



**THE
SOLEMNITY
OF MARY
MOTHER OF GOD**
*Mass will be celebrated
Thursday, December 31st,
6:30pm at
St. Mary's Parish,
&
January 1st at 11:00am
at St. John the Baptist in
Frenchtown.*

On this day, January 1 we hear that the shepherds did what the angels told them to do. They found Mary and Joseph and the newborn Jesus. Then they went to tell their neighbors that a savior was born.

Mary treasured what was said about her child. In joy, the shepherds sang the angels' song of glory in heaven and peace on earth. Eight days after his birth, Jesus was circumcised and received his name, which means "savior."

New Year Day is the *World Day of Prayer for Peace*. For some churches, it is the feast of the Holy Name of Jesus or the feast of the Circumcision. For Roman Catholics, it is *The Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God*.

This solemn feast is over 1500 years old on the church's calendar. We celebrate this feast of January 1, the beginning of the New Year, as the fulfillment of the promise made to Mary by the angel Gabriel. God's child is now her child. Mary is the Mother of God.