

INTERCEDE



PRAY

Our Father, 3 Hail Marys, Glory Be

REFLECT

On January 1 the Church celebrated the Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God. As we approach the manger to adore the infant Son of God, we cannot help but recognize that Mary is indeed *Mother of God*. The holy Nativity calls us to meditate more deeply on the mystery that God used the womb of a woman to bring salvation to the world.

This feast of Mary reminds us of the great miracle of motherhood, and it reveals how God has elevated and sanctified the vocation of mothers. As we embark on a New Year and consider resolutions for the months ahead, may we invite the Blessed Mother to guide us in our hopeful planning. We pray that through her intercession each of our hearts may be renewed with empathy and increased awareness of the challenges that so many mothers face in welcoming and caring for the gift of life. May Our Blessed Mother inspire in us a desire and resolve to increase our compassionate care and support of mothers in need throughout the year ahead.

ACT *(choose one)*

- Pray the [Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of Life](#) for this month's intention.
- Create a list of ways that you can personally increase your support of mothers in need throughout the New Year. Take your list to prayer, asking the Lord for guidance on what he is asking of you and the grace to faithfully respond.
- Offer some other sacrifice or prayer that you feel called to do for this month's intention.

ONE STEP FURTHER

Sign up for [9 Days for Life](#) to pray a novena from January 21-29 for the protection of human life.

DID YOU KNOW?

On January 22, the Church in the United States observes a [Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children](#). As individuals, we are called to observe this day through the penitential practices of prayer, fasting and/or giving alms.



Photo: iStock.com/chokja. Watermark: A mosaic of Our Lady of Guadalupe decorates a side altar in the Church of Santa Maria della Famiglia at the Vatican. Dec. 15. (CNS photo/Paul Haring.)