



JANUARY 1, 2017 Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God Lectionary: 18 Gospel [LK 2:16-21](#)

The shepherds went in haste to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known the message that had been told them about this child. All who heard it were amazed by what had been told them by the shepherds. And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart. Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told to them. When eight days were completed for his circumcision, he was named Jesus, the name given him by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

Spiritual Reflection: We hear that the shepherds returned after seeing the child in a manger “glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen.” Sadly many of us see the same Lord present in the Blessed Sacrament at Mass but we do not return home “glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen.” Instead many spend their time complaining about what they had heard: a bad homily, Church’s teaching that they disagree with, etc. and what they had seen: a hypocrite old lady, a person sitting in their pew spot, a holy than thou type person, etc. What if this year instead of complaining about our faith we took the time to “ponder” it in our hearts like Mary did and see if we cannot discover some greater meaning.

Spiritual Questions

1. What was some of the things that the shepherds could have complained about?
2. Why do you think the shepherds did not complain?
3. What do you think Mary and Joseph were thinking when these guests arrived?
4. What was one thing you remember from last week’s Mass?
5. When was the last time that you spend some time outside of Mass learning about the Mass?