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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 59 TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2026 MONTH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

SAINT OF THE DAY

December 15: St. Virginia Centurione Bracelli (Roman Martyrology).

St. Virginia Centurione Bracelli was born to a noble family of Genoa in 1587. Married against her wishes and widowed at twenty, she gave herself to God and to the poor. In years of famine and plague she took homeless girls into her own house and founded the Sisters of Our Lady of Refuge on Mount Calvary. She died on December 15, 1651, and was canonized by St. John Paul II on May 18, 2003.



St. Virginia Centurione Bracelli, portrait

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"The LORD is close to the brokenhearted; and those who are crushed in spirit he saves."

—Psalm 34:19 (today's Psalm)

PRAYER TO THE CHILD JESUS TO OBTAIN SERENITY

Divine Child Jesus, You are the King of Peace; help me accept without bitterness the things I cannot change.

You are the Fortitude of the Christian; give me the courage to transform what I must improve in myself. You are Eternal Wisdom; teach me in all moments how I must act to please God more and be better to others. I implore You through the merits of Your childhood, Child Jesus, Who lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.

(Mothers for Priests brochure CJ1)

CATHOLIC TRIVIA

Q: At what age was St. Virginia Centurione Bracelli given in marriage?

A: At fifteen, to Gaspare Grimaldi Bracelli (1602).

FROM THE ROMAN MARTYROLOGY

✙ **St. Mary Crucified Di Rosa**,
foundress of the Handmaids of Charity at Brescia, who nursed the sick in the cholera of 1836.

Mary, Virgin most merciful, Pray for us.

Recommended Prayer Brochure: CJ1 Prayers to Child Jesus



Daily Gospel Word Find Puzzle

(Matthew 21:28-32, December 15, 2026)

Find the all-capitalized words in bold print.

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

Jesus said to the **CHIEF PRIESTS** and the **ELDERS** of the people:

“What is your **OPINION**?

A man had two **SONS**.

He came to the first and said,

‘Son, go out and work in the **VINEYARD** **TODAY**.’

The son said in reply, ‘I will not,’
but **AFTERWARDS** he **CHANGED** his
MIND and went.

The man came to the other son and gave the
same **ORDER**.

He said in reply, ‘Yes, sir,’ but did not go.
Which of the two did his **FATHER**’s will?”

They answered, “The first.”

Jesus said to them, “Amen, I say to you,
tax **COLLECTORS** and **PROSTITUTES**
are **ENTERING** the **KINGDOM** of God
before you.

When **JOHN** came to you in the way of
RIGHTEOUSNESS,
you did not **BELIEVE** him;
but tax collectors and prostitutes did.
Yet even when you saw that,
you did not **LATER** change your minds and
believe him.”

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

FROM THE CATECHISM

193. What can the consecrated life give to the mission of the Church?

The consecrated life participates in the mission of the Church by means of a complete dedication to Christ and to one’s brothers and sisters witnessing to the hope of the heavenly Kingdom.

Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, Q. 193