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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 69 FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2026 MONTH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

TODAY'S SOLEMNITY

December 25: The Nativity of the Lord. A holy day of obligation.

The Son of God, born of the Virgin Mary at Bethlehem, became man so that we might share in His divine life. Every priest may celebrate three Masses today: at night, at dawn and during the day.

St. Anastasia, a martyr of Sirmium, is named in the Roman Canon; the Mass at Dawn was once celebrated at her church in Rome.

CATHOLIC TRIVIA

Q: Where did St. Francis of Assisi set up his famous Christmas crib in 1223?

A: At Greccio, in central Italy.



The Adoration of the Shepherds, Georges de La Tour (c. 1644), Louvre

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord."

—The angel to the shepherds, Luke 2:10-11 (today's Gospel)

GREETINGS TO THE CHILD JESUS (ST. GERTRUDE THE GREAT, PART)

Hail, most loving little Jesus, sweetest love, far above all created love! I greet Thee, and in the desires of all Christendom I embrace Thee.
Hail, most charming little Jesus, noble Child of Nazareth, full rose of Jericho, blooming flower from Heaven! Draw our hearts to Thyself and refresh them with Thy sweetness.

(Mothers for Priests brochure CJ2)

Mary, Holy Mother of God, Pray for us.

Recommended Prayer Brochure: CJ2 Greetings to Child Jesus Christmas



Daily Gospel Word Find Puzzle

(Luke 2:1-14, December 25, 2026)

Find the all-capitalized words in bold print.

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

In those days a **DECREE** went out from **CAESAR AUGUSTUS** that the whole world should be **ENROLLED**. This was the first enrollment, when **QUIRINIUS** was governor of **SYRIA**. So all went to be enrolled, each to his own town. And **JOSEPH** too went up from Galilee from the town of **NAZARETH** to Judea, to the city of David that is called **BETHLEHEM**, because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her **FIRSTBORN** son. She wrapped him in **SWADDLING** clothes and laid him in a **MANGER**, because there was no room for them in the **INN**. Now there were **SHEPHERDS** in that region living in the fields

and keeping the night watch over their **FLOCK**. The **ANGEL** of the Lord appeared to them and the **GLORY** of the Lord shone around them, and they were struck with great fear. The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a **SAVIOR** has been born for you who is Christ and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an **INFANT** wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest and on earth **PEACE** to those on whom his favor rests."

Gospel text: Lectionary for Mass (USCCB), The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas).

FROM THE CATECHISM

85. Why did the Son of God become man?

For us men and for our salvation, the Son of God became incarnate in the womb of the Virgin Mary by the power of the Holy Spirit. He did so to reconcile us sinners with God, to have us learn of God's infinite love, to be our model of holiness and to make us "partakers of the divine nature" (2 Peter 1:4).

Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, Q. 85