

Happy New Year 2026! Happy Feast of Mary Mother of God!

There is a story about making New Year resolutions. A young man studying in a city far from home, called his parents to wish them a happy New Year and when his dad answered the phone, he asked his dad, “Well Dad, what’s your New Year resolution?” His dad replied, “To make your mother as happy as I can all year.” When his mom got on the phone, he asked her the same question and she replied, “*To see that your dad keeps his New Year resolution.*”

Well, we too often make resolutions when the New Year comes. Sometimes we are able to keep them, other times we don’t follow it up. But that should never discourage us. We all must have “*a new beginning for a new year.*”

Today, Church celebrates solemnity of “Mary the mother of God”. **T**he life of Jesus on earth begins with Mary. Therefore, it is appropriate that we begin the New Year with a Feast of Mary, the mother of God. This celebration reminds us that the Blessed Virgin, the mother of God, is also our heavenly mother, and the cause of our joy. So, we are called to pray that God may bless each and every family here present in this New Year with His peace and joy, and we in turn share his peace and joy with one another.

(The Scripture gives us ample evidence that Mary is the mother of God bcs God chose her to be the mother of Jesus, who is God & man

1. Lk: “Behold, you shall conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus and he will be called the *Son of the Most High*” (Lk 1:31-32).

2. Elizabeth: “Why this great thing should happen to me that *my Lord’s mother* comes to visit me?” (Lk 1:43).

3. St. John’s gospel says: “The Word became flesh and lived among us” (Jn 1:14). Jesus is fully God and fully man)

Today’s readings provide us with *showers of special blessings of the Lord for a successful New Year*. Bk. Of Numbers: on the formula of the divine blessing of the Israelites through Moses, gives us three special blessings on this New Year’s Day.

1. The Lord will bless you and keep you safe!
2. The Lord will let his face shine upon you and gracious to you!
3. The Lord will look upon you kindly and give you peace!

The Gospel tells us that the shepherds “found Mary and Joseph and the child”. The shepherds were constantly on the lookout, constantly on the move; they were active and vigilant. “They went with haste, they found him, they made it known, they returned, glorifying and praising God”. To receive God’s grace, we need to be attentive, active, and vigilant.

Let us pray that the Lord may let his face shine upon you, look kindly upon you, bless all your families, and fill your hearts with his peace and joy today and throughout this New Year 2026. As we celebrate the solemnity of Mary Mother of God, our blessed mother may guide every one of us as our loving mother during this New Year.

So, we should pray: *‘Holy Mother of God, to you we consecrate this New Year. You, who know how to cherish things in your heart, care for us, bless our time, and teach us to find time for God and for others. With joy and confidence, we entreat you: Holy Mother of God! Amen.’* Have a Happy and Blessed New Year!