

Assumption: St. Mary's

In the readings for today, we hear about some of the Mysteries of the Rosary, that our beautiful windows depict.

The Gospel is St. Luke's account of Mary's Visitation to her cousin Elizabeth in the Hill Country. We see that in the window right here. She goes, because the Holy Spirit, at the Annunciation, depicted in one of the Royal Bavarian Glass works windows, told Mary that Elizabeth, even though past the age, was with child.

And in the first reading from Revelation, John's book of prophecy concerning the end times, we are introduced to the woman in the sky; a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head.... A crown of 12 stars. And so we have the 5th Glorious Mystery, the crowning of Mary as the Queen of heaven.

The feast we celebrate today is the Assumption of Mary, which is the 4th Glorious Mystery. Now the Assumption of Mary is not really scriptural. No where is it explicitly referred to. John sees the arc of the covenant in the Temple, and Mary is considered the Ark of the New Covenant of Christ. But the event is not described anywhere.

So the tradition has been depicted over the years in art, quite similar to the Ascension. Mary is taken up into the clouds with a choir of Angels around her.

And yet, OUR window here, depicts the Dormition of Mary. Her falling asleep; her bodily, human life ending. And yet, with that ending, since Mary is the Immaculate Conception, born without original sin, her body would not know decay, which is the result of Adam's fall from Grace which Paul is referring to in

his letter to the Corinthians. And so, her falling asleep would mean her instantaneous entrance into heaven. It's not as artistically exciting as angels pushing her around on a cloud, but there it is; her immediate entrance into the presence of her Son, the King.

Let us celebrate the Feast well, and ask her to pray for us that we might find favor with her Son. Now, and at the hour of our death. May our dormition also lead us to heaven.