

ST. ELIZABETH CATHOLIC CHURCH

Diocese of Knoxville

Mass intentions
for Jan. 1, 2021
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Friday, 9:30 a.m. — People of the parish

Dispensation

Catholics living in the diocese are not obligated to attend Sunday Mass until further notice. While not required, participating in Mass online is encouraged.

Saintly Wisdom

“Never be afraid of loving the Blessed Virgin too much. You can never love her more than Jesus did.”

- St. Maximilian Kolbe -

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Reading 1 (Numbers 6:22-27)
The LORD said to Moses: “Speak to Aaron and his sons and tell them: This is how you shall bless the Israelites. Say to them: 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! So shall they invoke my name upon the Israelites, and I will bless them.”

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 67:2-3, 5-6, 8)

R. May God bless us in his mercy.

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.

R. May God bless us in his mercy.

May the nations be glad and exult because you rule the peoples in equity; the nations on the earth you guide.

R. May God bless us in his mercy.

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!

R. May God bless us in his mercy.

Reading 2 (Galatians 4:4-7)

Brothers and sisters: When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to ransom those under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. 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.

Gospel (Luke 2:16-21)

The shepherds went in haste to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known the message that had been told them about this child. All who heard it were amazed by what had been told them by the shepherds. 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. When eight days were completed for his circumcision, he was named Jesus, the name given him by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.



Names for Mary

•**Queen of Heaven and Earth** — In the Old Testament, a king might be married to many wives, so the king’s mother ruled as the queen. In like manner, Mary is queen because she is the mother of Jesus, King of the Universe.

•**Full of grace** — Mary is the only person in the bible addressed as “full of grace.” The angel Gabriel then told Mary that “the Lord is with you” and that she would be the mother of Jesus. “May it be done to me according to your word,” she answered in obedience.

•**The new Eve** — St. Irenaeus notes: “The knot of Eve’s disobedience was untied by Mary’s obedience: what the virgin Eve bound through her disbelief, Mary loosened by her faith.” As the “new Eve,” Mary is preserved from original sin. By a special grace of God, she never committing sin during her earthly life.

•**The Ark of the New Covenant** — The Ark in the Old Testament contained the 10 commandments (God’s word), manna (bread) and the rod of Aaron (proof of priesthood). Mary carried Jesus in her womb (the “Ark”), and Jesus is the Word of God, the Bread of Life and the true High Priest of the New Covenant, which promises eternal life through Jesus.

What we believe about Mary, the mother of Jesus

Immaculate Conception

Mary was given *preventative redemption*, meaning that the grace she was given at her conception was in anticipation of Christ’s sacrifice on the Cross.

“Mary, too, required a Savior. Like all other descendants of Adam, by her nature she was subject to the necessity of contracting original sin. But by a special intervention of God, undertaken at the instant she was conceived, she was preserved from the stain of original sin and certain of its consequences. She was therefore redeemed by the grace of Christ, but in a special way, by anticipation.” (from Karl Keating’s book *Catholicism and Fundamentalism*)

Mary’s virginity

The bible mentions **brothers and sisters of Jesus**, but the Greek word for brother used in the New Testament can refer also to cousin. “In tribal cultures, all familial relations—but especially one’s nearest kinfolk—are considered



‘brothers’ and ‘sisters.’ Neither the Hebrew nor the Aramaic language had a word for ‘cousin’ or ‘distant relation.’ The custom of calling cousins ‘brother’ or ‘sister’ has continued in many places in the Middle East and Africa, even today.” (From Scott Hahn’s book, *Reasons to Believe*)

“Jesus is Mary’s only son, but her spiritual motherhood extends to all men whom indeed he came to save.” (Catechism of the Catholic Church # 501)

The bible calls Jesus her **firstborn son**. Jesus’ title of “firstborn” does not require other children of Mary in the natural order. “It was a technical term in Jewish law,

used to describe the one who ‘opened’ the mother’s womb—whether or not other children followed.” (From Scott Hahn’s book, *Reasons to Believe*)

Mother of God

The Trinity is one God in three persons who do not share the one divinity among themselves but each of them is God whole and entire. Since Mary is the mother of Jesus, the Son of God, we call Mary “the mother of God.”

Assumption of Mary

In the early Christian centuries relics of saints were jealously guarded and highly prized, “but we have no record of her [Mary’s] bodily remains being venerated anywhere.” (From Karl Keating’s book *Catholicism and Fundamentalism*)

In 1950 Pope Pius XII defined that Mary “after the completion of her earthly life was assumed body and soul into the glory of Heaven.” In short, her body was not allowed to corrupt or remain in a tomb.