**Universal Prayer**  
*Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God*  
*January 1*

We pray that our prayer and work as a Church in this new year will reveal God’s justice and mercy to the world in bold, renewed ways.

On this World Day of Prayer for Peace, we pray for people living in war-ridden areas of the world, especially throughout the middle east. May Mary, Mother of God intercede for her children who suffer from the atrocities of war.

We pray for God’s blessing on the New Year. May God fill the coming days with health of body, mind, and spirit; renew the gifts of the Holy Spirit within us; and inspire us with new ways to promote the common good and show God’s mercy to others.

We pray that, like Mary, we may recognize and reverence the work of God in our lives and cooperate more fully with his invitation to love and service.

We pray that justice and dignity may flourish in the workplace, and that the poor, underemployed, and unemployed may be given opportunities to provide for their families.

We pray that all the souls of the faithful departed, through mercy of God, will rest in peace…

…and for the **members of the Lee Strayhorn family** who are remembered in this Mass.