

18 MARY, MOTHER OF GOD
OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS

JANUARY 1

FIRST READING

Numbers 6.22-27

They shall put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them.

A reading from the book of Numbers.

- 22 The Lord spoke to Moses:
23 “Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying,
‘Thus you shall bless the Israelites:
You shall say to them,
24 “‘The Lord bless you and keep you;
25 the Lord make his face to shine upon you,
and be gracious to you;
26 the Lord lift up his countenance upon you,
and give you peace.’
27 “So they shall put my name on the Israelites,
and I will bless them.”

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 67.1-2, 4-5, 6-7 (R.1a)

- R. May God bless us in his mercy.
- 1 May God be gracious to us and bless us
and make his face to shine upon us,
2 that your way may be known upon earth,
your saving power among all nations. R.
4 Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity
and guide the nations upon earth.
5 Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you. R.
6 The earth has yielded its increase;
God, our God, has blessed us.
7 May God continue to bless us;
let all the ends of the earth revere him. R.

SECOND READING

Galatians 4.4-7

When the time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman.

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Galatians.

- 4 When the fullness of time had come,
God sent his Son, born of a woman,
born under the law,
5 in order to redeem those who were under the law,
so that we might receive adoption as children.
6 And because you are children,
God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying,
“Abba! Father!”
7 So you are no longer a slave but a child,
and if a child then also an heir, through God.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Hebrews 1.1-2

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets;
now God speaks to us through the Son.

GOSPEL

Luke 2.16-21

The shepherds found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.
After eight days he was named Jesus.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke.

When the angels had left them
the shepherds said to one another,
“Let us go now to Bethlehem
and see this thing that has taken place,
which the Lord has made known to us.”

- 16 So they went with haste
and found Mary and Joseph,
and the child lying in the manger.
17 When they saw this,
they made known what had been told them about this child;
18 and all who heard it were amazed
at what the shepherds told them.



- 19 But Mary treasured all these words
and pondered them in her heart.
- 20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God
for all they had heard and seen,
as it had been told them.
- 21 After eight days had passed,
it was time to circumcise the child;
and he was called Jesus,
the name given by the angel
before he was conceived in the womb.

The gospel of the Lord.