



Friends of Jesus and Mary

Mary Mother of God January 1, 2018

Readings: Numbers 6, 22-27; Psalms 66; Galatians 4, 4-7; Luke 2, 16-21

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph and saw the baby lying in the manger. When the shepherds saw him, they told them what the angels had said about the child. All who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said. Mary remembered all these things and thought deeply about them. The shepherds went back, singing praises to God for all they had heard and seen; it had been just as the angel had told them. A week later, when the time came for the baby to be circumcised, he was named Jesus, the name which the angel had given him before he had been conceived.

Reflection

What gift would Jesus like to receive. What He would love the most is that you love others and celebrate His birth with them. Mary is the Mother of Jesus and she is also your Mother. To you talk to her in prayer and ask her for help knowing she loves you more than life? The Church dedicates this day to her so we never forget her important role in God's plan of salvation. Share.

Activity

Ask the children what gifts would the Shepherds give to Jesus. Talk about their poverty and about their work as a Shepard. Talk about the gift the Blessed Mother and Joseph gave at the presentation of Jesus at the Temple (two turtle doves) and their significance (purity, peace, poverty). Cut doves out of paper and have the children write on them what they would give to baby Jesus. Take doves to the altar and pray.



Prayer

Thank you, Jesus, for making me a child like you. Thank you for coming to live amongst us. Show us how to share your peace in our families, neighborhoods, schools, and cities. Thank you for giving us Mary our Mother. Help us to imitate Mary's virtues. Amen.



JANUARY 1



Mary, Mother of God



During a part of the Mass called the General Intercessions, we ask God for our special needs. These prayers are called "petitions". To each petition, we pray, "Lord, hear our prayer", or another response.

On January 1, New Year's Day, we celebrate the Feast of Mary, the Mother of God. This is a special Feast and Holy Day of Obligation. At Mass that day, the priest will wear a white vestment in honor of Mary.

Jesus is the Prince of Peace; Mary His Mother, is Our Lady, Queen of Peace. During the Mass on this Feast Day, we pray for peace. Think of the times you have needed God's help to be a peacemaker. Write four prayers for peace to be used during the time of the General Intercessions at Mass on January 1. Use the space below:

1. Lord help us make up if we fight with a friend. Lord, hear our prayer.
2. _____
3. _____

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