

1st of January

SOLEMNITY OF MARY THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD (A)

Collect

O God, who through the fruitful virginity of Blessed Mary bestowed on the human race the grace of eternal salvation, grant, we pray, that we may experience the intercession of her, through whom we were found worthy to receive the author of life, our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

1st. READING (Numbers 6:22-27)

The LORD said to Moses, 23 "Tell Aaron and his sons, 'This is how you are to bless the Israelites. Say to them: 24 " ' "The LORD bless you and keep you; 25 the LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; 26 the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace." ' ' 27 "So they will put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 67)

May God be gracious to us and bless us/ and make his face shine on us/so that your ways may be known on earth,/your salvation among all nations./May the peoples praise you, God;/may all the peoples praise you./May the nations be glad and sing for joy,/for you rule the peoples with equity/and guide the nations of the earth./May the peoples praise you, God;/may all the peoples praise you./The land yields its harvest;/God, our God, blesses us./May God bless us still,/so that all the ends of the earth will fear him.

2nd. READING (Gal 4:4-7)

But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent his Son, made of a woman, made under the law: That he might redeem them who were under the law: that we might receive the adoption of sons. And because you are sons, God hath sent the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying: Abba, Father. Therefore now he is not

a servant, but a son. And if a son, an heir also through God.

GOSPEL (Lc 2, 16-21)

The shepherds came hurriedly and found Mary and Joseph with the baby lying in the manger. On seeing this they related what they had been told about the child, and all were astonished on hearing the shepherds. As for Mary, she treasured all these messages and continually pondered over them. The shepherds then returned giving glory and praise to God for all they had heard and seen, just as the angels had told them. On the eighth day the circumcision of the baby had to be performed; he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he was conceived.

Prayer over the Offerings

O God, who in your kindness begin all good things and bring them to fulfilment, grant to us, who find joy in the Solemnity of the holy Mother of God, that, just as we glory in the beginnings of your grace, so one day we may rejoice in its completion. Through Christ our Lord.

Prayer after Communion

We have received this heavenly Sacrament with joy, O Lord: grant, we pray, that it may lead us to eternal life, for we rejoice to proclaim the blessed even-Virgin Mary Mother of your Son and Mother of the Church. Through Christ our Lord.