

Assumption Stained Glass Window Art



Stained Glass Window 1172:
The Virgin's Assumption

ASSUMPTION

For hundreds of years, painters and stained glass artists have been trying to capture the wonder and joy of the **Assumption of Mary** in their works. Although there is debate about whether **Mary** died before **her earthly body and eternal soul were transported to heaven**, **stained glass windows** usually show her alive. She may have her arms outstretched as she peers towards the heavens, giving viewers the impression that she is ready to receive this miraculous gift from God. The **angels who welcomed the Virgin Mother of Jesus** home are also part of some stained glass window art. Like the **Ascension of Jesus** into Heaven, **Mary's Assumption** can be interpreted as a reference to the promise of eternal life made to all who believe.

THE STORY OF THE ASSUMPTION

It is no surprise that the kind **Virgin Mary**, who accepted the will of God without question, was granted a great and wonderful reward in exchange for her faithful service to the Lord. According to the teachings of Catholicism, this gift was her **Assumption**—body and soul—into Heaven. That **God the Father** took **Mary into Heaven** at the end of her life is a required belief—a dogma—for anyone who belongs to the **Catholic Church**. Pope Pius XII officially made **Mary's Assumption** a mandatory belief for Catholics in 1950, stating that Mary, “having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory.”



Stained Glass Window 1129: Mary is pictured in stunning color in this representation of her Assumption.

THE STORY OF THE ASSUMPTION CONTINUED

Faceted **glass windows**, however, depicted the event long before this declaration was made. In fact, it is believed that the Feast of the **Assumption** has been celebrated for well over a thousand years in some locations. Scholars have found indications of **Mary's Assumption** in several portions of the Bible, the Book of Revelation in particular.

Today, the Assumption is celebrated with a feast day on August 15 in most parishes, and on August 28 in the Eastern Orthodox faith. **Religious stained glass windows** showing **Mary's entrance into Heaven**, however, are suitable to display any time of the year. They can be a source of both solace and joyful hope that we too will one day be called to share in **God's glory**.

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