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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 57 SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2026 MONTH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

SAINT OF THE DAY

**December 13: Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete);
St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr.**

St. Lucy was a young Christian of Syracuse in Sicily who vowed her life to Christ and gave her dowry to the poor. Denounced as a Christian, she was martyred in the persecution of Diocletian around 304. Her name comes from lux, “light,” and in Sweden girls still wear crowns of candles on her day. She is named in the Roman Canon of the Mass.



St. Lucy, Francesco del Cossa (c. 1473–74), National Gallery of Art, Washington

QUOTE OF THE DAY

“Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.”

—1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (today’s second reading)

CATHOLIC TRIVIA

Q: In which city are most of St. Lucy’s relics venerated today?

A: Venice, in the church of San Geremia.

PRAYER TO ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

Almighty God, by whose providence Your servant John the Baptist was born and sent to prepare the way for Your Son, the Lamb of God, enable us by his prayers to bear the fruits that befit repentance and become ourselves friends of the Bridegroom, who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

(Mothers for Priests brochure JB3)

Mary, Cause of our Joy, Pray for us.

Recommended Prayer Brochure: JB3 St John the Baptist Litany



Sunday Gospel Word Find Puzzle

(John 1:6-8, 19-28, December 13, 2026)

Find the all-capitalized words in bold print.

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

A man named John was sent from God.
He came for **TESTIMONY**, to **TESTIFY** to the
LIGHT,
so that all might **BELIEVE** through him.
He was not the light,
but came to testify to the light.
And this is the testimony of John.
When the Jews from **JERUSALEM** sent **PRIESTS**
and **LEVITES** to him
to ask him, "Who are you?"
He admitted and did not deny it,
but admitted, "I am not the **CHRIST**."
So they asked him,
"What are you then? Are you **ELIJAH**?"
And he said, "I am not."
"Are you the **PROPHET**?"
He answered, "No."
So they said to him,
"Who are you, so we can give an answer to those
who sent us?"

What do you have to say for yourself?"
He said:
"I am the **VOICE** of one crying out in the
DESERT,
'make **STRAIGHT** the way of the Lord,'
as **ISAIAH** the prophet said."
Some **PHARISEES** were also sent.
They asked him,
"Why then do you **BAPTIZE**
if you are not the Christ or Elijah or the Prophet?"
John answered them,
"I baptize with **WATER**;
but there is one among you whom you do not
recognize,
the one who is coming after me,
whose **SANDAL STRAP** I am not worthy to
untie."
This happened in **BETHANY** across the Jordan,
where John was baptizing.

Gospel text: Lectionary for Mass (USCCB), Third Sunday of Advent.

FROM THE CATECHISM

564. How are the saints guides for prayer?

The saints are our models of prayer. We also ask them to intercede before the Holy Trinity for us and for the whole world. Their intercession is their most exalted service to God's plan. In the communion of saints, throughout the history of the Church, there have developed different types of spiritualities that teach us how to live and to practice the way of prayer.

Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, Q. 564