

Saturday, January 01, 2022 - Year C
The Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

Readings: 1) *Numbers 6:22-27* 2) *Galatians 4:4-7* 3) *Luke 2:16-21*

FOCUS: Mary, through her fiat, allows God to bring forth his plan of salvation to all the world.

The celebration of the Holy Mother of God is fitting on the octave day of Christmas, for it is through Mary's yes that Jesus comes into the world to save us. God asks us for our yeses too. He asks for our trust, and he asks for our willingness to participate in his great plan of salvation.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Lord gives Moses a priestly blessing to speak to Aaron and to bless the Israelites. In his Letter to the Galatians, Saint Paul explains that in the fullness of time, God sent his Son who was born of a woman in order to claim those under the law as his sons and daughters. In the Gospel, the shepherds visit the Holy Family and share the message they had received about the child. Mary listens and reflects in her heart on all of the things she hears.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us turn to our heavenly Father with our prayers and petitions.

- 1) For Pope Francis, bishops, priests, and religious, may the Lord bless them and keep them, and make his face to shine upon them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For public authorities, leaders of nations and governments, and those entrusted with the welfare of their people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the sick, may the Lord grant them healing and peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this community of faith, may the Holy Spirit help us grow ever more in trust and love of the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they be welcomed into the fullness of the Lord's presence, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, we thank you for your goodness and love. Hear and answer our prayers today according to your perfect will. We ask this through your Son, Christ our Lord.