

**FROM THE PASTOR
NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
AUGUST 13, 2023**

This week we turn our thoughts to the Most Blessed Virgin Mary, the All-Holy and Immaculate Mother of God, whose Assumption we will celebrate on Tuesday, August 15th. The Assumption is a **Holyday of Obligation**. **The Masses will be celebrated on Monday evening at 7.00PM and on Tuesday at 8.00AM and 12.15PM.**

The Assumption of Our Lady is both the most ancient and the principle Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It celebrates the wondrous mystery that at the end of her earthly life Our Lady was taken Body and Soul into Heaven.

Many of our parishioners have visited the tombs of the saints. Here in our beloved country, we may visit the tomb of Mother Cabrini in upper Manhattan. We may visit the tomb of St John Neumann at the Church of St. Peter at the corner 5th Street and Gerard Street in Philadelphia; we may visit the tomb of St. Elizabeth Anne Seton in Emmitsburg, Maryland. But no matter how many times we may circle the globe we will never find the tomb of the Virgin Mary. We, who are believers, know why that is the case. It is because there is no tomb nor has there ever been a place that has claimed to have her body! She was taken body and soul to heaven. There is no tomb.

Make every effort to attend Holy Mass and to offer a special gift of love to Our Lady. In many places there is the custom to fast from August 1st until August 15th. This is called Our Lady's Lent. May God bless you.

SAVE THE DATES: Our Parish Picnic will be on Sunday September 24th at 12 noon. Please pray for fair weather that day,

LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR: On **Saturday/Sunday September 2/3**, we will once again welcome the Little Sisters of the Poor. The Little Sisters are very close to St. Paul's and were much loved by my two immediate predecessors Monsignor Costa and Monsignor Clerkin. Due to the pandemic, the Little Sisters have not been to visit St. Paul's since 2018. Sister Mary Alexandra, LSP, will make the appeal for the Little Sisters who care for the elderly poor. The Little Sisters life is itself an inspiration and teaching. Once when the Little Sisters of the Poor were here in the past some of our octogenarian parishioners complained that they could not hear Sister. The Sisters are meek and lowly of Heart. They are not trained in public speaking. They are trained in the school of holiness and charity. They teach by the example of their lives and not by their words.

In Jesus and Mary,

Monsignor James F. Pereda