

Mary Mother of God,

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At the beginning of every year, the Church reminds us of the divine original intention of blessing.

- This we read as He said to Moses in the first reading of today (Numbers 6:22-29).
- “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!”
- This prayer of the Lord is to come out of the mouth of His priests to His people. It is a duty for priests to bless and invoke the mercy and goodness of God on His people.
- “So, shall they invoke my name upon the Israelites, and I will bless them.”
- The psalm also continues in the same tone of invoking the blessing of God. It is a divine wish that everyone on the face of the earth live in the blessing and peace of the Lord.
- “May God have pity on us and bless us; may He let His face shine upon us. So may Your way be known upon earth; among all nations, Your salvation. May the peoples praise You, O God; may all the peoples praise You! May God bless us, and may all the ends of the earth fear Him!”
- St Paul in the second reading (Galatians 4:4-7), informs the people that at the fullness of time, God sent His Son. So, the source and summit of blessings came down to us from heaven to continue his good work in human life.
- The coming of the Son of God has made it possible for us to be adopted children of God. Through Christ, we are now in the position where we should be in relation to God - His children.
- “As proof that you are sons, God sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying out, “Abba, Father!” So, you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son then also an heir, through God.”
- The Gospel reading (Luke 2:16-21), we learn how the shepherds were excited to herald the birth of the Messiah.
- We are told that all who heard their message were amazed. They wonder at what a message of joy in a world that is facing calamity and oppression from their leaders in succession.
- They herald a message of hope to the world that looks so hopeless. This is a long-awaited news.
- Let us look at the importance of the reaction of Mary Mother of God. Mary plays an important role in the history of salvation. She had no word to express the awesome marvelous work of God in the incarnation. The Bible says that she kept everything in her heart.
- “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.”
- For Our Lady, no language can describe what has just happened.

In the litany of our Lady, she is described with so many attributes that makes us appreciate the marvelous work of the Lord.

- You need to have faith in order to understand why the different attributes of Mary. Unless we understand the importance of redemption, we cannot appreciate the litany.
- Today we honor her as the Mother of God. This, like many others are difficult for non Catholics to appreciate.
- If you do not accept Jesus as God, you will reject Mary as Mother of God.
- Since Jesus is the second person of the Holy Trinity, Mary is Mother of God. This is the teaching of the Church.
- Elizabeth greeted Mary as “Most blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?” (Luke 1:42-43)
- We honor her as the mother of God, because God Himself so honors her, having chosen her from all eternity to be His Mother.
- The grace of God in her made her so beautiful and sinless. That is why we call her Mother Most Amiable. The Love of God in her made her able to be more beautiful than any creature.
- Mary Mother of God, pray for us who have recourse to thee.