

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary into Heaven 15th August 2021

Preparing the prayer space

Place a white cloth on the table or floor (white – the colour for a solemnity)
Place a cross, bible and candle on it. Light the candle or use a battery-operated candle for safety. Add any other symbols relevant to your family or to Mary.

Prepare materials

- YouTube as listed on sheet: Scripture story and song
- Suggested activities: your choice or other related activity on sheet
- Print out sheet if required

Gather around the prayer space as a family

Parent/Caregiver: In today's gospel, we listen to how God works in marvellous ways. Mary hurries to visit her cousin Elizabeth, upon hearing the good news that God has blessed Elizabeth with a baby.



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Opening prayer:

Almighty and everliving God, you are always present in the small wonderful things and in the big amazing things. Let us remember that you shower us with blessings because you love us so much. Amen

Gospel: A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke (1:39-56)

All: Glory to you O, Lord.

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 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 Saviour. 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 put humble people in places of power. He gives the hungry good things to eat, He sends the rick away with nothing in their hands. He helps his servant Israel and his 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.

The gospel of the Lord. All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

(Gospel text © The Catholic Children's Bible (2013) Saint Mary's Press, Christian Brothers Publications, Winona)

Prayerfully watch the video together

Mary Visits Elizabeth https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jp7DI_W0yzc (0.56min)

Scripture reflection and time of sharing:

I wonder why Mary hurried...

I wonder what Elizabeth was thinking when Mary arrived...

I wonder how Mary was feeling when she saw Elizabeth...

I wonder how the baby in Elizabeth's tummy knew about Mary...

I wonder why Mary stayed with Elizabeth for three months...

I wonder what happened when Mary went home...

Let us sing together our beliefs as Christians:

I Believe - John Burland ft. Genevieve Bryant <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mvYbfojVkGQ> (4 mins)

Intercessions: Let us now spend some time in prayer asking God to listen to our needs.

(We respond to the prayers by saying the words 'Lord, hear our prayer')

1 We pray for Pope Francis, Archbishop Patrick O'Regan, all Church and world leaders will provide safety for their people.

Lord, hear us. **All:** Lord, hear our prayer

2 We pray for families to be witnesses of compassion throughout the world.

Lord, hear us. **All:** Lord, hear our prayer

3 We pray that the Church will be a model of Mary's joy.

Lord, hear us. **All:** Lord, hear our prayer

4 We pause for a moment and pray in our hearts or aloud for any intentions or people we would like to pray for at this time (*pause*)

Lord, hear us. **All:** Lord, hear our prayer

6 We pray for those who are struggling or are challenged at this time, may they find rest in God's protection.

Lord, hear us. **All:** Lord, hear our prayer

Closing prayer: We lift up our hearts and the prayers of our community. We make these prayers through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

(Sunday, August 15, 2021, © Daily Prayer 2021 (2020) Archdiocese of Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications, Chicago)

Closing song: Mary's Song of Praise <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n61KEDPoLuo> (2.46min)

Follow up activity suggestions after the time of prayer has end.

- **Prayer journal**

Write a prayer to Jesus in your prayer journal (special notebook).

- **Colouring in**

https://www.saintannahelper.com/support-files/assumption_stained_glass_window.pdf

- **Craft**

Make a craft of today's Gospel reading <https://www.jesus-without-language.net/elizabeth-mary-luke-1-make-2/>

- **Family Connection**

Invite each person in the family to write or draw one or more ways in which they see God working in your family life and in our world today. Use these prayers of thanksgiving to create your family's song of praise to God. Conclude by praying together this song of praise. More on <https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/sunday-connection/assumption-of-the-blessed-virgin-mary-august-15/>