

New Year Homily

Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God

My Dear brothers and Sisters,

We often make resolutions when the New Year comes. Sometimes, we can keep them, and other times we don't follow them, but that should never discourage us. We all must have a new beginning for a new year.

Today, our mother Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God which is a very appropriate way to enter a new year. This celebration reminds us that the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God, is our heavenly mother. Today we all are called to pray that God may bless each one of us and our families in the New Year with his peace and joy, and we in turn share his peace and joy.

What is the biblical background for this doctrine of Mary the Mother of God? We learn the great truth that Mary is the Mother of God in various places in the bible. First, from Saint Luke's gospel in the message given by the angel to Mary: **"Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High."** Second, when the Blessed Virgin Mary visited Elizabeth, she greeted Mary, **"How does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?"** Third, the Holy Scripture teaches us that Jesus was fully God and fully man, and therefore Saint John's gospel says: **"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling**

among us.” Finally, Saint Paul refers to this dogma when he writes to the Galatians, **“God sent his Son, born of a woman.”**

Therefore, Scripture passages give us evidence that Mary is the mother of God because God chose her to be the mother of Jesus.

Therefore, we must pray through Mary our mother, and the mother of God every day.

Today’s readings of the New Year share God’s special blessings with us. All readings today provide us with showers of special blessings from the Lord for a successful New Year.

The first reading from the Book of Numbers, in mentioning the formula of the divine blessing of the Israelites through Moses gives us three special blessings for the upcoming New Year.

- **“The LORD bless you and keep you!”**
- **“The LORD let his face shine upon you and be gracious to you!”**
- **“The LORD look upon you kindly and give you peace!”**

Today’s psalm gives us a special blessing **“May God bless us in his mercy.”**

The second reading from Saint Paul’s letter to Galatians adds yet another special blessing **“God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying out, ‘Abba, Father!’ So, you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son then also an heir, through God.”**

Therefore, as today’s first reading assures us of God’s special blessings, let us pray that the Lord may let his face shine upon us, look

kindly upon us, bless all our families, and fill our hearts with his peace and joy throughout the New Year 2025.

My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As we celebrate the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God, may she guide every one of us as our loving mother throughout the New Year. **Amen.**