

HOLY DAY feast of the
ASSUMPTION OF MARY
is TUESDAY, August 15.

MASS AT 7:00 PM
At Blessed Trinity



Byzantine Christians keep this feast as the "Dormition," which means the "falling asleep" of Mary. It is Mary's greatest feast, her Passover.

Throughout the evening of August 14 a vigil is kept in mourning for the death of Mary. An icon of Mary is decorated with fragrant herbs and fresh flowers. At dawn on August 15, the bells ring out in joy.

After the horrors of the Second World War, after the death camps, after the first use of nuclear weapons, we Christians needed to remind ourselves of the holiness of creation. In 1950, Pope Pius XII declared what Catholics had long believed: After Mary's death, God raised her body. She lives with God for ever.

On Assumption Day we rejoice that this broken world will be made new again. The barren, the poor, the unloved and even the dead will be raised into glory.

Assumption Day sometimes is thought of as Mary's "harvesting" into heaven. This is a day to thank God for the bounty of growing things. Many churches gather baskets of garden vegetables, herbs and flowers around a statue or image of Mary. We remember Mary's song of praise from the Gospel of Luke, "The Lord has lifted up the lowly. *The Lord has filled the hungry with good things.*"



Following the Assumption Mass
on Tuesday evening:

An ICE CREAM Social

ALL ARE WELCOME!

You glowing, most green, verdant sprout,
in the movement of the Spirit, in the midst
of wise and holy seekers, you bud forth in-
to light. Your time to blossom has come.

Balsam scented, in you the beautiful flower blossomed.

It is the beautiful flower that lends its scent to those herbs, and all that has shriveled and wilted. It brings them lush greenness once more.