

January 1 Sunday

Mary, Mother of God

Reading 1NM 6:22-27

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."

Responsorial Psalm PS 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8

R. (2a) **May God bless us in his mercy.**

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

May the nations be glad and exult
because you rule the peoples in equity;
the nations on the earth you guide.

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

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

Reading 2 GAL 4:4-7

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.

Alleluia HEB 1:1-2

R. **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.

R. **Alleluia, alleluia.**

Gospel LK 2:16-21

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.

Reflection:

We begin the New Year celebrating the solemnity of Mary as Mother of God. Mary is the true mother of Jesus who is the Son of God. She was a worthy instrument in channeling God's goodness to fallen humanity once again. The Gabriel's greetings to Mary and those of the angels to the shepherds were words with profound significance for the future: generative of happiness, peace and goodness. The greetings that we give to each other on the first day of the year ought not to be mere idle phrases: they ought to be given an invocative power. On the eve of the New Year a young child lamented to his mother how hard life was in the passing year and was skeptical about facing life in the New Year. The mother took the young one to the kitchen, filled three pots with water and placed each on a high fire. Soon the pots came to boil. In the first she placed hard and strong carrots, in the second she placed internally lucid, supple eggs and in the last she placed ground coffee beans. All three faced the boiling. Then mother removed all three from boiling pots. The carrot which faced the trial strong became soft; the egg which faced the trial with a fluid spirit appeared the same externally but internally turned hard and bitter; the ground coffee beans, while facing the worst, became better and changed the water into coffee. It is not matter of what you come across but how you handle it. In this year for you to cease to be slave and to become a son, to become a blessing among people you are given a new name as Angel gave to Baby at the manger. You are coffee bean. Here is blessing for you, along with the blessings of Yahweh: May you have in this year 2017 enough happiness to make you sweet, enough trials to make you strong, enough sorrow to keep you Human and enough hope make you happy. Wish you all happy Feast of Mary, Mother of God and Happy New Year.