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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 62 FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2026 MONTH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

SAINT OF THE DAY

**December 18: St. Malachi,
Prophet (Roman
Martyrology).**

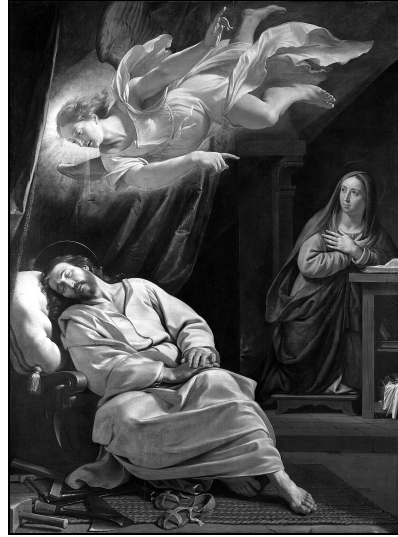
Malachi, whose name means “my messenger,” prophesied after the return from exile. He foretold: “Lo, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me” (Malachi 3:1), words the Gospels apply to St. John the Baptist.

Today’s Gospel tells how an angel told St. Joseph in a dream to take Mary his wife into his home.

CATHOLIC TRIVIA

Q: Malachi closes the Old Testament in Christian Bibles. Which book closes the Hebrew Bible?

A: Chronicles.



The Dream of St. Joseph, Philippe de Champaigne (c. 1642–43), National Gallery, London

QUOTE OF THE DAY

“O Leader of the House of Israel, giver of the Law to Moses on Sinai: come to rescue us with your mighty power!”

—Gospel Acclamation, December 18

PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH

O Guardian of virgins and father, Saint Joseph, to whose faithful custody Innocence itself, Christ Jesus, and Mary, Virgin of virgins, was committed; I pray and beseech thee by each of these dear pledges, Jesus and Mary, that, being preserved from all uncleanness, I may with spotless mind, pure heart, and a chaste body, ever serve Jesus and Mary most chastely all the days of my life. Amen.

(Mothers for Priests brochure SJ1)

Mary, Spouse of Saint Joseph, Pray for us.

Recommended Prayer Brochure: SJ1 Litany of Saint Joseph



Daily Gospel Word Find Puzzle

(Matthew 1:18-25, December 18, 2026)

Find the all-capitalized words in bold print.

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

This is how the **BIRTH** of Jesus Christ came about.

When his **MOTHER MARY** was **BETROTHED** to **JOSEPH**,

but before they lived together,
she was found with child through the **HOLY SPIRIT**.

Joseph her **HUSBAND**, since he was a **RIGHTEOUS** man,

yet **UNWILLING** to expose her to **SHAME**,
decided to **DIVORCE** her **QUIETLY**.

Such was his intention when, behold,
the **ANGEL** of the Lord appeared to him in a **DREAM** and said,

"Joseph, son of **DAVID**,
do not be **AFRAID** to take Mary your wife into
your home.

For it is through the Holy Spirit
that this child has been conceived in her.

She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus,
because he will save his people from their sins."

All this took place to fulfill

what the Lord had said through the **PROPHET**:

Behold, the **VIRGIN** shall be with child and bear
a son,

and they shall name him **EMMANUEL**,
which means "God is with us."

When Joseph awoke,

he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded
him

and took his wife into his home.

He had no relations with her until she bore a son,
and he named him Jesus.

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

FROM THE CATECHISM

98. What does the virginal conception of Jesus mean?

The virginal conception of Jesus means that Jesus was conceived in the womb of the Virgin solely by the power of the Holy Spirit without the intervention of a man. He is the Son of the heavenly Father according to his divine nature and the Son of Mary according to his human nature. He is, however, truly the Son of God in both natures since there is in him only one Person who is divine.

Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, Q. 98