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Ephesus Notes



A Catholic Newsletter Dedicated to Our Lady of Ephesus

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VOLUME 4 · ISSUE 70 SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2026 MONTH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

TODAY'S SAINT

**December 26: St. Stephen,
the First Martyr.**

St. Stephen, one of the seven deacons chosen by the Apostles to serve the poor of Jerusalem, was “filled with grace and power” (Acts 6:8). Accused of blasphemy, he preached Christ to the Sanhedrin and saw the heavens opened. As they stoned him he prayed for his killers, while a young man named Saul held their cloaks. Saul became St. Paul.



St. Stephen, Carlo Crivelli (1476), National Gallery, London

QUOTE OF THE DAY

“Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” ... “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.”

—*St. Stephen, Acts 7:59-60*

PRAYER TO ST. STEPHEN

O glorious saint, faithful imitator of Jesus Christ martyr in will and in reality, so full of charity, zeal, love, and purity, deign to intercede for us poor exiles; you who are so high in the favor of God, we do entreat you to procure for us a little spark of that divine love which animated your heart, that we too one day may have the happiness of seeing our God face to face.

(Mothers for Priests brochure Jumbo Litany of Saint Stephen)

CATHOLIC TRIVIA

Q: Where were St. Stephen's relics found in 415?

A: At Caphar Gamala near Jerusalem, after a priest named Lucian was shown the place in a dream.

Mary, Support of Martyrs, Pray for us.

Recommended Prayer Brochure: Jumbo Litany of Saint Stephen



Daily Gospel Word Find Puzzle

(Matthew 10:17-22, December 26, 2026)

Find the all-capitalized words in bold print.

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

Jesus said to his disciples:

“**BEWARE** of men, for they will hand you over to **COURTS**

and **SCOURGE** you in their **SYNAGOGUES**, and you will be led before **GOVERNORS** and **KINGS** for my sake

as a **WITNESS** before them and the **PAGANS**.

When they hand you over, do not **WORRY** about how you are to **SPEAK** or what you are to say.

You will be given at that **MOMENT** what you are to say.

For it will not be you who speak but the **SPIRIT** of your **FATHER** speaking through you.

BROTHER will hand over brother to **DEATH**,

and the father his child;

CHILDREN will rise up against **PARENTS** and have them put to death.

You will be **HATED** by all because of my name,

but whoever **ENDURES** to the end will be **SAVED**.”

Gospel text: Lectionary for Mass (USCCB), Feast of Saint Stephen, First Martyr.

FROM THE CATECHISM

521. What is one's duty toward the truth?

Every person is called to sincerity and truthfulness in acting and speaking. Everyone has the duty to seek the truth, to adhere to it and to order one's whole life in accordance with its demands. In Jesus Christ the whole of God's truth has been made manifest. He is “the truth”. Those who follow him live in the Spirit of truth and guard against duplicity, dissimulation, and hypocrisy.

Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, Q. 521