



November 18, 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Each year, the Church invites us to begin the new calendar year by honoring the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Holy Mother of God, on January 1. This solemnity is both a celebration of Mary's Divine Maternity and a moment to entrust the coming year to her maternal care and intercession.

However, I am aware that for many of the faithful in our Archdiocese, January 1 is often a day marked by family gatherings, travel, and work obligations that make attendance at Mass difficult. With a pastoral concern for the spiritual good of all, and in keeping with the faculty granted to the diocesan bishop in Canon 87 §1 of the Code of Canon Law, I hereby dispense the faithful of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles from the obligation to attend Mass on Thursday, January 1, 2026, the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God.

While this dispensation lifts the obligation, I warmly encourage everyone to observe the day as a holy and prayerful beginning to the new year. Those who are able are invited to participate in Mass either on January 1 or the evening before. All are encouraged to honor our Blessed Mother through prayer for a suitable time alone or as a family, praying of the rosary, reading of Scripture, or other devotions within their homes.

May Mary, the Mother of God and our Mother, guide and protect you and your loved ones throughout the coming year, and lead all of us closer to her Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

+ José H. Gomez

Most Reverend José H. Gomez  
Archbishop of Los Angeles