

A Loving Gaze Toward Mary, the Mother of God

As we stand at the threshold of a New Year, our hearts naturally pause between what has been and what is yet to come...we will bid farewell to 2025 and step into 2026—a moment filled with hope, reflection, gratitude, and trust. The Church, in her wisdom, invites us to begin the civil year not simply with celebrations or resolutions, but with prayer and a loving gaze toward Mary, the Mother of God.

On January 1, we celebrate the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. This is no coincidence. At the very beginning of the year, the Church reminds us that God chose to enter human history through a woman who trusted him completely. Mary's simple yet courageous "yes" opened the way for God's saving plan. She did not know all that lay ahead, but she placed her life in God's hands. As we begin a new year, her faith becomes our model. Mary teaches us how to welcome the unknown with trust. Like her, we carry into the new year the memories of the past—moments of grace and joy, challenges that tested us, losses that still touch our hearts, and blessings we may only now recognize. Mary pondered everything in her heart, holding both joy and sorrow with deep faith. She invites us to do the same as we enter 2026: to move forward not with fear, but with hope, and not with anxiety, but with confidence in God.

This feast also proclaims a profound truth: God is close to us. In Mary's arms, God took on our humanity and walked our paths. As the new year begins, we are assured that God walks with us—into our homes, our work, our relationships, and even into our uncertainties. We do not begin this year alone.

January 1 is also observed as the World Day of Peace. In a world often marked by division and unrest, we are called to be instruments of peace—beginning in our hearts and extending to our families, our parish, and our community. Mary, the Queen of Peace, leads us gently to her Son, who alone gives the peace the world cannot offer.

I extend my heartfelt New Year wishes to you and your families. May 2026 be a year of good health, renewed faith, and deeper trust in God's loving providence. May the Lord bless your homes with peace, your hearts with hope, and your lives with joy. Entrusting you to the loving care of Mary, Mother of God, I pray that she will guide and protect you throughout the year ahead. Let us begin this New Year together in prayer, united as a parish family, confident that the God who has led us this far will continue to guide us in the days to come.

God Bless,

Father Sahaya Remgius, SAC