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Ephesus Notes



A Catholic Newsletter Dedicated to Our Lady of Ephesus

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VOLUME 4 · ISSUE 71 SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2026 MONTH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

TODAY'S FEAST

December 27: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

Jesus spent nearly all His years on earth at home in Nazareth, "obedient" to Mary and Joseph (Luke 2:51), working, praying and growing in wisdom. The Holy Family is the model of every Christian home.

St. John, Apostle and Evangelist, whose feast usually falls today, gives way this year to the Sunday feast of the Holy Family.

CATHOLIC TRIVIA

Q: Which pope extended the feast of the Holy Family to the whole Church in 1921?

A: Pope Benedict XV.

FROM THE CATECHISM

457. What place does the family occupy in society?

The family is the original cell of human society and is, therefore, prior to any recognition by public authority. Family values and principles constitute the foundation of social life. Family life is an initiation into the life of society.

Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, Q. 457



The Holy Family with a Little Bird, Bartolomé Esteban Murillo (c. 1650), Prado, Madrid

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation."

—Simeon, Luke 2:29-30 (today's Gospel)

PRAYER IN HONOUR OF THE HOLY FAMILY

GRANT us, O LORD JESUS, faithfully to imitate the examples of Thy Holy Family, so that in the hour of our death, in the company of Thy glorious Virgin Mother and St. Joseph, we may deserve to be received by Thee into eternal tabernacles. O JOSEPH, virgin father of JESUS, most pure spouse of the Virgin Mary, pray for us daily to the SON of GOD, that, armed with the weapons of His grace, we may fight as we ought in life, and be crowned by Him in death.

(St. Lucy Prayer Book)

Mary, Queen of families, Pray for us.

Recommended Prayer Brochure: HF1 Holy Family Devotions



Sunday Gospel Word Find Puzzle

(Luke 2:22-40, December 27, 2026)

Find the all-capitalized words in bold print.

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

When the days were completed for their

PURIFICATION

according to the law of **MOSES**,

They took him up to **JERUSALEM**

to present him to the Lord,

just as it is written in the law of the Lord,

Every male that opens the womb shall be

consecrated to the Lord,

and to offer the sacrifice of

a pair of **TURTLEDOVES** or two young **PIGEONS**,

in accordance with the dictate in the law of the

Lord.

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name

was **SIMEON**.

This man was **RIGHTEOUS** and **DEVOUT**,

awaiting the **CONSOLATION** of Israel,

and the Holy Spirit was upon him.

It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit

that he should not see death

before he had seen the Christ of the Lord.

He came in the Spirit into the **TEMPLE**;

and when the parents brought in the child Jesus

to perform the custom of the law in regard to him,

He took him into his arms and **BLESSED** God,

saying:

“Now, Master, you may let your **SERVANT** go

in peace, according to your word,

for my eyes have seen your **SALVATION**,

which you prepared in sight of all the peoples,

a light for revelation to the **GENTILES**,

and glory for your people Israel.”

The child’s father and mother were amazed at what
was said about him;

and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his
mother,

“Behold, this child is destined

for the fall and rise of many in Israel,

and to be a sign that will be contradicted

—and you yourself a **SWORD** will pierce—

so that the thoughts of many hearts may be
revealed.”

There was also a prophetess, Anna,

the daughter of **PHANUEL**, of the tribe of **ASHER**.

She was advanced in years,

having lived seven years with her husband after her

marriage,

and then as a **WIDOW** until she was eighty-four.

She never left the temple,

but worshiped night and day with fasting and

prayer.

And coming forward at that very time,

she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child

to all who were awaiting the redemption of

Jerusalem.

When they had fulfilled all the prescriptions

of the law of the Lord,

they returned to Galilee,

to their own town of **NAZARETH**.

The child grew and became strong, filled with

WISDOM;

and the favor of God was upon him.