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Ephesus Notes



A Catholic Newsletter Dedicated to Our Lady of Ephesus

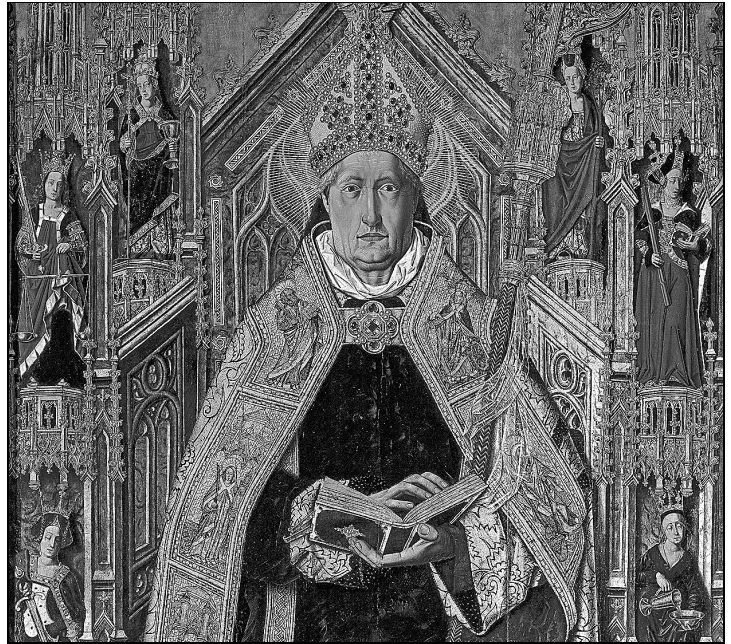
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VOLUME 4 · ISSUE 64 SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2026 MONTH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

SAINT OF THE DAY

December 20: Fourth Sunday of Advent; St. Dominic of Silos, Abbot (Roman Martyrology).

St. Dominic of Silos, born in Navarre around 1000, tended sheep as a boy before becoming a monk. As abbot he rebuilt the ruined monastery of Silos in Castile into a great house of prayer, learning and charity, and he ransomed Christians held captive by the Moors. He died in 1073. Bl. Joan of Aza prayed at his tomb before the birth of her son, St. Dominic, the founder of the Order of Preachers, who was named after him.



St. Dominic of Silos, Bartolomé Bermejo (c. 1474–77), Prado, Madrid (detail)

QUOTE OF THE DAY

“Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.”

—*Mary, Luke 1:38 (today's Gospel)*

THE ANGELUS (PRAYER)

Pour forth, we beseech Thee, O Lord, Thy grace into our hearts; that, we to whom the Incarnation of Christ, Thy Son, was made known by the message of an Angel, may by His Passion and Cross, be brought to the glory of His Resurrection through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

(St. Lucy Prayer Book)

CATHOLIC TRIVIA

Q: Until 1931, what was brought to the royal palace whenever a queen of Spain was in labor?

A: The abbot's staff of St. Dominic of Silos.

Mary, Spouse of the Holy Ghost, Pray for us.

Recommended Prayer Brochure: M01 Litany of Loreto



Sunday Gospel Word Find Puzzle

(Luke 1:26-38, December 20, 2026)

Find the all-capitalized words in bold print.

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

The **ANGEL GABRIEL** was sent from God to a town of **GALILEE** called **NAZARETH**, to a **VIRGIN** betrothed to a man named **JOSEPH**, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, "**HAIL**, full of **GRACE**! The Lord is with you." But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of **GREETING** this might be.

Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found **FAVOR** with God. "Behold, you will conceive in your **WOMB** and bear a son, and you shall name him **JESUS**. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the **THRONE** of David his father, and he will rule over the house of **JACOB** forever,

and of his kingdom there will be no end."

But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?" And the angel said to her in reply, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will **OVERSHADOW** you.

Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, **ELIZABETH**, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the **SIXTH MONTH** for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God." Mary said, "Behold, I am the **HANDMAID** of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your **WORD**." Then the angel departed from her.

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

FROM THE CATECHISM

546. How did the Virgin Mary pray?

Mary's prayer was characterized by faith and by the generous offering of her whole being to God. The Mother of Jesus is also the new Eve, the "Mother of all the living". She prays to Jesus for the needs of all people.

Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, Q. 546