**Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God**

**Prayers of the Faithful**

**Celebrant:** At the beginning of the New Year, we turn to God our Father, through the intercession of Mary humbly asking for our needs and the needs of the world.

1. For the Church: that in this coming year all who follow Christ will be more courageous in their witness to the faith and united in their discipleship of the Lord. **Lord, hear us.**
2. For all in our community who will receive the sacraments this coming year; may the grace of the sacraments and the power of the Holy Spirit transform them into the image of Christ. **Lord, hear us.**
3. On this World Day of Prayer for Peace, we pray for peace in our world. May the light of Christ’s love transform the minds and hearts of those consumed by their quest for power, conflict, and destruction. **Lord, hear us.**
4. For an end to hatred in our world. May the darkness of racism, homophobia, religious divisions, wars, and every violence be brought into the light of faith, trust, and peace. **Lord, hear us.**
5. For couples trying to conceive; may God who brought life into the world bless them with the gift of life to love and cherish. **Lord, hear us.**
6. For all mothers, that they may find in Mary, the mother of God a model of profound humility, lively faith, patience, wisdom, trust, and joy. **Lord, hear us.**
7. For all who are sick: those in hospital, those undergoing treatment for cancer, those living with life-limiting illnesses or conditions, and those sick at home. Accompany them in times of trial and bless them with the gift of wholeness and healing. **Lord, hear us.**
8. For all who have died; grant them eternal rest. **Lord, hear us.**

**Celebrant:** Lord our God, you draw near to us in the Christ-child born of the Virgin Mary. Open our hearts and minds to the many blessings you offer in this New Year. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**