

Notes from Fr. Nick

The Feast of the Assumption

This Tuesday, August 15th, is one of the Church's great solemnities: the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. While Bishop Barber has dispensed people in the Diocese of Oakland from the obligation to attend Mass on the feast, we encourage you to do so, either at the 7:30 pm Vigil (on Monday, August 14th), or at the 8:00 am or 5:30 pm Masses on Tuesday. (Note that the 5:30 pm Mass is returning for this special feast.)

The celebration of Mary's assumption into heaven began as early as the fifth century. The basic teaching is that since Mary did not carry the stain of original sin, she need not wait until the Final Judgment at the end of time to enter God's Kingdom. This doctrine is one of only two formal infallible statements made by the Church. Pope Pius XII promulgated it in 1950. (The other infallible statement came nearly a century earlier: the teaching on infallibility itself in 1870.) Mary is seen as the pledge of God's promise to fulfill all things in himself. In other words, where Mary has led, we will follow.



The psychologist Carl Jung, who was not Catholic, applauded this teaching. He said that it not only told us something about Mary but also showed the ongoing revelation between God and human beings.

The Feast of the Assumption is also so the date on which most members of religious communities make their professions (become full members of their community). In addition, many countries also bless crops, orchards, garden and fields on this date.

Travel to Israel with Fr. Nick!

Fr. Nick will be a chaplain this Fall on a cruise travelling from Rome to Israel and back (via Greece). Some of his former parishioners will be on board, and he would love for some of us to join him as well.

