

MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD



Intercede

Loving God,
you gave us your Son through Mary,
who advocates for all of humanity.
At home, Mary nurtured the Son of God.
In our homes, she protects and cares for us.
Bless all who seek Mary's help.

Through the intercession of
the Blessed Mother,
may we receive the grace to face challenges
and setbacks,
and the wisdom to recognize our blessings.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

January 1, 2026

Rich Blessings

Today's readings: Numbers 6:22–27; Psalm 67:2–3, 5, 6, 8; Galatians 4:4–7; Luke 2:16–21. Today's readings are filled with blessings. In the reading from Numbers, Moses is given a blessing for the Israelites; in the refrain for the responsorial psalm, we ask God to bless us; from Galatians, we hear that we are adopted children of God; and in the Gospel, the shepherds see the infant Jesus, certainly a blessing.

It is up to us to continue to carry the blessings we have received into the world, just as the shepherds "made known the message that had been told them." Not only can you let others know of the good news that has been passed on to

you, but you can bless others. Write down the words of the first reading: "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!" Use this text to bless children, friends, and relatives during this last week of the Christmas season. Parents could use the blessing in the reading from Numbers to bless a child before bedtime. Teens could use these words to conclude their weekly youth ministry gatherings. Consider other people in your life who would appreciate being blessed.