

St. Peter's, Holy Guardian Angels and St. John the Baptist Parishes
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August 15, 2021

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

On November 1, 1950, Pius XII defined the dogma of the Assumption. Thus he solemnly proclaimed that the belief whereby the Blessed Virgin Mary, at the close of her earthly life, was taken up, body and soul, into the glory of heaven, definitively forms part of the deposit of faith, received from the Apostles. To avoid all that is uncertain the Pope did not state either the manner or the circumstances of time and place in which the Assumption took place — only the fact of the Assumption of Mary, body and soul, into the glory of heaven, is the matter of the definition.

Today's solemnity supersedes the liturgy of the Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time.

The feast of St. Tarcisius, a young martyr of the Eucharist, appears in the Roman Martyrology for this day.

The Assumption

Now toward the end of the summer season, at a time when fruits are ripe in the gardens and fields, the Church celebrates the most glorious "harvest festival" in the Communion of Saints. Mary, the supremely blessed one among women, Mary, the most precious fruit which has ripened in the fields of God's kingdom, is today taken into the granary of heaven.

— Pius Parsch, *The Church's Year of Grace*

The Assumption is the oldest feast day of Our Lady, but we don't know how it first came to be celebrated.



Its origin is lost in those days when Jerusalem was restored as a sacred city, at the time of the Roman Emperor Constantine (c. 285-337). By then it had been a pagan city for two centuries, ever since Emperor Hadrian (76-138) had leveled it around the year 135 and rebuilt it as *Aelia Capitolina* in honor of Jupiter.

For 200 years, every memory of Jesus was obliterated from the city, and the sites made holy by His life, death and Resurrection became pagan temples.

After the building of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in 336, the sacred sites began to be restored and memories of the life of Our Lord began to be celebrated by the people of Jerusalem. One of the memories about his mother centered around the

"Tomb of Mary," close to Mount Zion, where the early Christian community had lived.

On the hill itself was the "Place of Dormition," the spot of Mary's "falling asleep," where she had died. The "Tomb of Mary" was where she was buried.

At this time, the "Memory of Mary" was being celebrated. Later it was to become our feast of the Assumption.

For a time, the "Memory of Mary" was marked only in Palestine, but then it was extended by the emperor to all the churches of the East. In the seventh century, it began to be celebrated in Rome under the title of the "Falling Asleep" ("Dormitio") of the Mother of God.

Soon the name was changed to the "Assumption of Mary," since there was more to the feast than her dying. It also proclaimed that she had been taken up, body and soul, into heaven.

That belief was ancient, dating back to the apostles themselves. What was clear from the beginning was that there were no relics of Mary to be venerated, and that an empty tomb stood on the edge of Jerusalem near the site of her death. That location also soon became a place of pilgrimage. (Today, the Benedictine Abbey of the Dormition of Mary stands on the spot.)

At the Council of Chalcedon in 451, when bishops from throughout the Mediterranean world gathered in Constantinople, Emperor Marcian asked the Patriarch of Jerusalem to bring the relics of Mary to Constantinople to be enshrined in the capitol. The patriarch explained to the emperor that there were no relics of Mary in Jerusalem, that "Mary had died in the presence of the apostles; but her tomb, when opened later . . . was found empty and so the apostles concluded that the body was taken up into heaven."

In the eighth century, St. John Damascene was known for giving sermons at the holy places in Jerusalem. At the Tomb of Mary, he expressed the belief of the Church on the meaning of the feast: "Although the body was duly buried, it did not remain in the state of death, neither was it dissolved by decay. . . . You were transferred to your heavenly home, O Lady, Queen and Mother of God in truth."

All the feast days of Mary mark the great mysteries of her life and her part in the work of redemption. The central mystery of her life and person is her divine motherhood, celebrated both at Christmas and a week later (Jan. 1) on the feast of the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. The Immaculate Conception (Dec. 8) marks the preparation for that motherhood, so that she had the fullness of grace from the first moment of her existence, completely untouched by sin. Her whole being throbbed with divine life from the very beginning, readying her for the exalted role of mother of the Savior.

The Assumption completes God's work in her since it was not fitting that the flesh that had given life to God himself should ever undergo corruption. The Assumption is God's crowning of His work as Mary ends her earthly life and enters eternity. The feast turns our eyes in that direction, where we will follow when our earthly life is over.



The feast days of the Church are not just the commemoration of historical events; they do not look only to the past. They look to the present and to the future and give us an insight into our own relationship with God. The Assumption looks to eternity and gives us hope that we, too, will follow Our Lady when our life is ended.

In 1950, in the Apostolic Constitution *Munificentissimus Deus*, Pope Pius XII proclaimed the Assumption of Mary a dogma of the Catholic Church in these words: "The Immaculate Mother of God, the ever-virgin Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heaven."

With that, an ancient belief became Catholic doctrine and the Assumption was declared a truth revealed by God.

--Excerpted from Fr. Clifford Stevens in *Catholic Heritage*

In an age of sensuality and materialism the Assumption points out the dignity and destiny of our human body, extols the dignity of womanhood, and turns our eyes to the true life beyond the grave. At Mass today ask Mary for the grace to keep your mind fixed on things above and to aspire continually to be united with her and to be brought to the glory of the Resurrection.

St. Tarcisus

Tarcisus was a twelve-year-old acolyte during one of the fierce Roman persecutions of the third century, probably during that of Valerian. Each day, from a secret meeting place in the catacombs where Christians gathered for Mass, a deacon would be sent to the prisons to carry the Eucharist to those Christians condemned to die. At one point, there was no deacon to send and so St. Tarcisus, an acolyte, was sent carrying the "Holy Mysteries" to those in prison.



On the way, he was stopped by boys his own age who were not Christians but knew him as a playmate and lover of games. He was asked to join their games, but this time he refused and the crowd of boys noticed that he was carrying something. Somehow, he was also recognized as a Christian, and the small gang of boys, anxious to view the Christian "Mysteries," became a mob and turned upon Tarcisus with fury. He went down under the blows, and it is believed that a fellow Christian drove off the mob and rescued the young acolyte.

The mangled body of Tarcisius was carried back to the catacombs, but the boy died on the way from his injuries. He was buried in the cemetery of St. Callistus, and his relics are claimed by the church of San Silvestro in Capite.

In the fourth century, Pope St. Damasus wrote a poem about this "boy-martyr of the Eucharist" and says that, like another St. Stephen, he suffered a violent death at the hands of a mob rather than give up the Sacred Body to "raging dogs." His story became well known when Cardinal Wiseman made it a part of his novel *Fabiola*, in which the story of the young acolyte is dramatized and a very moving account given of his martyrdom and death.

Tarcisius, one of the patron saints of altar boys, has always been an example of youthful courage and devotion, and his story was one that was told again and again to urge others to a like heroism in suffering for their faith. In the *Passion of Pope Stephen*, written in the sixth century, Tarcisius is said to be an acolyte of the pope himself and, if so, this explains the great veneration in which he was held and the reason why he was chosen for so difficult a mission.

--Excerpted from *The One Year Book of Saints* by Rev. Clifford Stevens

Sacrament of Baptism

Please call the office:

Instructors for baptism:

Mary Fougere, SJB (902) 535-2699

Rose Pâté, SP (902) 302-7011

Vera Doucette, HGA (902) 785-4018

Sacrament of Matrimony

Please call Fr. Yake six months prior to the wedding date.

Call Family Service of Eastern Nova Scotia to register for upcoming courses 902-849-4772. Ask for Tasia Boucher, tboucher@fsens.ns.ca

Weekday Liturgy

Monday, August 16, 2021

SH 10:00AM Mass of the Resurrection

+ Elizabeth (Betty) Benoit

Wednesday, August 18, 2021

HGA 11:00 AM

+Dr. Donald Joseph Boudreau & wife, Valerie Beatrice

Requested by Joanne Boudreau

Thursday, August 19, 2021

Villa Mass 10:30 AM (Not yet open to the public)

SJB 4:00 PM

+ Mary Dorothy Burke

Friday, August 20, 2021

SJB 11:00 AM Mass of the Resurrection
+Mary Catherine Cosman

Weekend Liturgy

Saturday, August 21, 2021

SH 4:00 PM
HGA 5:30 PM
+ Clara Bonin
Requested by Lionel & Vezina

Sunday, August 22 2021

SJB 9:00 AM
+ Lillian Gerrior
Requested by Sister Helen Burke
SP 10:30 AM

Funeral Mass for Father Hughie MacNeil

The family of the late Father Hughie MacNeil invite you to his Funeral Mass [on](#) Thursday, September 2nd, 2021 at 11 am.

Bishop Kirkpatrick will celebrate the funeral of Fr. Hughie MacNeil from Red Point at St. Columba Parish in Iona with priests of the diocese concelebrating. Father Ray Huntley will be the homilist. Burial to follow at Sacred Heart Cemetery in MacKinnon Harbour.

Please pray for Deacon Patrick Saleh as he is ordained to the Holy Priesthood of Jesus Christ on Saturday, August 21, 2021 in Halifax.

Please note: Mass intentions should be arranged with Mary at office, not with Fr. Yake.

In light of the current situation, St. Peter's Altar Society will not be hosting funeral receptions for the foreseeable future. Thank you for your understanding.
St. Peter's Altar Society

(August 8, 2021 receipts)

Holy Guardian Angels

Envelopes	\$ 895.00
Candles	28.25

Total	<u>\$ 923.25</u>
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St. Peter's Catholic Church

Envelopes & Loose	\$762.00
Cemetery	125.00

Total	<u>\$887.00</u>
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Saint John the Baptist

Envelopes & Loose	\$ 880.00
Roof Fund	825.00
Cemetery	70.00
Property Maintenance	85.00

Total \$ **1,860.00**

August 15 is also National Acadian Day

Our Lady of the Assumption is the Patron Saint of the Acadians.

Our diocese includes five Acadian parishes: Arichat, Cheticamp, Petit de Grat, Pomquet and St. Joseph du Moine:

<https://www.antigonishdiocese.com/paroisses-acadiennes/>

For a list of local events and more information:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/campaigns/acadian-day.html>

August 17 is Election Day in Nova Scotia

Catholic Conscience is a new online resource with information on election process and how to select the candidate for your vote. From the website:

"Catholics are called to participate, in accordance with the full measure of talents entrusted to them by God. At a minimum, this means voting wisely after having considered all relevant issues, the positions of each of the candidates and parties, and relevant Church teachings."

Read more on the website:

<https://catholicconscience.org/novascotia2021/>

More than 50 churches have either been vandalized or gone up in flames in Canada in the past few months.

It may just be one of the most criminally under-reported stories of the year. The mainstream media has been awfully quiet about it, and our so-called political “leaders” haven’t seemed to notice either.

Where’s the outcry? The silence is deafening.

Our politicians might not care, but many Canadians have had enough and are demanding political action now.

And so it was that last Saturday, hundreds of people attended a rally in Mississauga called Stop the Burning of the Churches in Canada.

The rally drew a passionate and diverse group, including some **who fled their home country to escape religious persecution**, only to see the same pattern repeat itself here in Canada.

On this issue from the Catholic Register

While the rash of arsons and acts of vandalism perpetrated on churches across Canada has lightened considerably compared to the volume of incidents that occurred between late June and mid-July, it’s not gone away.

Police in Brandon, Man., are investigating the Aug. 3 arson of a decoration featured in an “Every Child Matters” monument outside of St. Augustine of Canterbury Church built to express solidarity and compassion for deceased Indigenous residential school children.

Police responded to a call from a security company associated with the parish at around 3 a.m. on Aug. 3.

Sgt. Kirby Sarasas told *The Brandon Sun* the fire is suspicious.

“It is believed to have been intentionally done and the motive behind why it was intentionally done is unclear,” she said. “In light of current events in Canada and just the nature of what’s been happening, it prompted us to open up an investigation into the burning of this particular item at a church.”

Vandals twice targeted St. Francis Xavier Mission Church in Kahnawake, Que. Office staff politely refused to grant *The Catholic Register* an interview about the parish window being smashed and the exterior being defiled with graffiti.

The local Kahnawake Peacekeepers apprehended two youth in connection with the graffiti incident.

“At 2:23 this morning (July 28), we got a call that the church was being spray-painted by two youths,” said Peacekeeper spokesperson Kyle Zachary.

The youth were caught in the act and released to their parents. No charges have yet been filed.

Some of the sentiments depicted in the graffiti are easy to read. These include “colonizer,” “those were kids,” “f-word” epithets, the number 215 to signify the initial discovery in Kamloops, B.C., of 215 unmarked graves at a former residential school and the number 666 multiple times.

Mohawk Council of Kahnawake (MCK) chief Ross Montour expressed disgust over the incident when he arrived at the building on July 28.

“It’s not about this building. This building is part of the history of this community,” he told *The Eastern Door* newspaper.

“They’re doing harm to their own people.”

The B.C. Catholic has reported that police departments across the province are stepping up patrols around churches as a safeguard against future incidents

According to the Vancouver Police Department, “churches have been targets of 13 incidents including broken windows, spray paint and threats of arson in less than two months.”

“All our neighbourhood police officers are speaking with churches in their area of patrol to either spread awareness/education or to increase police presence,” Const. Tania Visintin of the Vancouver Police Department told *The B.C. Catholic’s* Agnieszka Ruck.

“They are going over security measures they can take to hopefully either prevent crimes or assist with investigations in the future (i.e. better lighting, installing security cameras).”

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Facebook Live with Fr Patrick O’Neill and John Ratchford

Sundays at 7 pm

Fr. Patrick and John will host a 30-minute presentation of spirituality, talks and taking questions from viewers. Fr. Patrick is pastor of Our Lady of Fatima, Sydney River, as well as producer of Mass for Shut-Ins and chaplain for the Canadian Armed Forces and CBRM police. John Ratchford is a renowned photographer from North Sydney who has shared his personal experiences of faith and mental illness as part of our Youth Ministry Let’s Talk events in 2020 and 2021.

To view the livestream:

<https://www.facebook.com/frpatrick.oneill>

12th Annual Boat Poker Run

Saturday, September 4, 2021 rain/wind date Sept. 5th or 11th

Registration at 10:00 AM at River Bourgeois floating dock

Hamburgers, hot dogs, pop/water available

All cards must be turned in by 2:30 PM

Prizes: 1st \$300; 2nd \$200; 3rd \$100

All Covid-19 protocols will be followed. For more information contact Peter Baccardax 535-3182

Events at Johnstown

The following is the schedule for the summer and fall season. Some events are tentative at this time and more information will be forthcoming closer to the event. These events are subject to change due to Covid restrictions:

1. Saturday August 14th: Cemetery Mass and Take-out Supper 2. Sunday August 22th: Bake Sale 3. Saturday September 4th: Take-out Supper 4. Sunday November 21st: Christmas Bingo

From CitizenGo

Have you heard the latest news about the film Benedetta?

Once again, the liberal-libertarian elite of the Cannes Film Festival and the showbiz world are mocking us and continuing their assault on Christianity.

They openly mock Christianity and the nuns who dedicate their lives to others.

In Benedetta, two nuns are in a homosexual relationship and the film does not hesitate to show many shocking scenes, so that one wonders whether it is a mainstream film or an erotic or pornographic film!

[Sign the petition now to demand that Pathé Productions remove the pornographic film Benedetta from cinemas.](#)

The film goes too far by showing a scene where a statuette of the Virgin Mary is used as a sexual object between the two "nuns".

We cannot continue to stand idly by while Christianity is openly and constantly mocked!