

**THE
CATHEDRAL
OF THE
RISEN
CHRIST**

Cathedral Bible Study

Fr. Steve Thomlison
Assistant Pastor

Thursday, May 19th, 2011

**** PLEASE SIGN IN ****

BIBLE STUDY OBJECTIVES

- May → Month of Mary
- Marian: Holy Days of Obligation & Dogma's
- Learning to know Christ thru the *"School of Mary"*
- Have fun!



REDEMPTION

How to describe Christ in the Marian dogmas?

REMEMBER: What is said of Mary is said of the Church!

The more that we understand the Marian Dogmas ...
the more we understand the role of the Church in
the Mission of Redemption ... why the Church is
necessary for salvation.

We must participate in the Marian dogmas in the way
that we were created to participate in them!

Marian dogmas help us to *know* Christ (not theological
facts & figures knowledge) but relationally!

U.S.A. Holy Days of Obligation

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. January 1 → | Mary, Mother of God |
| 2. 6 th Thursday After Easter → | Ascension of Jesus |
| 3. August 15 → | Assumption of Mary |
| 4. November 1 → | All Saint's Day |
| 5. December 8 → | Immaculate Conception
<i>(Of Mary)</i> |
| 6. December 25 → | Christmas |

Marian Dogma's:

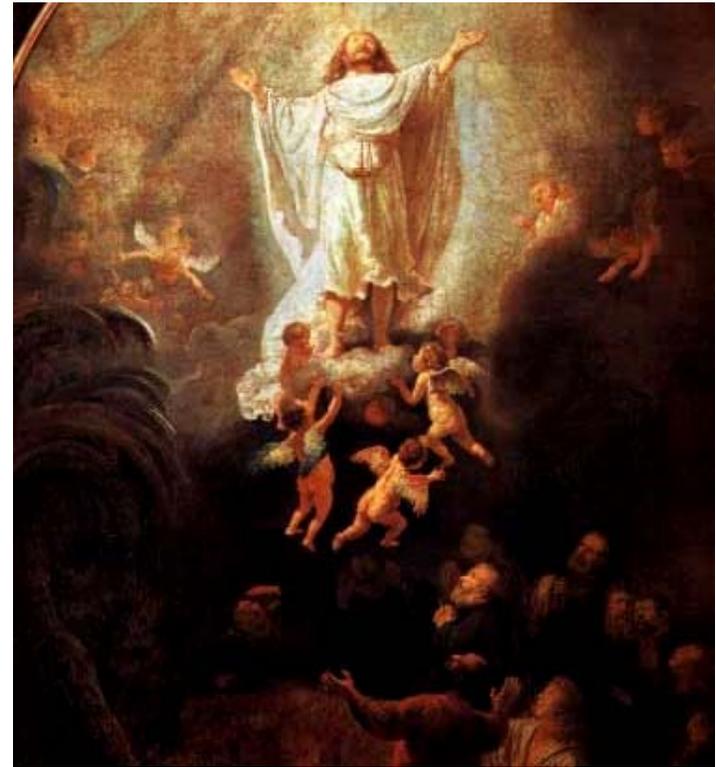
1. **Divine Motherhood**
2. **Perpetual Virginity**
3. **Immaculate Conception**
4. **Assumption**

PLANNED SCHEDULE

- May 5th → Divine Motherhood
- May 12th → Immaculate Conception /
Perpetual Virginity
- May 19th → Ascension / Assumption
- May 26th → Apparitions
- June 2nd → **NO BIBLE STUDY**
HOLY DAY: Solemnity of the
Ascension of the Lord

ASCENSION OF CHRIST

- Luke 24:50-53; Mark 16:19;
Acts 1:6-12; 1 Tim 3:16
- 40 Days after the Resurrection
- St. Augustine: Apostolic origin
- Apostle's & Nicene Creed:
"He ascended into heaven"
- The elevation of Christ into heaven
by His own power in presence of His
disciples the fortieth day after His
Resurrection.



The Ascension by Rembrandt, 1636

BY WHOSE POWER?

- **FATHER:** *“God the Father, who raised him from the dead...”* (Galatians 1:1)
- **SON:** *“Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up.”* (John 2:19)
- **HOLY SPIRIT:** *“If the Spirit of the one who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you...”*
(Romans 8:11)
- Raising from the Dead vs. Ascending into Heaven?
- Divine Trinitarian Power
- KEEP FOCUS: End result

INCARNATION & ASCENSION

INCARNATION OF CHRIST:

- Divinity dwells on earth; Divinity is incarnated into Humanity
- Mary gives Birth to the conquering or the '*death of death*' itself!
- Christ has defeated death and returns to heaven triumphantly as the King of Kings with all of the Old Testament Faithful from the bosom of Abraham!

ASCENSION OF CHRIST:

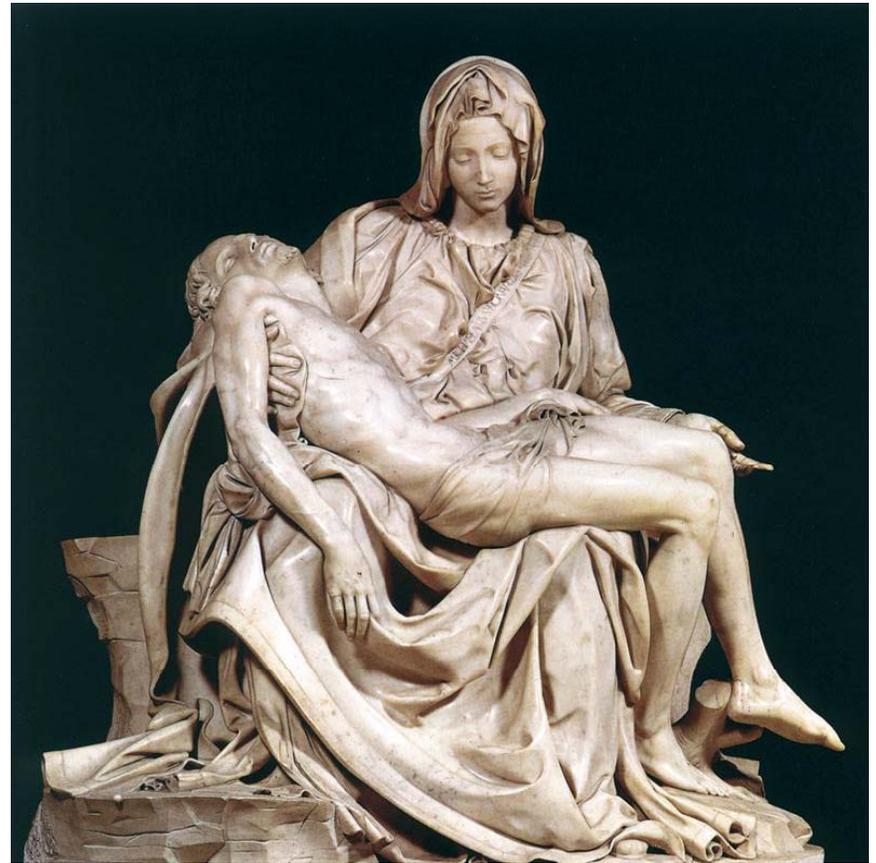
- Human flesh dwells in heaven; Humanity is incarnated into Divinity
- The amazing thing is not that man has walked on the moon, rather, it is that God walked on the earth!
- Even more amazing is that nail pierced human flesh now dwells within the very life of the Trinity in Heaven as a part of God's Divine life!

40 Days of Preparation: Ascension

Bosom of Abraham: Church fathers sometimes used the term to mean the limbo of the fathers, the abode of the righteous who died before Christ and who were not admitted to heaven until his resurrection.

REFLECTION QUESTION:

- *What's happening at this very moment?* →
- *Mary's holding the key to heaven?*



The *Pietà* (Michaelangelo, 1498–1499)

MEDITATIONS

JUNE 2: ASCENSION

- Jesus triumphantly
Ascends into heaven and
takes His place at the
Right hand of the Father!
He is the King of Kings!
Hosanna in the Highest!
 - Nail Pierced Human
Flesh is constantly at the
right hand of the Father
interceding for us!
- Human flesh now has
entry / access to the
Divine Life of the Trinity
through Christ! He is the
Gate!
 - If Christ can defeat Death
itself, then He is more
powerful than whatever
problem, cross,
temptation or difficulty
that I am currently
struggling with!

The Assumption of Mary



ASSUMPTION OF MARY

- ***Munificentissimus Deus***
(Latin: *The most bountiful God*) Pope Pius XII.
November 1, 1950.
- Highest Form of Canonization: Both BODY and SPIRIT in Heaven!
- She does not await a fulfillment. She is *Full of Grace* and preserved from all sin!

“By the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, of the Blessed Apostles Peter and Paul, and by our own authority, 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”.

THEOLOGY OF THE ASSUMPTION

- **Blessed Pope John Paul II**

August 15, 2004, Lourdes

“If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and will receive you to myself; that where I am, you may be there also.”

(John 14:3)

DID MARY ACTUALLY DIE?

“for Mary, death, in consequence of her freedom from original sin and from personal sin, was not a consequence of punishment of sin. However, it seems fitting that Mary's body, which was by nature mortal, should be, in conformity with that of her Divine Son, subject to the general law of death”.

Fundamentals of Catholic Dogma, Ludwig Ott,
Book III, Pt. 3, Ch. 2, §6

MARIAN HUMILITY

- A barren womb leads to supernatural fruitfulness! (Sarah, Hannah, Elizabeth, Mary)
- Self-emptying (barrenness) allows room to be filled (impregnated) with God's Grace.
- Self-emptying requires great humility!
- When I am not lowly or lacking humility He cannot raise me up! Humility is the requirement for an elevation of any kind and the assumption is the highest kind of RAISING UP! Just as in the resurrection Christ is raised up because of His humility.

SO WHAT? LIFE WITHOUT IT...

Bodily Assumption of Mary points to the Resurrection of our Human Bodies!

- *The Human Body is important!*

The Human Body & Soul of a Woman (mother & wife) is in heaven!

- *God created Woman to be a life essential helper for man*

An Eschatological Sign!

- *Mary is the perfect humble Role Model for humanity!*
- *She shows the 'last things' of our Human destiny!*



MEDITATIONS

AUGUST 15: ASSUMPTION

- Mary in her complete self-emptying and humility is raised into heaven. Incredibly humble saints are known to have levitated (*St. Francis, Alphonsus Liguori, Ignatius, John Bosco, Philip Neri, Teresa of Avila, Thomas Aquinas, Padre Pio*). It's almost as if our own pride weighs us down and prevents our rising to heaven.
- There is no death in heaven, therefore Mary's body & soul are perfectly alive and interceding for us with motherly love. Do I avail myself to her love?
- How wondrous is God's Divine Plan for us to unite body & soul in heaven – doesn't it trump our own limited earthly desires in every way? Fix our gaze on heaven!

Sneak Preview:

Marian Apparitions

