



**WELCOMING  
CHILDREN  
in WORSHIP**

**THE CATHOLIC  
UNIVERSITY  
OF AMERICA**



# **Assumption of the Blessed Virgin**

## **Adaptive Activities for Children**



**National Catholic  
Partnership on Disability**

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# Introduction

Welcome and thank you for your ministry that serves the liturgical formation of children for their participation in the Eucharist, the “source and summit of the Christian life.” This resource is provided by the Committee on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities of the National Catholic Partnership on Disability (NCPD). It aims to offer an adaptive catechetical opportunity for all who have a heart for disability ministry to reflect on the liturgical year. We welcome you to this virtual community and hope you find this resource beneficial.

Here you will find reflections to guide children with intellectual and developmental disabilities, or diverse learners, through the current liturgical season with adaptive catechesis to help them to participate fully. Each offering includes prayer, Scripture, activities and more that incorporate the senses and take into consideration the needs of all learners. We invite you to gather children around the table of the home or the table of the classroom as preparation for their participation at the sacred table of the Eucharist.

**Each monthly edition incorporates the following:**

- 1. Prayer**
- 2. Sacred Scripture**
- 3. Reflection**
- 4. Faith in Action**
- 5. Activities**
- 6. Saint**
- 7. Resources/Bibliography**

# Prayer for the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

*Celebrated on August 15*

*Begin with the Sign of the Cross.*

**Leader:** Just like her son, Jesus, Mary's body was also assumed (taken) into heaven. Today is a special day when we remember that Mary's whole body was assumed into heaven where she joined her holy son. Let us pause for a moment to read the Cantic of Mary, so we can remember the words that she spoke.

The Cantic of Mary (Luke 1:46–55)

And Mary said:

“My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord;  
my spirit rejoices in God my savior.  
For he has looked upon his handmaid's lowliness;  
behold, from now on will all ages call me blessed.  
The Mighty One has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.  
His mercy is from age to age  
to those who fear him.  
He has shown might with his arm,  
dispersed the arrogant of mind and heart.  
He has thrown down the rulers from their thrones  
but lifted up the lowly.  
The hungry he has filled with good things;  
the rich he has sent away empty.  
He has helped Israel his servant,  
remembering his mercy,  
according to his promise to our fathers,  
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

**Leader:** The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you Lord, Jesus Christ.**



Saint Mary (the Blessed Virgin). Colour lithograph, 1903. Blessed Virgin Mary, Saint. Work ID: j76pcf94.

**Leader:**

Loving God, help us to follow the example of Mary, the mother of your son, Jesus, and our mother. Help us to love your son the way that she did, so that we can become his faithful disciples. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Note: Song Suggestion - Hail Mary, Gentle Woman

[https://youtu.be/RERoQ1biLdE?si=GIHdB3\\_0fyvG810](https://youtu.be/RERoQ1biLdE?si=GIHdB3_0fyvG810)



Image by Vectorportal.com



## Reading of Sacred Scripture:

### The Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary into Heaven

Luke 1:39-56

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Mary hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea.

She went into Zechariah's home, where she greeted Elizabeth.

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, her baby moved within her.

The Holy Spirit came upon Elizabeth.

Then in a loud voice she said to Mary:

"God has blessed you more than any other woman!

He has also blessed the child you will have.

Why should the mother of my Lord come to me?

As soon as I heard your greeting,

My baby became happy and moved within me.

The Lord has blessed you because you believed that he will keep his promise."

Mary said: "With all my heart I praise the Lord, and I am glad because of God my Savior.

He cares for me, his humble servant.

From now on, all people will say God has blessed me.

God All-Powerful has done great things for me, and his name is holy.

"He always shows mercy to everyone who worships him.

The Lord has used his powerful arm to scatter those who are proud.

He drags strong rulers from their thrones and puts humble people in places of power.

He gives the hungry good things to eat,

and he sends the rich away with nothing in their hands.



Frans Francken the Younger, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

He helps his servant Israel and is always merciful to his people.

He made this promise to our ancestors, to Abraham and his family forever!”

Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three months.

Then she went back home.

Lectionary for Masses with Children. Catholic Book Publishing Co. New York. 1993

## Gospel Reflection

This month, the Gospel of Luke tells us the story of when Mary visited her cousin Martha. Martha was much older, and it was thought she could not have any children. Yet here she was pregnant. And when the growing baby inside of Martha heard Mary’s voice, the baby moved. Martha went on to say, “God has blessed you more than any other woman! He has also blessed the child you will have.” Who is the child that Mary will have?

Jesus is the child. Mary, who was born without sin, was chosen by God to be Jesus’ mother. And we believe the Mary is the most blessed of all women because she was Jesus’ mother.

Jesus lived with his mother Mary and earthly father Joseph. He performed many miracles and taught us about God and how to live a good life. After Jesus died on the cross, rose on the third day, and ascended into heaven, Mary went on to live out her life. And when she died, we believe that her body was raised to heaven so that she could be with Jesus, again. This is called the Assumption of the Virgin Mary, and we celebrate that day as a holy day of obligation.



Victoria and Albert Museum, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

Is the Assumption of Mary the same as the Ascension of Jesus? No. Because Jesus was God the Son, he could return himself, or ascend back, to heaven. Mary was only human and therefore had to be assumed, or taken back, to heaven.

The Bible does not have a specific story about her Assumption. So how do we know it happened? Pope Pius VII, in his writing *Munificentissimus Deus* (Latin for “The most bountiful God”) 44, tells us that this event was divinely revealed by God, and it is part of our faith. “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.” And we believe!

We see Mary as a loving, and caring mother who will always be there for us. She tells her son Jesus about our concerns, and she asks him to help us. With Jesus’ help, through the intercession of the blessed Virgin Mary, we can learn to live just like Jesus, so that when we die, we too can be with Jesus in heaven.



Giovanni Battista Salvi da Sassoferrato, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons



## Faith in Action

### Feast of the Assumption of Mary, August 15

Celebrating the Feast of the Assumption of Mary is the centerpiece of the month of August. On this feast day we celebrate Mary being taken into the glory of heaven, body and soul to be reunited with her son, Jesus. Mary's beautiful acts of faith set an example of how we are called to live our lives for God here on earth. God the Father gives us everything, and we are to give back to him by giving to others. Mary's assumption into heaven is a promise of things to come for us. When our lives end on earth, we will also one day be united with Jesus in heaven.

As we prepare for this wonderful feast day, let us celebrate by going to Mass as a family on August 15th. Let's also celebrate by creating a special place where we can celebrate Mary every day, where we can plant seeds of faith and marvel at the beauty of God's creation. Let's

celebrate by planting our own "Mary Garden" and creating one or two for our neighbors as well.



Isip2 westboro, CC0, via Wikimedia Commons

Creating a garden that celebrates Mary is a wonderful activity to put faith into action. Planting a garden is a sensory friendly activity for the whole family. Sit down with your family, talk about Mary, our Blessed Mother, and the Feast of the Assumption. Emphasize the joy and peace that it brings to know that there is a place for each of us in heaven. Thank Mary for her example in life and in death and pray the Hail Mary together. Use visual aids if needed – pictures, words of the prayer, or sign language to

pray the Hail Mary prayer together. Here is a great resource from Loyola Press - <https://www.loyolapress.com/faith-formation/activities/praying-the-hail-mary-with-actions/>



As you prepare to create your Mary Garden, ask Mary to guide you as you decide what type of garden and choose the location of the garden at your home. For some families creating an indoor garden is best, and for some an outdoor garden is a good option. For this activity, we will prepare to plant an indoor garden in a place with alternating sunshine and shade during the day. Once you find the perfect spot, make a list of the things you will need and go to your local garden supply store. Some things you will need are -pots (for your garden and a few to give away to your neighbors), a couple of bags of pebbles (for drainage), bags of soil, gloves and the plants you would like to have in your Mary gardens. Some plants to consider include marigolds (Mary's gold); lily of the valley (Mary's purity), as well as herbs like rosemary (Mary's bouquet), sage (Mary's robe), mint or spearmint, and lavender.



<https://www.pickpik.com/flower-lavender-purple-plant-lavender->

Take your supplies outside and put down newspaper or other material to protect the surface you are working on. Give each family member a pot and a pair of gloves. First take a hand full of pebbles and fill

the bottom of the pot. Recall the story that Jesus gave us about the man who built his house upon rock – a solid foundation, reminding us that our faith is solid when it has Jesus as its foundation.

Next, give each family member a chance to help prepare the soil. Lay the bag in the middle of the table. Cut it open and invite everyone to reach in and feel the soil. Pay attention to what you see, feel and smell as you are “playing” in the dirt. Ask questions about what they are experiencing – is the soil cold or hot? What does it smell like? What does it look like? Invite everyone to help break up the clumps, remove any rocks or twigs that they may find. Have each member fill their pots 2/3 full of the soil. Talk about how God created the earth and gave Adam and Eve the responsibility of cultivating the soil. Next make a well in the soil a little bigger than the roots of your plants. Demonstrate how to gently turn the plant over to release it from its pot, holding the pot in one hand and the plant in the other. Once released, shake

some of the loose soil from the roots. Help each family member do the same and place the plant into the new soil. Say a special prayer of thanksgiving to Mary as you plant your plants. Invite everyone to share what they are thankful for on this day. Once the plants are in their new pots, pat the soil around them gently. Water your plants and talk about the role water plays in our faith tradition, recalling our baptism.

Once your garden has been planted, bring your pots inside and place them in the designated spot. Go on the hunt around your house for statues and pictures of Mary that you can place around your garden. Go online and print out pictures of Mary or have members of the family draw pictures of Mary with Jesus in heaven. Cut them out and glue them on a tongue depressor or popsicle stick. Stick them in the Mary Gardens that you will be giving to your neighbors.

Once complete, gather around with your family, singing songs and saying prayers giving thanks to Mary for this beautiful feast day. Take the Mary Gardens that you made for your neighbors and deliver them as a family. Tell your neighbor how much you appreciate them and why you made it for them. Make sure to tell them why you love Jesus and his mother Mary.

For more information about creating sensory friendly gardens. Please visit KidsGardening at <https://kidsgardening.org/the-latest-sensory-gardening-kit/#:~:text=Gardening%20is%20a%20'sense%2Dsational,to%20engage%20all%20the%20senses.>



From Pexels.com

## Activities with Children

On August 15, the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary is observed as a holy day of obligation. On this day, we celebrate that the Virgin Mary's body and soul were taken to heaven. The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin was established on November 1, 1950. In the Apostolic Constitution of Pope Pius XII - *Munificentissimus Deus*, it was written that ". . . 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 into heavenly glory."

Consider honoring the Blessed Virgin's assumption into heaven by praying the Rosary as a family. Directions on "How to Pray the Rosary" can be found at <https://www.usccb.org/how-to-pray-the-rosary>. If a loved one has difficulty saying the prayers, offer him/her a picture or small statue of the Virgin Mary to hold onto or gaze at during the reciting of the Rosary. Perhaps family members would like to make their own sets of rosary beads. For individuals who have challenges with fine motor skills, create a rosary decade out of swimming pool noodles.



1. Cut pool noodle into 10 slices.



2. "Thread" slices onto string and tie ends together.



3. Slide/touch a noodle slice as each Hail Mary is recited.

Family members could also create a larger rosary in an outdoor space. A cross or crucifix is placed at the beginning of the rosary followed by stepping stones arranged in the placement of the beads. Individuals move from stone to stone as each prayer is recited. If space is limited, after the cross, place 10 stones to complete one decade. Loved ones could paint/decorate the stones that will be used in the outdoor rosary. More ideas for making a set of rosary beads or a rosary garden can be found on-line.





# Saint for August

## St. Maximilian Kobe

Feast Day August 14



Today we celebrate the feast of St. Maximilian Kolbe who lived not very long ago. In fact, there are photos of St. Maximilian Kolbe that show what he looked like! You can look at photos of him by googling St. Maximilian Kolbe. St. Maximilian Kolbe was a Franciscan Friar who had a very special devotion to Mary. When he was young, he consecrated himself to Mary and she spoke to him. Mary showed St. Maximilian Kolbe two crowns- a red crown and a white crown. Can you find the crowns in the picture on the left? St.

Maximilian Kolbe said, "She asked me if I was willing to accept either of these crowns. The white one meant that I should persevere in purity, and the red that I should become a martyr. I said that I would accept them both."

St. Maximilian Kolbe's love for Mary, our mother, was something that he shared with everyone around him. Do you see anything in the picture that might show his love for Mary? Yes, a rosary! He even went to Japan and India and founded Franciscan Monasteries in these countries to help spread the word of Mary's son, Jesus, to other parts of the world.

When he came back to Poland, WWII began. He helped to protect thousands of Jewish people during the Holocaust. When he was caught, he was thrown into a concentration camp as well where he died a martyr. The picture above shows his jacket from the camp, Can you find the jacket?

St. Maximilian Kolbe died on August 14, which is the day before the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary. That is why we celebrate his feast day on August 14.

Some fun activities for the Feast of St. Maximilian Kolbe:

1. Pray the Rosary together in honor of Mary
2. Begin a Marian consecration with your family in honor of St. Maximilian Kolbe's legacy. Here is a book that offers simple language and visuals:

[Marian Consecration for Families with Young Children<sup>1</sup>](#)

3. Color a picture of St. Maximilian Kolbe. You can find one here: [Saint Maximilian Kolbe Coloring Page](#)



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## August Resources

“How to Pray the Rosary”, USCCB: <https://www.usccb.org/how-to-pray-the-rosary>

The Assumption of Mary: What the Church Teaches - Ask a Marian, video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NqUWd23znd4>

USCCB Resources, free “Assumption Graphic” in English and

Spanish: <https://www.usccb.org/resources/assumption-graphic>



Silicone Rainbow Rosary, Autom:

[https://www.autom.com/product/silicone-rainbow-rosary-12pk-j5142?](https://www.autom.com/product/silicone-rainbow-rosary-12pk-j5142?promocode=autcpc&gclid=EAlaIQobChMIhPH83vqrhwMVMDEIBR1ZLQUGEAQYASABEgL98_D_BwE)

[promocode=autcpc&gclid=EAlaIQobChMIhPH83vqrhwMVMDEIBR1ZLQUGEAQYASABEgL98\\_D\\_BwE](https://www.autom.com/product/silicone-rainbow-rosary-12pk-j5142?promocode=autcpc&gclid=EAlaIQobChMIhPH83vqrhwMVMDEIBR1ZLQUGEAQYASABEgL98_D_BwE)

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