

Reflecting on the Word as a Family

1.1.23

Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Readings <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/122522-day.cfm>

Reading Numbers 6:22-27 The Lord bless you and keep you!

Responsorial Psalm Psalms 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 May God bless us in his mercy

Reading 2 Galatians 4:4-7 God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts

Gospel 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.

Reflect and Share Together

In this reading, we see great joy that Jesus was born. We also see that Mary reflected on all these things in her heart. Mary had great faith in God and said yes to being the mother of Jesus. A mother loves her children very much. Mary is our heavenly mother and loves us too. Today we celebrate her love for God and for us. We can ask Mary to pray for us just like we ask our own mother and family to pray for us.

How does the story of Mary give us hope and encouragement?

We can pray the *Hail Mary* when we pray to Mary. We can also pray to her in our own words.

Pray together:

Hail Mary, full of grace
The Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou among women
And blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, mother of God,
Pray for us sinners
Now and at the hour of our death.
Amen

Write your own prayer to Mary:

