

Sunday, January 1, 2023

The Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

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

FOCUS:

We celebrate the place of Mary in God's plan of salvation. In her "yes," she accepts the invitation to bring the world its Savior.

With the birth of Jesus, God enters into human history in a new and dynamic way. Mary's role as mother is both essential and another example of how God has chosen and blessed the people who belong to him. With this Christ-filled blessing comes God's peace and our adoption as sons and daughters of God.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

God tells Moses to speak to Aaron and his sons and tell them that God promises his blessing and peace to his people. Saint Paul writes to the Galatians about the mystery of the Incarnation – through it God has *sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts* to make us his adopted children. In the Gospel, the shepherds visit Mary, Joseph and the baby, and then glorify and praise God. Jesus is given his name.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Let us bring our prayers before our God who promises us blessing and peace.

- 1) For the Church, may we, through the intercession of Mary, grow in our ability to bear Christ to the world with confidence and grace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For governments and world leaders, may the Gospel message of peace and blessing inform and direct their decisions and actions, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the sick and the dying, may Christ the healer give them hope and courage, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us here, may the Lord bless us, keep us faithful, and make us ever more holy in this New Year, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died marked with the sign of faith, may they come to share in the fullness of Christ's glory and look upon the face of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty and living God, we praise and glorify you for your steadfast and eternal mercy as we make these prayers through Christ, our Lord.