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Ephesus Notes

A Catholic Newsletter Dedicated to Our Lady of Ephesus

A free publication designed by Fr. F. Gruber for the needs of the elderly. Prepared with the help of Grok. ©2026 Archives available at www.mothersforpriests.org/ephesus-notes

VOLUME 4 · ISSUE 48 FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2026 MONTH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

SAINT OF THE DAY

December 4: St. John Damascene, Priest and Doctor of the Church.

St. John Damascene was born at Damascus around 675 into a Christian family that served the Muslim caliph. He gave up high office to become a monk at the monastery of St. Sabas near Jerusalem. When Emperor Leo III attacked holy images, he defended their veneration, and he wrote *The Fount of Knowledge* and beautiful sermons on Our Lady's falling asleep. He died around 749. Pope Leo XIII named him a Doctor of the Church in 1890.



St. John Damascene, fresco icon from Mount Athos

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I do not worship matter; I worship the Creator of matter who became matter for my sake ..."

—*St. John Damascene, On the Divine Images (I, 16)*

MARIAN PRAYER (ST. THOMAS AQUINAS)

Virgin full of goodness, Mother of mercy, I entrust to you my body and my soul, my thoughts and my actions, my life and my death. My Queen, come to my aid and deliver me from the snares of the devil.

Obtain for me the grace of loving my Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, with a true and perfect love, and after Him, O Mary, of loving you with all my heart and above all things.

Amen.

(Mothers for Priests brochure Jumbo Our Lady of Good Counsel)

CATHOLIC TRIVIA

Q: What surname, meaning "golden stream," was given to St. John Damascene for his eloquence?

A: Chrysorrhoas.

FROM THE ROMAN MARTYROLOGY

✠ **St. Barbara**, virgin and martyr, honored since ancient times, especially in the East.

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Mary, Seat of Wisdom, Pray for us.

Recommended Prayer Brochure: Jumbo Our Lady of Good Counsel-Advent01



Daily Gospel Word Find Puzzle

(Matthew 9:27-31, December 4, 2026)

Find the all-capitalized words in bold print.

Y	W	F	M	J	F	F	F	W	I	S	T	F	V	G
P	A	S	S	E	D	I	B	A	W	D	O	S	G	B
F	O	O	P	E	N	D	E	R	I	O	U	N	P	H
A	C	R	Y	I	N	G	L	N	O	T	C	R	H	S
P	U	G	B	B	Y	T	I	E	O	P	H	L	O	P
R	F	O	L	L	O	W	E	D	Y	G	E	A	U	R
K	U	K	P	I	T	Y	V	R	R	E	D	N	S	E
S	T	E	R	N	L	Y	E	H	E	W	S	D	E	A
Y	N	W	P	D	D	B	L	O	R	D	A	V	I	D

As Jesus **PASSED** by, two **BLIND MEN**
FOLLOWED him, **CRYING** out,
"SON of **DAVID**, have **PITY** on us!"
When he **ENTERED** the **HOUSE**,
the blind men approached him and Jesus said
to them,
"Do you **BELIEVE** that I can do this?"
"Yes, **LORD**," they said to him.
Then he **TOUCHED** their **EYES** and said,

"Let it be done for you according to your
FAITH."
And their eyes were **OPENED**.
Jesus **WARNED** them **STERNLY**,
"See that no one knows about this."
But they went out and **SPREAD** word of him
through all that **LAND**.

Gospel text: Lectionary for Mass (USCCB), Friday of the First Week of Advent.

FROM THE CATECHISM

526. What relationship exists between truth, beauty and sacred art?

The truth is beautiful, carrying in itself the splendour of spiritual beauty. In addition to the expression of the truth in words there are other complementary expressions of the truth, most specifically in the beauty of artistic works. These are the fruit both of talents given by God and of human effort. Sacred art by being true and beautiful should evoke and glorify the mystery of God made visible in Christ, and lead to the adoration and love of God, the Creator and Savior, who is the surpassing, invisible Beauty of Truth and Love.

Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, Q. 526