

INTRODUCTION:

As we begin the New Year with Mary, the Mother of God, and our Mother too, we gaze upon the image of the Baby Jesus, sleeping so soundly in the arms of His Mother. He invites us to do the same. Let us come to Mary our Mother. Let us take refuge in the comfort and protection of her loving embrace. Mary guides us as a Mother does, holding our hands, but always taking us to Jesus and His Father by the power of the Holy Spirit.

READINGS:

First Reading: Num 6: 22-27
Responsorial Psalm: Ps 67: 2-3, 5, 6 & 8
Second Reading: Gal 4: 4-7
Gospel: Luke 2: 16-21

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL:

Celebrant: In her heart, Mary pondered God's wondrous gifts. We now bring to God the prayers we hold in our hearts.

Response: Lord hear our prayer.

For the Church: that we may be like Mary, treasuring God's words and deeds in our hearts and drawing wisdom from them for our daily lives. We pray to the Lord.

For leaders of nations, all who hold public office and public servants: that they may serve their people untiringly and work to relieve the suffering of the poor and marginalized. We pray to the Lord.

For God's blessing on the New Year: that God will fill the coming days with health of body, mind, soul and spirit; renew the gifts of the Spirit within us, and inspire us with new ways to serve and show God's mercy to others. We pray to the Lord.

For the ill and suffering: that God will sustain their spirits, relieve their suffering, and give them hope, and for all who have died: that God's face will shine upon them and give them eternal peace. We pray to the Lord.

For the intentions we now pray, in the silence of our hearts (p-a-u-s-e). We pray to the Lord.

Celebrant: Almighty and loving Father, open our hearts, that like Mary, we may ponder and give thanks for your many blessings in our lives. We make our prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.