

Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother Of God

Numbers 6:22-27
Ps 67:2-3,5-6,8
Galatians 4:4-7
Luke 2:16-21

Monday January 2 Sts. Basil the Great & Gregory of Nazianzen

1 John 2:22-28
Ps 98:1-4
John 1:19-28

Tuesday January 3

1 John 2:29--3:6
Ps 98:1,3cd-6
John 1:29-34

Wednesday January 4 St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

1 John 3:7-10
Ps 98:1,7-9
John 1:35-42

Thursday January 5 St. John Neumann

1 John 3:11-21
Ps 100:1b-5
John 1:43-51

Friday January 6

1 John 5:5-13
Ps 147:12-15,19-20
Mark 1:7-11
or Luke 3:23-38

Saturday January 7

1 John 5:14-21
Ps 149:1-5,6a,9b
John 2:1-11



Today, consecrate the new year to the Mother of Christ, to her protection and help, asking God to make this a year of many blessings.

In the first reading, God teaches Moses how to pass blessings onto others. The responsorial psalm includes a request for God to bless us. The second reading describes the greatest blessing we've received: our adoption by God the Father.

The people who heard the testimony of the shepherds in the Gospel reading were amazed. How often are you amazed by the Lord? Awe comes from recognizing Jesus in everything. With Jesus, we're blessed even in situations that feel like curses, because he is with us.

To experience this, we have to keep our eyes on Jesus at all times. Look past the problems: There is the victorious Jesus already working on your behalf! He was born for your sake and gave up his life for you; of course he is also doing everything else that will provide God's goodness to you! Look past your emotional reactions to hardships: There is the peace of Christ! It's available

when you decide to trust in the love and the wisdom of Christ. Look past the person who is sinning against you: There is Jesus comforting you! He speaks to you through scripture, through Holy Mass, through perhaps a counselor, and many other ways.

In every situation, keep your eyes on Jesus so that you can see his hand reaching toward you to bless you.

We can learn from Mary to look past the obvious and see God's hidden blessings. When Mary looked at the shepherds, did she see scruffy, stinky strangers? Of course not. She saw numerous blessings. Now look at the scruffy people in your own life – through Mary's eyes. How many blessings do *you* see?

Mary the Mother of God our Savior wants to show you the countless blessings that come from knowing her Son. Ask for her help in keeping your focus on Jesus in the new year.

Reflect & Discuss:

† Count your blessings. Make a list of everything that's good in your life, including past blessings that give you warm, happy memories.

† The Lord has done great things for you. How does this reassure you today?

† What will you do this year to become more aware of God's blessings?

† In what ways has Mary revealed Jesus to you?