

**Numbers:** Is there any greater Blessing from God than to SEE HIS FACE? For God to let us, poor humans, SEE Him face-to-face?

**Psalm:** . . . let his face shine upon us

Think of a common person.

What chance is there for ordinary people to actually see a king FACE TO FACE.

But OUR God lets us see HIS FACE in HIS SON, Jesus. Who is one of US! John makes this point in his Gospel.

**Galatians:** Paul says **born of a woman**. There can be no doubt that Xt is truly **MAN**.

And **True God**, the **WORD**, who reveals God's "word" more than any **Prophet** could.

## GOSPEL

In the "old days" New Years Day was called: **The Circumcision of Jesus**. Now it is called (in the Catholic Church) **The Solemnity of Mary**. Same Gospel. Why the change? This should help explain it so you can see why it is important.

So **Mary IS** the **Mother of God**! Not, as some early Xtians thought, **ONLY** the Mother of the 'human body' of JESUS. Early Xtians thought about this, trying to explain it for a few hundred years. Nestorius said Mary was only the mother of the **BODY** of Jesus. That would have meant that a divine God-Messiah just used a human-body-Jesus, like the **Pirate Parrot** puts on a costume and uses it to seem to be a **PARROT**, a different person.

Finally at The Council of Ephesus in 431 AD the Church affirmed Mary truly is called the **Theotókos** (god-bearer)—"Mother of God"—since by the power of the Holy Spirit she conceived in her virginal womb and brought into the world Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who is of one being with the Father. She is not just the Mother of the **HUMAN** body of XT. She should be called the "Mother of God" because Jesus is **ONE PERSON** and his body can not be separated from His divine nature and still be one person. {your body and soul = one YOU, right?}

So Xt is one person with a human and divine nature combined in **ONE** person. Hard to explain? No, **impossible to explain!** Yes, it took over 300 years to figure it out! An Orthodox bishop said: *We cannot completely explain it but we believe it.*

### Main Points

So today January 1<sup>st</sup> we celebrate:

#### 1) That **Jesus is truly one of us**

*Circumcision made Jesus an official **JEWish boy**.* If he is a **JEW**, he is a real human. **AND** in this action of circumcision the little baby from the manger got a **NAME**, **JESUS**. In the OT and NT, a **NAME** always reveals something important about the thing named. Think how Adam named each animal in Genesis and "whatever name he gave it, that was its name".

The name *Jesus*, is also the Hebrew name *Joshua* (in Greek *lēsous - Ἰησοῦς*) meaning "*Yahweh is my help*". It is also interpreted "*Yahweh saves*." Same name as the Joshua who "Fit the Battle of Jericho" and helped save the Israelites. Exactly what **JESUS** will do for everyone!

Early Church Fathers expressed it like this: **For that which He has not assumed He has not healed; but that which is united to His Godhead is also saved.** Simply: Xt had to really be a man in order to redeem mankind. There was not a **HUMAN Jesus** and a **DIVINE Christ**. There was only **ONE** Person who was fully God and Man. Still can't explain it!?

2) That **Mary IS** the **Mother of God**. Otherwise **JESUS** is not both human and divine. And if that is the case, **Jesus** did not really die as one of US for US on the cross. It was all pretend.

**THAT** is why this day is an important feast.