

## Homily Outline for the All-Schools Mass

September 8, 2021  
Feast of the Birth of Mary

St. Mary's Parish  
Alton, Illinois

† Most Reverend Thomas John Paprocki  
Bishop of Springfield in Illinois

- I. Today is a special birthday: the Birth of Mary.
  - A. We celebrate Mary as the Mother of God.
  - B. We also look to Mary as our spiritual Mother.
  - C. This is fitting at the beginning of a new school year: we pray for Mary's spiritual guidance.
- II. The Gospel today tells us about the birth of Jesus, not the birth of Mary. Why?
  - A. There is no Gospel passage about Mary; the focus of the Gospels is on Jesus.
  - B. Mary would want it this way: not to focus on her, but on her Son; this gives us an example of humility.
  - C. Mary is important precisely because she is the Mother of Jesus.

### III. *Hail Mary; Gentle Woman*

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

You were chosen by the father  
You were chosen for the son  
You were chosen from all women  
And for women, shining one

Gentle woman,  
Quiet light,  
Morning star,  
So strong and bright  
Gentle mother, peaceful dove  
Teach us wisdom, teach us love

May God give us this grace. Amen.