

Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
September 8, 2014
St. Agnes Church

Today we join our voices to the psalmist who says
“with delight I rejoice in the Lord.”
Today, with delight we rejoice in the Lord.
The Lord has been good to us.
Within the appropriate time, he has blessed our world with salvation.

The necessary historical circumstances allowing for the Incarnation to take place
come to pass.
The mother of Jesus Christ is conceived
and nine months later born into the world.
She is given the name “Mary”.

The existence of the Blessed Virgin Mary
is indissolubly connected to the existence of the Savior of the world.
Within his mysterious plan, God makes happen what no human being can:
a perfect human vessel is created
through which his son can enter the world.
The hopes and longings of God’s people will soon be fulfilled.
It is a new time of grace.
With the birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary the dawn of a new day draws closer.

And we know, Mary remains faithful to her mission, to her purpose.
She willingly surrenders her life to God’s plan.

Every human birth brings with it a new hope for the future.
First, it is a sign of God’s work.
Then it is recognized: every new child has great potential.
Questions are asked: who will this child become?
What will this person contribute to the ongoing process of life?
And within the context of faith,
how will this person become a channel of God's love and peace to the world?

Birthday celebrations are a time of happiness and joy.
Within salvation history Mary’s birth offers great happiness to the world.
As we celebrate her birth, we do so with hope.
We hope that what began with her cooperation
i.e., the coming of God’s Kingdom through Jesus Christ,
will continue to grow and increase,
will continue to spread to the ends of the earth.
We hope for an increase of peace within our hearts
and we hope for an increase of peace within our world.

Throughout this day, as we recall Mary’s birthday,
let us make today’s psalm response our prayer:
“With delight I rejoice in the Lord.”