



The Church assigns eight days of reflection to the mystery of the birth of the God-made-man. The eighth day draws all to ponder deeply on Mary's divine motherhood. The final day of the octave, the first day of the civil year, and the World Day of Prayer for Peace all together underscore the lofty sense of the solemnity.

Focused on the newborn Child, one cannot miss the glittering image of the Mother. The Babe being the Son of God, what does that make of the Mother? The topmost octave meditation, the mystery of being the Mother of God, amazes even great thinkers and theologians trying to fathom its meaning. Everyone is swiftly rapt in joy at realizing that God truly became man because he has a human Mother: "When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman ... that we might receive adoption as sons." The divine radiance surrounded the Mother and her Child. That radiance is meant for us.

Starting the civil year with the divine motherhood points to Mary's being Mother at the other important and complementary mystery, which will unfold three

MARY



THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

by Most Reverend
Ramon C. Arguelles, DD

decades later. At the foot of the Cross, Mary hears the Crucified One declare to her: "Behold your son," and to the beloved disciple: "Behold your mother." The whole year, indeed our whole life, is given for us to know that the Mother of God is the Mother of all humanity. Becoming God's children and her sons and daughters, being "divinized" by the blood of the Word-made-flesh, is the "why" of Christmas, the reason for each year and for a lifetime of progressively becoming God's children.

Mary's mission is always to remind us, "Am I not your Mother?" She claims us as her children. Her only begotten Son, the only begotten of the Father, gives his life to us. We must receive him, be transformed into Mary's Son. On the octave of Christmas, the first day of the New Year, we must assure God's Mother: "I am your child. Transform me into Jesus. Unite me to God and to you, my Mother."

If all people enter into the mystery of God-become-man, into the mystery of the divine motherhood, there will be world peace. All will be one, loving the other, because all are in God. The proof? The Mother of God is Mother of God's children in Jesus.

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

Entrance Antiphon

(Recited when there is no opening song.)

Hail, Holy Mother, who gave birth to the King who rules heaven and earth for ever.

Greeting

(The sign of the cross is made here.)

P — The Lord be with you.
All — **And with your spirit.**

Introduction

(These [or similar words] may be used to address the assembly.)

P — The year opens with the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. Just as mothers are always the first to touch our lives, so we begin our spiritual journey under the loving gaze of Mary, the Mother of God and our mother. Mary gathers us, her children in Jesus Christ, under her care. Let us entrust to her our hopes and fears, our joys and sorrows.

Today we also mark the 54th *World Day of Prayer for Peace*. May the Savior of the world who brings God's peace to his people bless all of humanity with the gift of peace.

Penitential Act

P — Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries. *(Pause)*

P — You were sent to heal the contrite of heart: Lord, have mercy.

All — **Lord, have mercy.**

P — You came to call sinners: Christ, have mercy.

All — **Christ, have mercy.**

P — You are seated at the right hand of the Father to intercede for us: Lord, have mercy.

All — **Lord, have mercy.**

P — May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

All — **Amen.**

Gloria

All — **Glory to God in the**

highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Collect

P — Let us pray. *(Pause)*

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.

All — **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD



First Reading

(Nm 6:22–27) *(Sit)*

This beautiful prayer was used in the past when the priests blessed the people. On New Year's Day, we invoke God's name upon ourselves for the year ahead.

A reading from the Book of Numbers

THE LORD SAID to Moses: "Speak to Aaron and his sons and tell them: This is how you shall bless the Israelites.

"Say to them: 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!

"So shall they invoke my name upon the Israelites, and I will bless them."

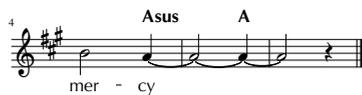
— The word of the Lord.

All — **Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm (Ps 67)

R — **May God bless us in his mercy.**

Sr. M. C. A. Parco, FSP



1. May God have pity on us and bless us;/ may he let his face shine upon us./ So may your way be known upon earth;/ among all nations, your salvation. **(R)**

2. May the nations be glad and exult/ because you rule the peoples in equity;/ the nations on the earth you guide. **(R)**

3. May the peoples praise you, O God;/ may all the peoples praise you!/ May God bless us, /and may all the ends of the earth fear him! **(R)**

Second Reading (Gal 4:4–7) *(Sit)*

When the fullness of time had come, the Son of God became man, born of a woman. Mary, from whom Jesus took his humanity, is the glory of our human race.

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Galatians

BROTHERS AND SISTERS: When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to ransom those under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

As proof that you are sons, 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.

— The word of the Lord.

All — **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia (Heb 1:1–2) *(Stand)*

All — Alleluia, alleluia. In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; in these last days, he has spoken to us through the Son. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel (Lk 2:16–21)

P — A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke
All — Glory to you, O Lord.

THE SHEPHERDS went in haste to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known the message that had been told them about this child. All who heard it were amazed by what had been told them by the shepherds.

And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart. Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told to them.

When eight days were completed for his circumcision, he was named Jesus, the name given him by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

— The Gospel of the Lord.

All — Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily *(Sit)*

Profession of Faith *(Stand)*

All — I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven,

(At the words that follow, up to and including and became man, all bow.)

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayer of the Faithful

P — The New Year ushers in new challenges and opportunities, as well as new hopes for a more lasting peace. Let us pray to the Father that the Prince of Peace, born of Mary, may guide us as we struggle to incarnate the Gospel values in our lives. We will pray:

R — God of peace, listen to our prayer.

C — We pray for Pope Francis, all the bishops, priests and deacons: may they be instruments of peace and unity in communities where hatred and division reign. We pray: **(R)**

C — That we may persevere and be faithful in the vocation God has called us to undertake. **(R)**

C — We pray for the leaders of nations: may they value dialogue more than dissent, and promote restorative justice so that people may live in tranquility and work for their advancement. We pray: **(R)**

C — We pray for all those

persecuted because of religion, class, race, or color: may they find support and comfort from those who work for justice and peace and in their community. We pray: **(R)**

C — We pray for the souls of our brothers and sisters: may the Lord grant them the reward of eternal life, we pray: **(R)**

C — Let us pray for the urgent concerns of our community and our personal intentions *(pause)*. We pray: **(R)**

P — Heavenly Father, hear our humble supplications. Help us to spend our whole life in your service and to bring peace to our brothers and sisters.

Through Christ our Lord.

All — Amen.



Presentation of the Gifts *(Stand)*

P — Pray, brethren...

All — May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

Prayer over the Offerings

P — 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.

All — Amen.

Preface I of the Blessed Virgin Mary

P — The Lord be with you.

All — And with your spirit.

P — Lift up your hearts.

All — We lift them up to the Lord.

P — Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All — It is right and just.

P — It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, and

praise, bless and glorify your name on the Solemnity of the Motherhood of the Blessed ever-Virgin Mary.

For by the overshadowing of the Holy Spirit, she conceived your Only Begotten Son, and without losing the glory of virginity, brought forth into the world the eternal Light, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him the Angels praise your majesty, Dominions adore and Powers tremble before you. Heaven and the Virtues of heaven and the blessed Seraphim worship together with exultation. May our voices, we pray, join with theirs in humble praise as we acclaim:

All — Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. (Kneel)

Acclamation (Stand)

All — When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.

THE COMMUNION RITE

The Lord's Prayer

All — Our Father...

P — Deliver us, Lord...

All — For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and forever.

Invitation to Peace

Invitation to Communion (Kneel)

P — Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

All — Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

Communion Antiphon (Heb 13:8)

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and for ever.

Prayer after Communion (Stand)

P — Let us pray. (Pause)

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.
All — Amen.

THE CONCLUDING RITES

**P — The Lord be with you.
All — And with your spirit.**

Solemn Blessing

P — Bow down for the blessing. (Pause)

May God, the source and origin of all blessing, grant you grace, pour out his blessing in abundance, and keep you safe from harm throughout the year.
All — Amen.

**P — May he give you integrity in faith, endurance in hope, and perseverance in charity with holy patience to the end.
All — Amen.**

**P — May he order your days and your deeds in his peace, grant your prayers in this and in every place, and lead you happily to eternal life.
All — Amen.**

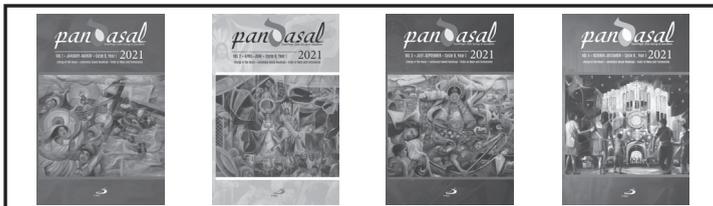
**P — And may the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and the Son, (†) and the Holy Spirit, come down on you and remain with you for ever.
All — Amen.**

Dismissal

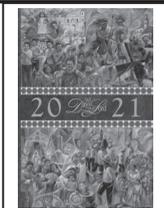
**P — Go in peace.
All — Thanks be to God.**

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