

***Celebration of the Word of God***  
***(For a Catechetical Session on the Blessed Virgin Mary)***

**Hymn:**                   **Gentle Woman**  
(All)                   *Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you,  
Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your  
womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God,  
Pray for us sinners now, and at the hour of death, Amen.  
Gentle woman, quiet light, morning star,  
so strong and bright, gentle mother, peaceful dove;  
teach us wisdom, teach us love.*

**First Reading:**       Zechariah 2: 14 – 17

**Responsorial**

**Psalm:** (ALL)       R. (Isaiah 61:10) **With delight I rejoice in the Lord.**  
                          Though I trusted in your mercy,  
                          let my heart rejoice in your salvation.  
                          R.   **With delight I rejoice in the Lord.**  
                          Let me sing of the LORD, “He has been good to me.”  
                          R.   **With delight I rejoice in the Lord.**

**Gospel:**                Luke 2: 15 – 19

**Closing Prayer:**   (ALL) Your presence, O Virgin Mother of God, proclaims joy  
to the whole world, for from you arose the glorious Son of  
Justice, Christ our God; he frees us from the age-old curse of  
sin and fills us with holiness; he destroyed death and gave us  
eternal life. Amen.

*(From an Antiphon on the Feast of the Nativity of the Virgin Mary)*