

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD (C)

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 (Num 6, 22-27)

Then Yahweh spoke to Moses saying, "Speak to Aaron and his sons and say to them: This is how you shall bless the people of Israel; you shall say: May Yahweh bless you and keep you! May Yahweh let his face shine on you, and be gracious to you! May Yahweh look kindly on you, and give you his peace! In that way shall they put my name on the people of Israel and I will bless them."

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 67)

May God be gracious and bless us;/may he let his face shine upon us,/that your way be known on earth/and your salvation among the nations./May the countries be glad and sing for joy,/for you rule the peoples with justice/and guide the nations of the world./May the peoples praise you,/O God, may all the peoples praise you!/May God bless us and be revered,/to the very ends of the earth.

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

When the fullness of time came, God sent his Son. He came born of woman and subject to the Law, in order to redeem the subjects of the Law, that we may be given our full rights of sons and daughters of God. And because you are sons, God has sent into your hearts the Spirit of his Son which cries out: Abba! that is, Father! You yourself are no longer a slave but

son or daughter, and yours is the inheritance by God's grace.

GOSPEL (Lk 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 fulfillment, 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 ever-Virgin Mary Mother of your Son and Mother of the Church. Through Christ our Lord.