

This festival originated in the East where it is mentioned very early. At Rome it was not observed before the reign of Pope Sergius I. As Eve, our first mother, arose from the side of Adam, dazzling with life and innocence, so Mary came forth, bright and immaculate from the heart of the eternal Word, Who, by the cooperation of the Holy Spirit, as the Liturgy teaches us, was pleased to form that body and soul which were to be, one day, his tabernacle and altar. This is the sublime meaning of the feast of the Birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is the dawn foretelling the day which already breaks behind the eternal hills, the mystic rod which rises from the venerable root of Jesse; the stream Which springs from Paradise; it is the symbolical fleece Which is stretched on our dry earth to catch the miraculous dew. This is the new Eve, that is to say, the life and the Mother of all the living, who is born today for those to whom the first Eve became the mother of sin and death.

Commemoration of St. Hadrian, Martyr: St. Hadrian was an officer in the Roman army; from persecuting Christians he was so moved by their constancy that he embraced the Faith and sutrered martyrdom toward the end of the Third Century.

INTROIT Sedulius

Salve, sancta Parens, eníxa puérpera Regem: qui cælum terrámque regit in sæcula sæculórum. (Ps. 44: 2) Eructávit cor meum verbum bonum: dico ego ópera mea Regi. Glória Patri et Fílio et Spíritui Sancto, sicut erat in princípío, et nunc, et semper, et in sæcula sæculórum. Amen. Salve, sancta Parens, enixa puérpera

Regem: qui cælum terrámque regit in sæcula sæculórum.

COLLECT

Fámulis tuis, quæsumus, Dómine, cæléstis grátíæ munus impertíre: ut, quibus beátæ Vírginis partus éxstitit salútis exórdium; Nativitátis ejus votíva sollémnitas pacis tríbuat incrémentum. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

(Commemoration of St. Hadrian, Martyr)

Præsta, quæsumus, omnipotens Deus: ut, qui beáti Hadriáni Mártýris tui natalítia cólimus, intercessióne ejus, in tui nóminis amóre roborémur. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

LESSON Proverbs 8: 22-35

Dóminus possédit me in ínítio víarum suárum, ántequam quídam fáceret a princípío. Ab æténo ordináta sum, et ex antíquis, ántequam terra fieret. Nondum erant abyssi, et ego jam concépta eram: necdum fontes aquárum erúperant: necdum montes gravi mole constiterant: ante colles ego parturíebar: adhuc terram nonfécerat et flúmina et cárđines orbis terræ. Quando præparábat cælos, áderam: quando certa lege et gyro vallábat abyssos: quando æthera firmábat sursum et librábat fontes aquárum: quando circúmdabat mari términum suum et legem ponébat aquis, ne transírent fines suos: quando appendébat fundaménta terræ. Cum eo eram cuncta compónens: et delectábar per síngulos dies, ludens coram eo omni témpore: ludens in orbe terrárum: et delícíæ meæ esse cum filiis hóminum. Nunc ergo, filii, audíte me: Beáti, qui custódiunt vias meas. Audíte disciplínam, et estóte sapiéntes, et nolíte abjicere eam. Beátus homo, qui audit me et qui vígilat ad fores meas cotídíe, et obsérvat ad postes óstii mei. Qui me invénerit, invéniet vitam et háuriet salútem a Dómino.

GRADUAL

Benedícta et venerábilis es, Virgo María: quæ sine tactu pudóris invénta es Mater Salvatóris. Virgo, Dei Génatrix, quem totus non capit orbis, in tua se clausit víscera factus homo.

LESSER ALLELUIA

Allelúja, allelúja. Felix es, sacra Virgo María, et omni laude digníssima: quia ex te ortus est sol justítíæ, Christus, Deus noster. Allelúja.

GOSPEL Matthew 1: 1-16

Liber generatiónis Jesu Christi, filii David, filii Abraham. Abraham genuit Isaac. Isaac autem genuit Jacob. Jacob autem genuit Judam et fratres ejus. Judas autem genuit Phares et Zaram de Thamar. Phares autem genuit Eson. Eson autem genuit Aram. Aram autem genuit Aminadab. Aminadab autem genuit Naasson. Naasson autem genuit Salmon. Salmon autem genuit Booz de Rahab. Booz autem genuit Obed ex Ruth. Obed autem genuit Jesse. Jesse autem genuit David regem. David autem rex genuit Salomónem ex ea, quæ fuit Uriæ. Salomon autem genuit Róboam. Róboam autem genuit Abíam. Abías autem genuit Asa. Asa autem genuit Josaphat. Jósaphat autem genuit Joram. Joram autem genuit Ozíam. Ozías autem genuit Jóatham. Jóatham autem genuit Achaz. Achaz autem genuit Ezechíam. Ezechías autem genuit Manássen. Manásses autem genuit Amon. Amon autem genuit Josíam. Josías autem genuit Jechoníam et fratres ejus in transmigratíone Babylónis. Et post transmigratíonem Babylónis: Jechonías genuit Saláthiel. Saláthiel autem genuit Zoróbabel. Zoróbabel autem genuit Abiud. Abiud autem genuit Eliácim. Eliácim autem genuit Azor. Azor autem genuit Sadoc. Sadoc autem genuit Achim. Achim autem genuit Eliud. Eliud autem genuit Eleázar. Eleázar autem genuit Mathan. Mathan autem genuit Jacob. Jacob autem genuit Joseph, virum Maríæ, de qua natus est Jesus, qui vocátur Christus.

OFFERTORY

Beáta es, Virgo María, quæ ómnium portásti Creatórem: genuisti qui te fecit, et in ætérum pérmanes Virgo.

SECRET

Unigéniti tui, Dómine, nobis succúrrat humánitas: ut, qui natus de Vírgine, matris integritátem non mínuit, sed sacrávit; in Nativitátis ejus solémniis, nostris nos piaculís éxuens, oblatíonem nostram tibi fáciat accéptam Jesus Christus, Dóminus noster: Qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

(Commemoration of St. Hadrian, Martyr)

Munéribus nostris, quæsumus, Dómine, precibúsque susceptis: et cæléstibus nos munda mystéris, et cleménter exáudi. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

PREFACE OF THE BVM

Verè dignum et justum est, æquum et salutáre, nos tibi semper et ubíque grátias ágere: Dómine sancte, Pater omnipotens, æténe Deus: Et te in Festivitéte beátæ Maríæ semper Vírginis collaudáre, benedícere et prædicáre. Quæ et Unigénitum tuum Sancti Spíritus obumbratíone concépit: et, virginitátis glória permanénte, lumen æténum mundo effúdit, Jesum Christum, Dóminum nostrum. Per quem maiestátem tuam laudant Ángeli, adorántes Dóminos, tremunt Potestátes. Cæli cælorúmque Virtútes ac beáta Séraphim sócia exsultatíone concélebrant. Cum quibus et nostras voces ut admitti júbeas, deprecámur, súplici confessióne dicéntes:

COMMUNION

Beáta víscera Maríæ Vírginis, quæ portavérunt æténi Patrís Fílium.

POSTCOMMUNION

Súmpsimus, Dómine, celebritátis ánnuæ votíva sacraménta: præsta, quæsumus; ut et temporális vitæ nobis remédia præbeant et æténnæ. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

(Commemoration of St. Hadrian, Martyr)

Da, quæsumus, Dómine, Deus noster: ut, sicut tuórum commémoratíone Sanctórum temporáli gratulámur officio; ita perpétuo lætémur aspéctu. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

Hail, holy Mother, thou who didst bring forth the King who rules heaven and earth for ever and ever. (Ps. 44: 2) My heart hath uttered a good word : I speak my works to the King. 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. Hail, holy Mother, thou who didst bring forth the King who rules heaven and earth for ever and ever.

Impart unto Thy servants, we beseech Thee, O Lord, the gift of Thy heavenly grace, that to us, for whom the childbearing of the Blessed Virgin was the beginning of our salvation, the votive solemnity of her nativity may give increase of peace. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

Grant, we beseech Thee, almighty God: that we who celebrate the heavenly birthday of blessed Hadrian, Thy Martyr, may, through this intercession be strengthen in the love of Thy name. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

The Lord possessed me in the beginning of His ways, before He made anything, from the beginning. I was set up from eternity, and of old, before the earth was made. The depths were not as yet, and I was already conceived neither had the fountains of waters as yet sprung out; the mountains with their huge bulk had not yet been established: before the hills I was brought forth He had not yet made the earth, nor the rivers, not the poles of the world. When He prepared the heavens, I was there when with a certain law and compass He enclosed the depths; when He established the sky above, and poised the fountains of waters; when He compassed the sea with its bounds, and set a law to the waters that they should not pass their limits; when He balanced the foundations of the earth; I was with Him, forming all things, and was delighted every day, playing before Him at all times, playing in the world: and my delight is to be with the children of men. Now, therefore, ye children, hear me: blessed are they that keep my ways. Hear instruction, and be wise, and refuse it not. Blessed is the man that heareth me, and that watcheth daily at my gates, and waiteth at the posts of my doors. He that shall find me, shall find life, and shall have salvation from the Lord.

Thou art blessed and venerable, O Virgin Mary, who with purity unstained was found to be the Mother of our Savior. Virgin Mother of God, He whom the whole world was unable to contain enclosed Himself in thy womb, being made man.

Alleluia, alleluia. Happy art thou, O sacred Virgin Mary, and most worthy of all praise, for out of thee hath risen the sun of justice, Christ, our God. Alleluia.

The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham begot Isaac; and Isaac begot Jacob; and Jacob begot Judas, and his brethren; and Judas begot Phares and Zara of Thamar; and Phares begot Esron; and Esron begot Aram; and Aram begot Aminadab; and Aminadab begot Naasson; and Naasson begot Salmon; and Salmon begot Booz of Rahab; and Booz begot Obed of Ruth; and Obed begot Jesse; and Jesse begot David the king. And David the king begot Solomon, of her who had been the wife of Urias; and Solomon begot Roboam; and Roboam begot Abia; and Abia begot Asa; and Asa begot Josaphat; and Josaphat begot Joram; and Joram begot Ozias; and Ozfas begot Joatham; and Joatham begot Achaz; and Achaz begot Ezechias; and Ezechias begot Manasses; and Manasses begot Amon; and Amon begot Josias; and Josias begot Jechonias and his brethren in the transmigration of Babylon. Jechonias begot Salathiel; and Salathiel begot Zorobabel; and Zorobabel begot Abiud; and Abiud begot Eliacim; and Eliacim begot Azor; and Azor begot Sadoc; and Sadoc begot Achim, and Achim begot Eliud; and Eliud begot Eleazar; and Eleazar begot Mathan; and Mathan begot Jacob; and Jacob begot Joseph, the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, Who is called Christ.

Blessed art thou, O Virgin Mary, who didst bear the Creator of all things; thou didst bring forth Him Who made thee, and remainest a virgin forever.

Let the humanity of Thine only-begotten Son succor us, O Lord, that He, Who, born of a virgin, did not diminish, but consecrated, the virginity of His mother, may, on this solemn festival of her visitation, deliver us from our sins and make our offering acceptable, even Jesus Christ our Lord, Who with Thee lives and reigns, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, God, forever and ever.

Receive our gifts, and our prayers, we beseech Thee, O Lord; cleanse us by the heavenly mysteries and mercifully hear us. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, 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.

We have partaken of the solemn sacrament on this annual feast: grant we beseech Thee, that it may bring us assistance both for the present and for life everlasting. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

Grant, we beseech Thee, O Lord, our God: that, as we rejoice on earth in keeping the memory of Thy saints, so also we may enjoy their company for evermore. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.