



USC Caruso
Catholic Center

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Family Prayer Service

Presider: In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit

Let us acknowledge the times which we have not been faithful to God.

Penitential Rite A

All: I confess to almighty God
and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have greatly sinned,
in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,
(striking your breast, say:)
through my fault, through my fault,
through my most grievous fault;
(Then continue with:)
therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,
all the Angels and Saints,
and you, my brothers and sisters,
to pray for me to the Lord our God.

Opening Prayer:

Presider:

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

A Reading from the Book of Numbers:

Numbers 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.”

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 (2a)

R. 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.

A Reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Galatians:

Galatians 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.

The Word of the Lord

Alleluia

Hebrews 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.

A Reading from the Holy Gospel According to Luke:

Luke 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.

The Gospel of the Lord

Reflection/Family Discussion on the readings and Gospel:
by Fr. Richard Sunwoo

Happy New Year, everyone!

Today, we begin our new year with the celebration in honor of Our Lady. I can't think of a better way to kick off our new calendar year! As the saying goes, a good start is half of the battle!

We are still in the Christmas season and it all began with Mary saying yes to The Father's will. We continue to journey with her as we begin the journey of our new year. Like Mary, I invite our Catholic Trojan Family to pray the rosary together as a family. With the announcement of each mystery, take the time to ponder them, like Mary. Remember, the mysteries of the Rosary are the Blessed Mother's memories of life with her son, Jesus. The mysteries invite us into the very dynamic of their relationship. Teach your children to use their imaginations with each mystery and keep a small journal where they can write about their experiences, especially about what they learned about Jesus or even to write their questions that might have arisen. As a little activity, you can always find the answers together!

Today is also a day where we make some "resolutions." I hope that growing in holiness is at the TOP of your list! One of the signs of holiness is joy. Not a joy that is circumstantial, but an enduring joy that is rooted in knowing who we are (as God created us), discovering why God created us, and ultimately resting in the knowledge that we are The Father's children. Most of the secular world paints holiness to be dark, sad, and filled with worry and dread! In the movies or on TV, when was the last time that holiness was portrayed in its authentic light? We cannot rely on popular media to teach us about holiness. Holiness is also not about being a religious zealot that lives on the extremes. That is why today, we find true holiness in the lives of both Mary and Joseph.

In Mary and Joseph, holiness is achieved in being dutiful in what they were called to do. Yet, their holiness grew in the activities of everyday life! In my years as a priest, I have met many men and women who have not fully accepted the vocation of being a husband or wife or mother or father. It makes me incredibly sad since I see this wound not healed but keep getting deeper and often wounds others. We forget that marriage is a vocation—a call that originates from God. When one accepts their vocation, joy fills their hearts, and they see everything as having a divine purpose. The activities of everyday life become a means of holiness where we offer to The Father all of our works, joys, and sufferings. Holiness encompasses the entirety of life, not just the joys! Who would endure the pains of childbirth unless life is at the other end? Only those who dare to achieve the heights of achievement know the costs and the pains! Only the mediocre hide within the shadows of mild successes and immediate joys! This is the life that God calls us to! This is the MORE! This is holiness!

May 2021 be your year—a year of holiness!

Nicene Creed:

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,

(bow)

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

(raise from bow)

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

Presider: As the gift of a new year dawns, let us come before the Lord in prayer for the peace and safety for all people:

Intercessions:

For our Church and parish community, that our work and prayer together this year may bring the reign of God a step closer to fulfillment.

(Pause for silent prayer).

All: Lord, hear us.

For Pope Francis, Archbishop Gomez, Father Richard Sunwoo, and all who serve the church, that, through their ministries, the mercy and graciousness of God may shine upon us:

(Pause for silent prayer).

All: Lord, hear us.

For the nations and people of the world, that all of us may recognize one another as sons and daughters of our father in Heaven:

(Pause for silent prayer).

All: Lord, hear us.

For all families and households, that this new year may be a time of health and happiness:

(Pause for silent prayer).

All: Lord, hear us.

For the poor, the suffering, the abused, and the forgotten, that, with our unconditional love and support, this new year may be an opportunity for them to rebuild their lives:

(Pause for silent prayer).

All: Lord, hear us.

For our deceased relatives and friends, especially those who have died in the past year, that the graciousness of God may shine upon them forever:

(Pause for silent prayer).

All: Lord, hear us.

Presider:

Father in heaven, Lord of all beginnings, hear the prayers we make to ourselves and all the members of our human family. May this new year be a new beginning for each of us, a new opportunity for us to welcome your grace and peace into our lives. May your gift of this new year be a time of our re-creation in your life and love. In Jesus name we pray.

Our Father:

Presider: At the Savior's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

All:

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

Amen

Sign of Peace:

Presider: Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your Apostles: Peace I leave you, my peace I give you; look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church, and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance with your will. Who live and reign for ever and ever.

All: Amen

Presider:

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All:

And with your spirit.

Presider:

Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

(At this time please offer a moment of silence before the Spiritual Communion is said.)

Spiritual Communion:

All: I wish my Lord, to receive you with the purity, humility and devotion with which your most holy Mother received you, with the spirit and fervor of the saints.

Closing Prayer:

Presider:

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