

LITURGY BYTES



New Year's Day

Yes, it is the start of a new year on our calendars. However, the Church declares January 1st a holy day known as the Solemnity of Mary.

This title, Mother of God, has been at the heart of intense theological debate. This is what we are celebrating today! You might wonder, how could a creature be the mother of God? Let's look at the Nicene Creed where it clearly describes Jesus Christ as "*incarnate of the Virgin Mary.*"

Now, this might be too much on the morning after New Year's Eve to comprehend, but let's take a look at Luke's Gospel which emphasizes that the birth of Christ came to pass because Mary identified herself as the servant of the Lord who, like her son, made it her life's goal that God's will be done through her. The birth of Christ, God's personal Incarnation (God became one of us!) in history, took place through Mary's collaboration. She made herself available for God to do what God could not do without her. The fact that God depended on Mary for the Incarnation reveals that God's power is vulnerable love that has nothing to do with domination.

This feast invites us to marvel at the God who comes to us in loving vulnerability and dependence. Following Mary, we are called to do nothing less than repeat her words: "*May it be done in me according to your will.*" Christ is always needing to be born in and among us not once but each and every New Year!

Have a blessed, safe, and healthy week ahead! ~~~*Michele Hall*