



†
J.M.J.

Ephesus Notes



A Catholic Newsletter Dedicated to Our Lady of Ephesus

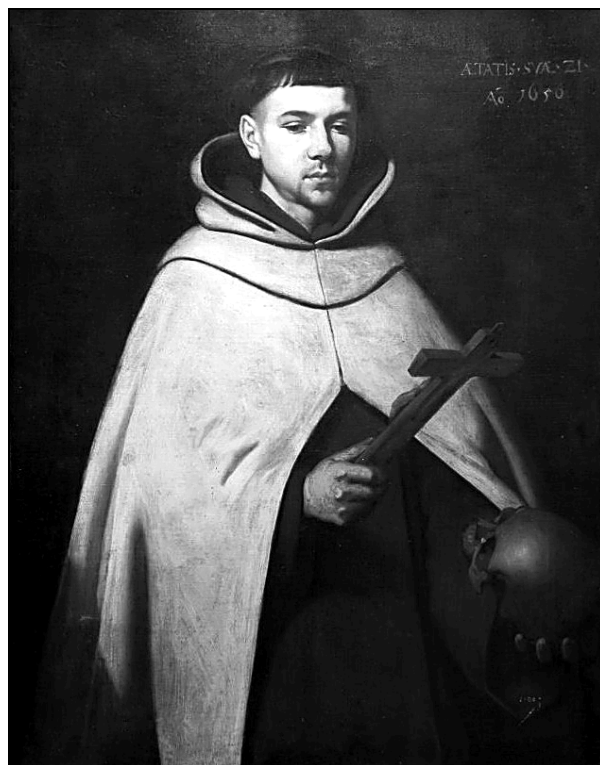
A free publication designed by Fr. F. Gruber for the needs of the elderly. Prepared with the help of Grok. ©2026 Archives available at www.mothersforpriests.org/ephesus-notes

VOLUME 4 · ISSUE 58 MONDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2026 MONTH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

TODAY'S SAINT

December 14: St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church.

St. John of the Cross was born near Ávila, Spain, in 1542 and grew up in poverty. A Carmelite, he joined St. Teresa of Jesus in reforming the order. In December 1577 friars opposed to the reform carried him off and locked him in a tiny cell in Toledo for nine months, where he composed much of his *Spiritual Canticle*. He later wrote *The Dark Night* and *The Living Flame of Love*. He died at Úbeda in 1591.



St. John of the Cross, attributed to Francisco de Zurbarán (1656)

CATHOLIC TRIVIA

Q: How did St. John of the Cross escape from his prison cell in Toledo?

A: At night, down a rope made from strips of his blankets.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"At the evening of life, we shall be judged on our love."

—*St. John of the Cross, Sayings of Light and Love (64); Catechism 1022*

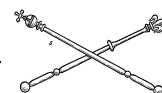
FROM THE LITANY OF HUMILITY

O Jesus! meek and humble of heart, Hear me.
From the desire of being esteemed, Deliver me,
Jesus. ... That others may be loved more than I,
Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.

(St. Lucy Prayer Book)

Mary, our light, Pray for us.

Recommended Prayer Brochure: H01 Litany of Humility



Daily Gospel Word Find Puzzle

(Matthew 21:23-27, December 14, 2026)

Find the all-capitalized words in bold print.

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

When Jesus had come into the **TEMPLE** area,
the **CHIEF PRIESTS** and the **ELDERS** of the

PEOPLE APPROACHED him
as he was **TEACHING** and said,
“By what **AUTHORITY** are you doing these
things?

And who gave you this authority?”

Jesus said to them in reply,

“I shall ask you one **QUESTION**, and if you
ANSWER it for me,
then I shall tell you by what authority I do
these things.

Where was **JOHN**’s **BAPTISM** from?

Was it of **HEAVENLY** or of **HUMAN**
ORIGIN?”

They **DISCUSSED** this among themselves
and said,

“If we say ‘Of heavenly origin,’ he will say to
us,

‘Then why did you not **BELIEVE** him?’

But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we **FEAR** the
CROWD,

for they all regard John as a **PROPHET**.”

So they said to Jesus in reply, “We do not
know.”

He himself said to them,

“Neither shall I tell you by what authority I
do these things.”

Gospel text: Lectionary for Mass (USCCB), Monday of the Third Week of Advent.

FROM THE CATECHISM

135. How will Christ judge the living and the dead?

Christ will judge with the power he has gained as the Redeemer of the world who came to bring salvation to all. The secrets of hearts will be brought to light as well as the conduct of each one toward God and toward his neighbor. Everyone, according to how he has lived, will either be filled with life or damned for eternity. In this way, “the fullness of Christ” (Ephesians 4:13) will come about in which “God will be all in all” (1 Corinthians 15:28).

Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, Q. 135