

AUGUST QUIZ ANSWERS

1. By which century did the tradition of the bodily assumption of Mary into heaven take a firm hold in Christian teaching in the West?

c. 7th century

The early centuries of the Christian Church were silent on the death of Mary. But by the seventh century, the belief in the bodily assumption of Mary into heaven was firmly established.

2. In what year did the Assumption of Mary into Heaven become official teaching in the Roman Catholic Church?

c. 1950

Belief in the assumption of Mary into heaven became Roman Catholic doctrine in 1950. Pope Pius XII then declared that Mary:

was not subject to the law of remaining in the corruption of the grave, and she did not have to wait until the end of time for the redemption of her body.

3. What is the one thing that the gospel of Luke emphasizes about Mary?

a. Mary is highly favored.

The angel Gabriel tells her twice that she is “favored” by God. Watch how Gabriel says “hello” to Mary for the first time:

Greetings, you who are highly favored! (Luke 1.28.)

And then Gabriel tells Mary not to be afraid and repeats that she has “*found favor with God.*” (Lk 1.30)

4. After Jesus is born, Mary and Joseph take Jesus to the temple to consecrate him to the Lord. What offerings do they make?

c. Two turtledoves.

After Jesus is born, Joseph and Mary take him to the temple in Jerusalem to consecrate him to the Lord. According to Levitical law, Mary and Joseph make an offering of two turtledoves (Luke 2.22–24).

This may be an indicator of Mary's and Joseph's modest means. Luke is quoting a passage in the book of Leviticus about offerings a mother should present after having a son. The default offering is a one-year-old lamb and a single turtledove. But if the mother can't afford a lamb, another turtledove (or pigeon) would do (Leviticus 12.8). In the book of Leviticus, the second turtledove is a "sin offering".

5. What are the four canticles in Luke's Gospel and what is the name of the one ascribed to Mary?

The four canticles in Luke's Gospel are (*Mary's Magnificat*, Luke 1:46-55; *Zachariah's Benedictus*, 1:67-79; the angels' *Gloria*, 2:14; and *Simeon's Nunc Dimittis*, 2:29-32).

6. Of the principal holy days associated with Mary, which ones does the *Book of Common Prayer*, 1979 observe? How many can you name?

The Presentation *February 2* (sub-titled the Feast of the Purification of St Mary the Virgin in previous Prayer Books)

The Annunciation *March 25*

The Visitation *May 31*

St Mary the Virgin *August 15*