



First Reading: (*Num 6:22-27*) The Lord said to Moses, "Say to Aaron and his sons, Thus you shall bless the people of Israel: you shall say to them, The Lord bless you and keep you: The Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you: The Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace. "So shall they put my name upon the people of Israel, and I will bless them."

Ps 66:2-3,5,6,8

R/. O God, be gracious and bless us.

Second Reading: (*Gal 4:4-7*) When the time had fully come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has

sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So through God you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son then an heir.

Gospel: (*Lk 2:16-21*) The shepherds went with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they saw it they made known the saying which had been told them concerning this child; and all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

REFLECTION

Safe, secure and serene shall we be when we surrender ourselves to God! Every New Year brings us new aspirations, new expectations, new hopes and new plans. The previous year might have left back its own fears and challenges. But life can go ahead and become beautiful only when it is hopeful. The more one loses hope, the more life becomes tasteless and meaningless. As we begin the New Year we are invited to trust in God as Mary the mother of God did.