

DESCRIPTION OF THE ASSUMPTION OF MARY ICON

Mary (Theotokos = "God Bearer" in Greek) is in glory, giving her belt to St. Thomas as a gesture confirming her leaving earth. The cave (tomb) with roses (reference to "an unearthly scent" at the empty tomb) and the spring are to the right. Above, angels take Mary into heaven, symbolized by the half circle at top, symbolic of the gates of heaven that Christ has opened.

The icon has many shades of blue, "water" tones, in the aureole surrounding Mary - and blue is used as well for the small stream of water. Traditionally, there are three shades of a bluish tone in the aureole, representing the Trinity. They go from darker blue towards the middle, to lighter blue as you move from the middle outward.

An angled peak at top, with side supports resembles the exterior front entrance of the gathering space and echoes other stylistic qualities of the church.

On the lower frame the words: ASSUMPTIO BEATAE MARIAE VIRGINIS, Latin for Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Tradition holds that Mary was buried in The Kidron Valley. The valley is called such for it was the crevice of a stream that supplied water to Jerusalem. The spring of Gihon was the source of the water flow, and the source of the spring is often referred to as the "Cave of Gihon."

The connection to the Assumption is that Mary was buried in a valley where there was a spring. Although we don't know all the specifics from Tradition, it seems appropriate to include this spring in the icon as an "historical" reality.

Spiritually and symbolically, it has many possible meanings. For St. Mary of the Lake: the idea that the Assumption of Mary happened where there were "life giving waters" has connection to White Bear Lake. In large part this community was developed, like so many early communities, because it was by the water, which was the "source of life" for the people.

The Assumption of Mary Icon was dedicated August 15, 2006 on St. Mary's 125th anniversary and resides in the Notre Dame Chapel. Stop a minute and pray for the parish.

