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From Father Stan Sledz...

It's August already! Lots of weather changes. but it's not over. The Olympics provide a lot of fun, sportsmanship, hospitality and drama! But Russia as a country is not invited - only individual athletes (as far as I have learned.)

In our tradition, we celebrate the Feasts of the Transfiguration (in a vision of the Godliness of Jesus), the Assumption of Mary, the Mother of Jesus, taken into heaven, and the martyrdom of John the Baptist, an older cousin of Jesus, to name a few of the feast days.



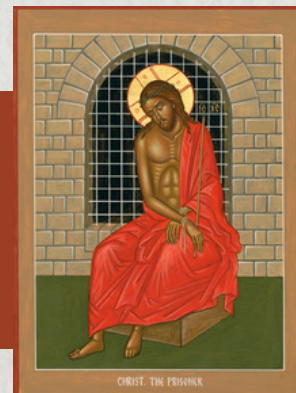
The Assumption of Mary is described in the Book of Revelation 12. This was a loving act of God, (therefore "assumed") as a human being, to physically be with the other saints, and therefore especially honored for her ministry,

chosen by our creator, to be the Mother of our redeemer, Savior!

This leads us to pause, meditate, and contemplate the loving plan of our Creator to come as our Savior to free us all from our sinfulness. We humbly respond with gratitude. Thank you, dear God, for Your choice to become one of us (without sin) to offer Your precious life and enable us to join You, with Mary and all the saints in heaven!

With love and daily prayer,
Fr. Stan

"I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me." Matthew 25:36



"The imminent righteousness of history rewards and punishes only men's deeds,



but the eternal righteousness of God tries and judges their hearts."



The Minnesota Prison Doula Project (MnPDP) provides pregnancy and parenting support to incarcerated parents. They provide birth support from trained doulas, as well as group-based and individual education and support. The goal is to nurture healthy relationships and increase parenting confidence and skills.

This project works with those serving sentences at Minnesota's only women's state prison and those held in county correctional facilities throughout Minnesota.

What a blessing it is to have such caring people in this project to reach out and provide this service!

I LOVE THE LORD, WHO LISTENED TO MY VOICE IN SUPPLICATION WHO TURNED AN EAR TO ME ON THE DAY I CALLED.



Below are the prayer requests from insiders. Let us pray for...

- For leaders in the Department of Corrections – for wisdom, fortitude, and good health over the next six months.
- Prayers for the resident who is in hospice at Oak Park Heights preparing to pass this life. Thanks to God's grace they received the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick (last rights.) Requesting God's mercy and peace as they prepare for the journey home.
- Prayers for speedy recovery for the mother who gave birth to a new son.
- Pray in Thanksgiving for my great-nephew who is in remission for leukemia and bless his doctor.
- Pray for the leaders of our country, for President Biden stepping aside, and for Vice President Harris.
- Prayers for a resident's family member, for a speedy recovery from open heart surgery.
- Prayers for people dealing with addiction and to stop overdoses and curtail the flow of drugs.
- Good sense and judgment for elected officials and running for office candidates, for this country.
- For God's grace to be able to make contact with his two sons to see how they are doing.
- Prayers for Israel, Jerusalem and all those involved to end the conflicts there and for God's peace and safety for those affected by the violence.
- Pray for a deceased Uncle, that he is welcomed into the Kingdom and for his family who are grieving his loss.
- For a Resident's family member who is dealing with dementia. and for strength and patience for their caregivers.
- Not seem to be satisfied. Always wanting something more. Strained relationship.
- For my mother who is having surgery today, for a successful outcome and speedy recovery.
- Prayers for a resident's brother, that he makes more healthy decisions in life.
- Mother's recovery from Meth addiction and suicidal and emotional issues.
- Pray for the women in Shakopee, for their loneliness and other struggles.
- Healing from kidney disease for my 3-year-old grandson.
- Success from chemotherapy and radiation treatment for Father Mike.
- Comfort for my Mom in her final days in which she suffers from cancer.
- Healing for a resident experiencing frequent severe headaches.
- 12 children in the war torn middle east who were killed.
- A heart transplant for my 3-year-old daughter.
- Son laid off from mechanical engineering job.
- Favor with my upcoming Wisconsin plea withdrawal.
- A good 19th birthday celebration for my daughter.
- Please pray for my mom with brain cancer.
- Praise God for good results with my appeal.
- Blessings to the volunteers who come in and "fill our cups."
- For a spiritual revival within the walls at Stillwater.
- Pray for my son's safety in basic training.
- Pray for my nephew who has mental health issues.
- Pray for my sister who just had a stroke.
- Pray for my nephew who is battling Fentanyl.
- Pending appeal, favor and mercy.
- Lessening of a sentence.
- Sentence reduction.
- Pray for world leaders.
- Pray for those suffering in Sudan.
- Pray for my mom's health problems.
- Pray for peace & unity inside the prisons.

BUT DID YOU KNOW...?

Countries like Denmark, Germany, Norway, and Sweden view prison as an opportunity to promote rehabilitation and a successful return to the community. The goal is not to inflict further punishment but rather to create a supportive environment that mirrors life outside prison as much as possible. This is accomplished through intensive rehabilitative services, a well-trained correctional workforce, and more humane prison conditions.

Following the example of their Scandinavian counterparts, corrections leaders in at least a dozen U.S. states have implemented programs that incorporate aspects of Norway's and Sweden's correctional policies.



Send Christmas Cards TO THE INCARCERATED

The TCPM holiday card ministry sends messages of God's hope and love to incarcerated brothers and sisters for Christmas and Easter. This can be a wonderful group project for a Bible study or Confirmation class. Email tcpm.bridget@gmail.com for information or to participate. You will receive guidelines, an inmate's name and address, and a card and envelope. While you will not receive a response from the inmate, you can be assured that your card will be delivered and your message of God's love and hope is received.

Send an email to Bridget now to ensure you have the information you need to be ready for Christmas. Even though it's only August, the holidays will be here before you know it!



U.S. PRISON LITERACY STATISTICS

- An estimated 70% of prison inmates cannot read above 4th-grade level (ages 9-10.)
- 68% of male prison inmates do not have a high school diploma.
- 85% of all children who interact with the juvenile justice system are defined as low-literate
- Interaction with the juvenile justice system increases the likelihood of a child going to prison later in life. It also reduces the probability of high school graduation.
- High school dropouts are 5x more likely to go to prison than high school graduates.
- Two-thirds of students who cannot read to grade level by the end of grade 4 will end up on welfare or in prison.
- The likelihood of being arrested in their lifetime is 3.5 times higher for high school dropouts compared to high school graduates.
- High school dropouts have a 63% higher chance of being incarcerated than individuals with four-year college degrees.

LITERACY AND REOFFENDING

- Prisoners who receive education to become literate in prison return to prison 50% less often than those who do not receive this education.
- Only 6% of inmates are currently receiving literacy education in prison.
- Literacy education in prison costs the taxpayer approximately \$25,000 per inmate per year.
- For juvenile offenders, the cost is \$50,000 per inmate per year.



We pray for all those affected by prison – the prisoner, the family and victims. Be near them when they are angry, sad, or cry for help. Lord, you know us and you are near us wherever we are and whatever we do. Even though we stray so often from your presence, may we know the comfort of your loving arms around us. Amen.



CATHOLIC MOBILIZING NETWORK **FIRST FRIDAY VIRTUAL PRAYER VIGILS**

On the First Friday of each month, CMN invites you to a virtual prayer vigil, a sacred space to lament upcoming executions and bear witness to the sanctity of all human life. Join us to stand in solidarity with people facing execution, their victims, and all who are impacted by the unjust system of capital punishment.

First Friday Prayer Vigils are offered in both English and Spanish, and include time for guided prayer, petitions, Scripture reflections, and contemplative silence. Catholic bishops, ministry leaders, and allies from the abolition movement often lend their voices to these gatherings.

GET MONTHLY VIGIL INVITES