the city he entered so triumphantly, as we read in the Passion narrative on Palm Sunday. He's clearly struggling, and the Pharisees don't want him to die along the way — not out of compassion, but because they want to see him breathe his last on a cross, theological proof that he was cursed by God (see Deuteronomy 21:22-23).

But after a night of physical and judicial abuse, a morning trial, a flogging that left many men dead and a brutal mockery of the "king" by Roman soldiers, Jesus just might expire along the way. Seeing their reeling prisoner, the executioners looked around and saw a bystander who looked pretty strong. "Hey, you! Help out here!"

Now, you probably don't tell a Roman soldier, "No." But: "Why me? I don't need this. I was just minding my own business."

No doubt Simon hoped the Roman would divert his gaze, giving him a chance to slip into the crowd and slink off. But the Roman was relentless, and, unable to evade his gaze, he found himself staring instead at the One for whom he was to "take up his cross and follow" (Mark 8:34).

Christian tradition holds that Simon, at first recalcitrant, changes beneath that gaze from being unwillingly impressed to voluntary journeyman.

"Christ looked upon him, and Simon understood that gaze — he immediately understood the mystery of the cross and fell in love with the Lord Jesus. ... I heard him tell the Lord Jesus: 'Forgive me, Lord, for not having rushed ... at the first demand of the Jews, for I did not know you. [But seeing you suffer] I have come to the conviction that you are God hidden in human flesh. Your gaze confirmed my convictions, penetrating me to the depths of my being. It seemed to me that I could not carry your cross, which they put upon me, but I am now carrying [it] easily, because you, Lord, accompany me. Don't leave me.'"