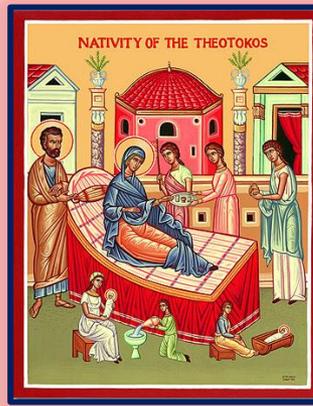


## BIOGRAPHY

Dearly beloved brethren, the day for which we have longed, the Feast-day of the Blessed and Worshipful and Ever-Virgin Mary, that day is come. Let our land laugh and sing with merriment, bathed in the glory of this great Virgin's rising. She is the flower of the fields on which the priceless lily of the valleys hath blossomed. This is she whose delivery changed the nature that we draw from our first parents, and cleansed away their offence. At her that dolorous sentence which was pronounced over Eve ended its course to her it was never said: "In sorrow thou shalt bring forth children." Gen. iii. 16. She brought forth a Child, even the Lord, but she brought Him forth, not in sorrow, but in joy. Eve wept, but Mary laughed. Eve's womb was big with tears, but Mary's womb was big with gladness. Eve gave birth to a sinner, but Mary gave birth to the Sinless One. The mother of our race brought punishment into the world, but the Mother of our Lord brought salvation into the world. Eve was the foundress of sin, but Mary was the Foundress of righteousness. Eve welcomed death, but Mary helped in life. Eve smote, but Mary healed. For Eve's disobedience, Mary offered obedience and for Eve's unbelief, Mary offered faith. Let Mary now make a loud noise upon the organ, and between its quick notes let the rattling of the Mother's timbrel be heard. Let the gladsome choirs sing with her, and their sweet hymns mingle with the changing music. Hearken to what a song her timbrel will make accompaniment. She saith: "My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. For He hath regarded the lowliness of His hand-maiden, for, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed for He That is Mighty hath done to me great things." The new miracle of Mary's delivery hath effaced the curse of the frail backslider, and the singing of Mary hath silenced the wailing of Eve. [St. Augustine, *Serm. 18. de Sanctis, qui est 2. de Annunt. Dominica; From the Hour of Matins of the 1962 Breviary*]



## NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

FEAST DAY:  
8 SEPTEMBER

### COLLECT

Bestow upon Thy servants, we beseech Thee, O Lord, the gift of Thy Heavenly Grace: that as the Childbearing of the Blessed Virgin was the beginning of our salvation, so the solemn Feast of her Nativity may bring us an increase of joy. Through Our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who Liveth and Reigneth with Thee, in the Unity of the Holy Ghost, God, world without end. Amen

### PRAYER TO OUR LADY

O Most Holy Mary, Worshipful and Ever-Virgin, who alone is the Cause of our Joy and the beginning of our salvation, regard the petition of thy children, and graciously answer our prayers. Thou whose Nativity caused all the Angels to sing for joy before the Adorable Father and to salute thee intoning most sublimely that great and eternal 'Ave', let us partake of that same joy, rejoicing before the Same Adorable Father of Our Lord Jesus Christ, thy Son, Who wast most pleased to be born of thee. Thou art our Tower, our Strength and the Woman who crushes under foot the head of the Enemy. Show us then, Most Renowned Mother, how to adore Him who made thee so great and powerful, that we may imitate all thy virtues, so that we may please Our Saviour, even as thou dost, for thou art she who saith, 'my soul doth magnify the Lord'. Amen