

OCTOBER 11, MATERNITY OF BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

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In the first ages of the Church the day sacred to our Blessed Lady, under her great title of Mother of God, was January 1. Evident traces of this devotion remain in the liturgy proper to the feast of the Circumcision, which is now kept on that day. Many churches having petitioned for a special festival in honor of Our Lady's divine maternity, a day, usually in the month of October, was granted by the Holy See for its celebration. By a decree of the Sacred Congregation of Rites, April 24, 1914, the eleventh of October was assigned. Pius IX raised it to a double of the second class and extended it to the Universal Church.

All Catholics believe that Mary is the Mother of God. This does not mean that she is not a creature of God, nor that God did not exist before she was created. It means that He who was her Son was a Divine Person. In Christ there are two natures: the nature of God and the nature of man; but in Him there is only one Person, a Divine Person, the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity. Hence all that may be predicated of either nature may with propriety be said of the Savior in the concrete form, without distinguishing the two natures. So we may say that God was born of the Blessed Virgin Mary. We then refer to the Person of the Son of God, Who is both God and Man. Christ, Who is God, was born according to His human nature of the Blessed Virgin. She is, therefore, truly the Mother of God.

INTROIT **Isaias 7: 14**

Ecce Vírgo concípiet, et páriet fílium, et vocábitur nomen ejus Emmánuel. (Ps. 97: 1) Cantáte Dómino cánticum novum; quia mirabília fecit. Glória Patri et Fílio et Spirítui Sancto, sicut erat in princípío, et nunc, et semper, et in sæcula sæculórum. Amen. Ecce Virgo concípiet, et páriet fílium, et vocábitur nomen ejus Emmánuel.

COLLECT

Deus qui de beátæ Maríæ Vírginis utero Verbum tuum, Ángelo nuntiánte, carnem suscípere voluísti: præsta supplicibus tuis; ut, qui vere eam Genitricem Dei, crédimus, ejus apud te intercessiónibus adjuvémur. Per eúndem Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

LESSON **Ecclesiasticus 24: 23-31**

Ego quasi vitis fructificávi suavitátem odóris: et flores mei fructus honóris et honestátis. Ego mater pulchræ dilectiónis, et tlmóris, et agnitiónis, et sanctæ spei. In me grátia omnis víæ et veritátis, in me omnes spes vitæ et virtútis. Transite ad me omnes qui concupiscitis me, et a generatióibus meis implémini: Spíritus enim meus super mel dulcis, et heréditas mea super mel et favum. Memória mea in generatiónes sæculórum. Qui edunt me, adhuc esúrient: et qui bibunt me, adhuc sítient. Qui audit me, non confundétur: et qui operántur in me, non peccábunt. Qui elúcidant me, vitam ætéenam habébunt.

GRADUAL **Isaias 11: 1, 2**

Egrediétur virga de radíce Jesse, et flos de radice ejus ascéndet. Et requiescet super eum Spíritus Dómini.

LESSER ALLELUIA

Allelúja, allelúja. Virgo Dei Génitrix, quem totus non capit orbis, in tua se cláusit víscera factus homo. Allelúja.

GOSPEL **Luke 2: 43-51**

In illo témpore: Cum redírent, remánsit puer Jesus in Jerúsalem, et non cognovérunt paréntes ejus existimántes autem illum esse in comitátu, venérunt iter diéi, et requirébant eum inter cognátos et notos. Et non inveniéntes, regressi sunt in Jerúsalem, requiréntes eum. Et factum est, post triduum invenérunt illum in templo sedéntem in médio doctórum, audiéntem illos, et interrogántem eos. Stupébant autem omnes, qui eum audiébant, super prudéntia et respónsis ejus. Et vidéntes admiráti sunt. Et dixit mater ejus ad illum: Fili, quid fecísti nobis sic? ecce pater tuus, et ego doléntes quærebámus te. Et ait ad illos: "Quid est quod me quærebatis? Nesciebátis quia in his, quæ Patris mei sunt, opórtet me esse?" Et ipsi non intellexérunt verbum, quod locútus est ad eos. Et descendit cum eis, et venit Názaresh: et erat súbdítus illis.

OFFERTORY **Matthew 1: 18**

Cum esset desponsáta mater ejus María Joseph, invénta est in útero habens de Spíritu Sancto.

SECRET

Tua Dómine propitiatióne, et beátæ Maríæ semper Vírginis Unigéniti tui Matris intercessióne, ad perpétuam atque præsentem hæc oblátio nobis proficere prosperitátem et pacem. Per eúndem Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

PREFACE OF THE BVM

Vere dignum et justum est, æquum et salutáre, nos tibi semper et ubíque grátias ágere: Dómine sancte, Pater omnipotens, æéterne Deus: Et te in Festivitate beátæ Maríæ semper Vírginis collaudáre, benedicere et prædicáre. Quæ et Unigénitum tuum Sancti Spíritus obumbratióne concépit: et, virginitátis glória permanénte, lumen ætérum mundo effúdit, Jesum Christum, Dóminum nostrum. Per quem maiestatem tuam laudant Ángeli, adoránt Dominatiónes, tremunt Potestátes. Cæli cælórumque Virtútes ac beáta Séraphim sócia exsultatióne concélebrant. Cum quibus et nostras voces ut admitti júbeas, deprecámur, súplici confessióne dicéntes:

COMMUNION

Beáta víscera Maríæ Vírginis, quæ portavérunt ætéрни Patris Fílium.

POSTCOMMUNION

Hæc nos commúnio Dómine purget a crimine: et intercedénte beáta Vírgine Dei Genitricæ Maria, cæléstis remédii fáciat esse consórtes. Per eúndem Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive, and bear a Son, and His name shall be called Emmanuel. (Ps. 97: 1) Sing ye to the Lord a new canticle: because He hath done wonderful things. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Behold, a Virgin shall conceive, and bear a Son, and His name shall be called Emmanuel.

God, Who wast pleased that at the angel's message Thy Word should take flesh in the womb of the blessed Virgin Mary, grant to Thy suppliants that, believing her to be truly the mother of God, we may be assisted by her intercessions with Thee. Through the same Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

As the vine I have brought forth a pleasant odor, and my flowers are the fruit of honor and riches. I am the mother of fair love, and of fear, and of knowledge, and of holy hope. In me is all grace of the way and of the truth, in me is all hope of life and of virtue. Come over to me, all ye that desire me, and be filled with my fruits; for my spirit is sweet above honey, and my inheritance above honey and the honeycomb. My memory is unto everlasting generations. They that eat me, shall yet hunger; and they that drink me, shall yet thirst. He that harkeneth to me shall not be forgotten, and they that work by me shall not sin. They that explain me shall have life everlasting.

There shall come forth a rod out of the root of Jesse, and a flower shall rise up out of his root. And the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him.

Alleluia, alleluia. O Virgin Mother of God, He whom the whole world cannot contain, being made man, imprisons Himself in thy womb. Alleluia.

At that time, when they returned, the child Jesus remained in Jerusalem; and His parents knew it not. And thinking that He was in the company, they came a day's journey, and sought Him amongst their kinsfolks and acquaintance. And not finding Him, they returned into Jerusalem, seeking Him. And it came to pass that after three days they found, Him in the temple sitting in the midst of the doctors, hearing them, and asking them questions. And all that heard Him were astonished at His wisdom and His answers. And seeing Him, they wondered. And His mother said to Him: Son, why hast Thou done so to us? Behold Thy father and I have sought Thee sorrowing. And He said to them: "How is it that you sought Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?" And they understood not the word that He spoke unto them. And He went down with them, and came to Nazareth: and was subject to them.

When His mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.

Through Thy mercy, O Lord, and the intercession of blessed Mary, ever a virgin, the Mother of Thine only-begotten Son, may our oblation profit us for eternal and for present prosperity and peace. Through the same Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

It is truly meet and just, right and for our salvation that we always and everywhere give thanks unto Thee, O holy Lord, Father almighty, everlasting God: and that we should praise and bless, and proclaim Thee, in this feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary, ever Virgin: Who also conceived Thine only-begotten Son by the overshadowing of the Holy Spirit, and the glory of her virginity still abiding, gave forth to the world the everlasting Light, Jesus Christ our Lord. Through Whom the Angels praise Thy majesty, the Dominations adore, the Powers tremble: the heavens and the hosts of heaven, and the blessed Seraphim, together celebrate in exultation. With whom, we pray Thee, command that our voices of supplication also be admitted in confessing Thee saying:

Blessed is the womb of the Virgin Mary, which bore the Son of the Eternal Father.

May this communion, O Lord, purge away our guilt and, by the intercession of blessed Mary the Mother of God, make us companions of Him, Who is our Heavenly healing. Through the same Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.