

## Fr. Curtis Kondik's homily for the Assumption of Mary describes the Second Ark.

### Mary, the Ark of the New Covenant and Our Model of Perseverance

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, Today, Heaven sings. Earth rejoices. And the Church stands in awe as we celebrate the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary—body and soul—into eternal glory.

But let us not imagine this glory as something distant or detached. Mary's journey to Heaven was not paved with ease. It was carved through suffering, through perseverance, through a love that never gave up.

She stood at the foot of the Cross. She held the lifeless body of her Son. She endured the silence of Holy Saturday. And yet, she never stopped believing. Never stopped loving. Never stopped saying "yes."

As St. John Paul II once said:

"Mary lived her suffering with dignity and hope, sustained by faith, knowing that the Lord would not abandon her. She teaches us that suffering is not the end, but the path to glory."

### [Mary as the Ark of the New Covenant]

*In the Old Testament, the Ark of the Covenant carried the signs of God's promise: the tablets of the Law, the manna, and the staff of Aaron. It was holy, untouchable, revered.*

*But in the fullness of time, God prepared a new Ark—not of gold, but of grace. Mary carried within her the true Bread from Heaven, the eternal High Priest, and the Word made flesh. She became the living dwelling place of God—the Ark of the New Covenant.*

*When she visited Elizabeth, the child leapt in the womb. Just as David danced before the Ark, so too did John rejoice before the Mother of the Lord. Scripture is not subtle—it is proclaiming: **This is the new Ark. This is the new covenant.***

### [The Assumption: Fulfillment and Hope]

And today, we celebrate the moment when this Ark was lifted into Heaven. Mary's Assumption is not just a personal reward—it is a sign for all of us. She is the first to fully share in the resurrection of her Son. Her body, untouched by sin, is now glorified in Heaven. She is the promise of what awaits those who remain faithful.

Her Assumption is the Church's roadmap. It tells us: This is where the path of love leads. This is what God desires for you.

[Living the New Covenant Daily]

But this feast is not only about Mary—it is about us. She is not just the Ark; she is our Mother. And she wants her children to follow her home.

So how do we live the New Covenant daily?

By saying “yes” to God in the ordinary and the difficult.

By carrying Christ within us—not in our wombs, but in our hearts.

By persevering through suffering, trusting that God is working out a greater glory.

By loving as Jesus loved—through mercy, service, and sacrifice.

Mary’s life was not free from pain—but it was full of purpose. And her Assumption reminds us: Heaven is not a distant dream. It is our destiny.

So today, let us rejoice. Let us honor Mary, the Ark of the New Covenant. Let us ask her to help us live as true disciples of her Son. And let us remember: where she has gone, we hope to follow.

Holy Mary, assumed into Heaven, Mother of perseverance, Model of faith, Pray for us. Lead us to your Son. And help us live the New Covenant with courage, with love, and with hope.

Amen.