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The Solemnity of the Assumption of Mary

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The Assumption of Theotokos by Murillo

Although probably not unknown in the early Church, the earliest references to the

Assumption of the [Virgin Mary](#) appear in the 4th (or possibly late 3rd) century in [Liber Requiei Mariae](#)(The Book of Mary's Repose), and in the writings of a Bishop Meliton. [...] St. John of Damascus (d. AD 755) relates a tradition where, during the Council of Chalcedon (AD 451), the emperor Marcian and his wife wished to find the body of Mary. He tells how all the apostles had seen her death, but her tomb was empty upon inspection.

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