January 1st: The Octave Day of Christmas, Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God

Gospel text (*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 (...).

Holy Mary, Mother of God ("Theotókos")

EDITORIAL TEAM evangeli.net (based on texts by Benedict XVI)
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Today, when Mary has given birth to Jesus, the time of the promises is fulfilled. The Messiah's arrival announced by the prophets is qualitatively the most important event in all History, to which it brings the final and most complete meaning. He did not enter into time coming from the heights but "from within". This is "God's style"!

Mary's maternity is truly and fully human. The sentence "God sent forth his Son, born of a woman" (Gal 4:4) resumes the fundamental truth about Jesus as a divine Person, who fully assumed our human nature. He is the Son of God and at the same time the son of a woman: Mary. He comes from her. He is of God and of Mary. That's why Jesus' mother can and should be called Mother of God "Theotókos" (Council of Ephesus, A.D. 431).

—Each time we pray the "Hail Mary" we turn to the Virgin with this title, begging her to pray "for us sinners".