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J.M.J.

Ephesus Notes



A Catholic Newsletter Dedicated to Our Lady of Ephesus

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VOLUME 4 · ISSUE 72 MONDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2026 MONTH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

TODAY'S SAINTS

December 28: The Holy Innocents, Martyrs.

When the Magi did not return, King Herod ordered the killing of all the boys of Bethlehem two years old and under, hoping to destroy the newborn King. Since early times the Church has honored these little ones as martyrs, who died not only for Christ but in His place.



The Virgin and Child with the Holy Innocents, Peter Paul Rubens (c. 1618), Louvre

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"God is light, and in him there is no darkness at all."

—1 John 1:5 (today's first reading)

PRAYER TO THE DIVINE CHILD JESUS DURING DIFFICULT TIMES

Dear Divine Child Jesus: With my problems: Help me! From the enemies of my soul: Save me!
In my errors: Enlighten me! In my doubts and thoughts: Comfort me! In my solitude: Accompany me! In my illnesses: Strengthen me!
When I am scorned: Encourage me!
In temptations: Shield me! In hours of difficulty Console me! With Your Fatherly Heart: Love me!
With Your infinite power: Protect me!
And in your arms: Carry me! Amen.

(Mothers for Priests brochure CJ1)

CATHOLIC TRIVIA

Q: Which early Christian poet greeted the Holy Innocents as "Salvete, flores martyrum," "Hail, flowers of the martyrs"?

A: Prudentius (c. 400).

Mary, pierced with a sword, Pray for us.

Recommended Prayer Brochure: CJ1 Prayers to Child Jesus



Daily Gospel Word Find Puzzle

(Matthew 2:13-18, December 28, 2026)

Find the all-capitalized words in bold print.

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

When the **MAGI** had **DEPARTED**, behold,
the **ANGEL** of the Lord appeared to **JOSEPH**
in a **DREAM** and said,

“Rise, take the **CHILD** and his **MOTHER**,
FLEE to **EGYPT**,
and stay there until I tell you.

HEROD is going to search for the child to
DESTROY him.”

Joseph rose and took the child and his mother
by **NIGHT**

and departed for Egypt.

He stayed there until the death of Herod,
that what the Lord had said through the
prophet might be fulfilled,
Out of Egypt I called my son.

When Herod realized that he had been
DECEIVED by the magi,
he became **FURIOUS**.

He ordered the **MASSACRE** of all the **BOYS**
in **BETHLEHEM** and its vicinity
two years old and under,
in accordance with the time he had
ascertained from the magi.

Then was fulfilled what had been said
through **JEREMIAH** the prophet:

A voice was heard in **RAMAH**,
sobbing and loud lamentation;
RACHEL weeping for her children,
and she would not be consoled,
since they were no more.

Gospel text: Lectionary for Mass (USCCB), Feast of the Holy Innocents, Martyrs.

FROM THE CATECHISM

358. What is the root of human dignity?

The dignity of the human person is rooted in his or her creation in the image and likeness of God. Endowed with a spiritual and immortal soul, intelligence and free will, the human person is ordered to God and called in soul and in body to eternal beatitude.

Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, Q. 358