

The Assumption of Mary



In this Icon of the Easter Orthodox Rite of Catholic Church Mary is depicted upon the funeral bier. This is known as the Dormition of the Virgin Mary or her “falling asleep.”

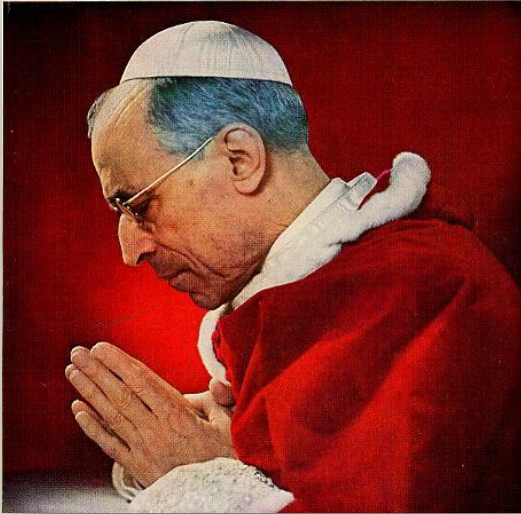
Christ, standing behind her, has come to receive His Mother into heaven; He holds in His left arm an infant in white, symbolizing the soul of the Mother of God. Christ also is robed in white and appears in an aureole (elongated halo) depicting the Light of His Divinity.

On either side of the bier stand the Apostles; the group on the left is led by St. Peter who stands at the head of the bier; the group on the right is led by St. Paul who stands at the foot of the bier.

Two cities, Jerusalem and Ephesus, in present-day Turkey claim to be the place where the Virgin Mary ended her life.

Catechism 966 Finally the Immaculate Virgin, preserved free from all stain of original sin, when the course of her earthly life was finished, was taken up body and soul into heavenly glory, and exalted by the Lord as Queen over all things, so that she might be the more fully conformed to her Son, the Lord of lords and conqueror of sin and death." The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin is a singular participation in her Son's Resurrection and an anticipation of the resurrection of other Christians.

Pope Pius XII



DEFINING THE DOGMA OF THE ASSUMPTION

Pope Pius XII November 1, 1950

“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.

Hence if anyone, which God forbid, should dare willfully to deny or to call into doubt that which we have defined, let him know that he has fallen away completely from the divine and Catholic Faith.... It is forbidden to any man to change this, our declaration, pronouncement, and definition or, by rash attempt, to oppose and counter it. If any man should presume to make such an attempt, let him know that he will incur the wrath of Almighty God and of the Blessed Apostles Peter and Paul”.

To read the dogma in its entirety click [HERE](#)

Protestant Objection: Mary’s assumption is unbiblical and therefore false.

Catholic Answer: No explicit scriptural text uses the word “assumption”. There is also no explicit scriptural text that uses the word “Trinity” or says the Holy Spirit is the third “person” of the Holy Trinity yet all Christians accept these as biblical truths. We know from scripture that Elijah and Enoch were assumed into heaven by God so why not Mary? We also know from scripture, in the book of Revelation, that Mary was assumed by God into heaven.



Elijah and Enoch

“And as they went on and talked, behold a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them. And Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.” 2 Kings 2:11

“By faith, Enoch was taken up so that he would not see death; and he was not found because God had taken him”.
Hebrews 11:5



Pope Pius XII Dogma of the Assumption:

“Often there are theologians and preachers who, following in the footsteps of the holy Fathers, have been rather free in their use of events and expressions taken from Sacred Scripture to explain their belief in the Assumption. Thus, to mention only a few of the texts rather frequently cited in this fashion, some have employed the words of the psalmist: "Arise, O Lord, into your resting place: you and the ark, which you have sanctified"; and have looked upon the Ark of the Covenant, built of incorruptible wood and placed in the Lord's temple, as a type of the most pure body of the Virgin Mary, preserved and exempt from all the corruption of the tomb and raised up to such glory in heaven....Moreover, the scholastic Doctors have recognized the Assumption of the Virgin Mother of God as something signified, not only in various figures of the Old Testament, but also in that woman clothed with the sun.”

Book of Revelation

“Then God’s temple in heaven was opened and the ark of his covenant was seen within his temple and there were flashes of lightning, loud noises, peals of thunder, an earthquake and heavy hail and a great portent appeared in heaven, a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars; she was with child and she cried out in her pangs of birth.....and she brought forth a male child, one who is to rule all nations with a rod of iron, but her child was caught up to God and His throne.....the dragon was angry with the woman and went off to make war on the rest of her offspring, on those who keep the commandments of God and bear testimony to Jesus.” Rev. 11:19-12:1-17

[Please scroll down](#)

Mother of God

Protestant objection: Mary is not the “Mother of God.”

Catholic Answer: To deny that Mary is the Mother of God is a heresy called Nestorianism that dates back to the fifth century. The Council of Ephesus in 431 was called to condemn this heresy.

Protestant objection: If Mary is God’s mother then she existed before God.

Catholic Answer: Mary is not eternal. Mary is not the source of Jesus' divinity. She is not the mother of God the Father, nor the mother of God the Holy Spirit. She is the mother of Jesus, the Second Person of the Trinity, who is God the Son. She gave birth to Jesus and Jesus is God therefore Mary is the mother of God.

Protestant Objection: Mary gave birth to the human Jesus.

Catholic Answer: When Mary gave birth, she did not give birth to a nature, or even two natures; she gave birth to one, divine Person who is both human and divine. Humans only have one nature - a human nature. With the Incarnation of Jesus, God became man. This meant that Jesus, a Divine Person, already having a divine nature, united with a human nature.

Mary is not simply the mother of Jesus' human nature. She is the mother of the person of Jesus. And the person of Jesus is a Divine Person with two natures united.

Jesus = Divine Person. Jesus = God. Mary = mother of Jesus. Therefore, Mary = Mother of God.

Scripture tells us that Mary is the mother of God. In Luke 1:42-43 Elizabeth said to Mary: Why is this granted me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me"

The word “Lord” refers to divinity as scripture says: "Yet to us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things, and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist." 1 Corinthians 8:5

It is from Mary that Jesus received His DNA. His blood type came from Mary. He received the color of His eyes, hair color and facial characteristics from Mary. She taught Jesus how to walk, to talk. She fed Him, bathed Him and protected Him. She was truly His mother and because Jesus is fully human and fully divine, Mary is rightly called the Mother of God.

Isaiah 7:14 foretold that “...the Lord himself will give you a sign. The virgin shall bear a child and shall be called Emmanuel.”

Emmanuel means ‘God with us’. This prophesied Mary as the Mother of God; she would give birth to ‘God with us’. If you deny that Mary is the Mother of God, then to whom did she give birth? To say anything other than that she is the Mother of God, you lose the real Jesus.

Next topic: The seven sacraments of the Church in scripture