

JANUARY 1, 2016



SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD



NUMBERS 6:22-27

PSALM 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8

GALATIANS 4:4-7

LUKE 2:16-21

REFLECTION

In today's Gospel, the shepherds find Mary and Joseph and the infant lying in the manger. Today is also a day when we celebrate Mary, the Holy Mother of God. Many of our Protestant Christian friends give Catholics a hard time about Mary. Some accuse Catholics of worshipping Mary. We don't worship Mary; we worship God. We honor Mary and the gift she is to us as the Mother of God. Because she said "yes" to God in having Jesus, Mary gives us a great example. We, too, can follow in Mary's footsteps and say "yes" to God. She didn't know what to fully expect. She wasn't sure how any of it could happen, but she trusted in God and because she did we now have Jesus as our guide and light. Sometimes, people of other faiths also say that we pray to Mary. Again, we are really praying to God. We are asking Mary to intercede for us, for her to pray to God for us. Just as we would ask a friend in our lives to pray for us, we ask Mary to pray for us. We believe as Catholics in the Communion of Saints and that we are still connected, even in death. We believe in the power of prayer and that we are not alone. Even by saying the Rosary, a practice people of other faiths don't always understand, we are praying to God. The decades of the Rosary really reflect on the life of Jesus. Again, just as when Mary said "yes" to birthing the Son of God, through the Rosary, Mary points to Jesus and gives his life meaning for us. So on the day that shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God at the manger, "Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart" (Luke 2:19). Through the example of Mary, today we are called to praise and glorify God, reflecting on these wonderful mysteries in our hearts.



**COME, PRAY THE
ROSARY**

www.comepraytherosary.org

ACTION

Take time today to say the Rosary. If you do not know how to say the Rosary, check out www.societyofmary.net/rosary.htm. Check out the online site where you can say the Rosary with people from across the world (see the link in the side bar).

JOURNALING QUESTIONS

- In what way can you say "yes" to God today trusting in his goodness as Mary did?
- What does it mean to you as you reflect on the birth of Christ that the shepherds praised and glorified God?