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Ephesus Notes



A Catholic Newsletter Dedicated to Our Lady of Ephesus

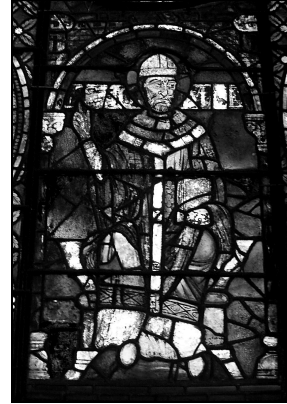
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VOLUME 4 · ISSUE 73 TUESDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2026 MONTH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

TODAY'S SAINT

December 29: St. Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr.

St. Thomas Becket, born in London around 1118, became chancellor and close friend of King Henry II. Made Archbishop of Canterbury in 1162, he changed his way of life and defended the freedom of the Church against the king. After six years of exile in France he came home, and on December 29, 1170, four knights killed him in his cathedral at the hour of Vespers. He was canonized in 1173.



St. Thomas Becket, medieval stained glass, Canterbury Cathedral

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"For the name of Jesus and the protection of the Church I am ready to embrace death."

—St. Thomas Becket's last words, as told by Edward Grim

JESUS, HELP ME! (PART)

In every need let me come to You with humble trust, saying, Jesus, help me! In all my doubts, perplexities, and temptations, Jesus, help me!

In hours of loneliness, weariness and trials, Jesus, help me! ... Always, in weakness, falls and shortcomings of every kind, Jesus, help me and never forsake me.

(St. Lucy Prayer Book)

CATHOLIC TRIVIA

Q: Which famous book of tales follows pilgrims riding to St. Thomas Becket's shrine?

A: Geoffrey Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*.

FROM THE ROMAN MARTYROLOGY

✠ **King David**, prophet, whose house God chose and from whose line Christ was born according to the flesh.

Mary, Mirror of Justice, Pray for us.

Recommended Prayer Brochure: LK2 Luke chapter 2.1



Daily Gospel Word Find Puzzle

(Luke 2:22-35, December 29, 2026)

Find the all-capitalized words in bold print.

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

When the days were completed for their

PURIFICATION

according to the **LAW** of **MOSES**,
the **PARENTS** of Jesus 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:

“Lord, now let your servant go in peace;
your word has been fulfilled:

my own eyes have seen the **SALVATION**
which you prepared in the sight of every people,
a light to reveal you to the **NATIONS**
and the **GLORY** of 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.”

Gospel text: Lectionary for Mass (USCCB), The Fifth Day in the Octave of Christmas.

FROM THE CATECHISM

429. How does the Church nourish the moral life of a Christian?

The Church is the community in which the Christian receives the Word of God, the teachings of the
“Law of Christ” (Galatians 6:2), and the grace of the sacraments. Christians are united to the
Eucharistic sacrifice of Christ in such a way that their moral life is an act of spiritual worship; and they
learn the example of holiness from the Virgin Mary and the lives of the Saints.

Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, Q. 429