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Ephesus Notes

A Catholic Newsletter Dedicated to Our Lady of Ephesus

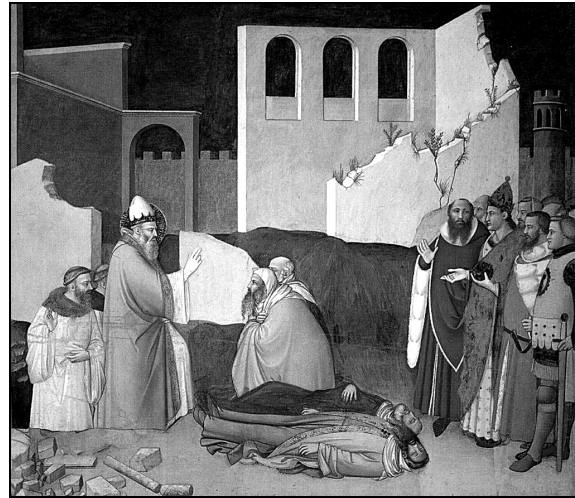
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VOLUME 4 · ISSUE 75 THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2026 MONTH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

TODAY'S SAINT

December 31: Pope St. Sylvester I.

St. Sylvester I was pope from 314 to 335, just after Emperor Constantine gave the Church freedom. In his time the first great basilicas of Rome were built, among them St. John Lateran and the first St. Peter's, and the Council of Nicaea (325) proclaimed that the Son is "consubstantial with the Father." He was one of the first saints honored who was not a martyr.



Pope St. Sylvester's Miracle, Maso di Banco (c. 1340), Santa Croce, Florence (detail)

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"From his fullness we have all received, grace in place of grace."

—John 1:16 (today's Gospel)

ACTS OF PRAISE IN HONOR OF THE MOST BLESSED TRINITY (PART)

I venerate and glorify Thee, O Most Blessed Trinity, in union with that ineffable glory with which God the Father, in His omnipotence, honors the Son and the Holy Spirit forever. Glory be ... I magnify and bless Thee, O Most Blessed Trinity, in union with that most reverent glory with which God the Son in His unsearchable wisdom, glorifies the Father and the Holy Spirit forever. Glory be ...

(St. Lucy Prayer Book)

CATHOLIC TRIVIA

Q: What is New Year's Eve called in Germany, Austria and Poland?

A: "Silvester" (in Poland, "Sylwester"), after today's saint.

FROM THE ROMAN MARTYROLOGY

✠ **St. Catherine Labouré**,
Daughter of Charity, to whom
Our Lady showed the Miraculous
Medal in Paris in 1830.

Mary, Mother of good counsel, *Pray for us.*

Recommended Prayer Brochure: IW1 Litany of the Incarnate Word

Daily Gospel Word Find Puzzle

(John 1:1-18, December 31, 2026)

Find the all-capitalized words in bold print.

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

In the **BEGINNING** was the **WORD**,
and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.
He was in the beginning with God.
All things came to be through him,
and without him nothing came to be.
What came to be through him was **LIFE**,
and this life was the **LIGHT** of the human race;
the light **SHINES** in the **DARKNESS**,
and the darkness has not **OVERCOME** it.
A man named **JOHN** was sent from God.
He came for **TESTIMONY**, to testify to the light,
so that all might believe through him.
He was not the light,
but came to testify to the light.
The true light, which enlightens everyone, was
coming into the **WORLD**.
He was in the world,
and the world came to be through him,
but the world did not know him.
He came to what was his own,
but his own people did not accept him.
But to those who did accept him

he gave power to become **CHILDREN** of God,
to those who believe in his name,
who were born not by natural generation
nor by human choice nor by a man's decision
but of God.
And the Word became **FLESH**
and made his **DWELLING** among us,
and we saw his **GLORY**,
the glory as of the Father's only-**BEGOTTEN** Son,
full of **GRACE** and **TRUTH**.
John testified to him and cried out, saying,
"This was he of whom I said,
'The one who is coming after me ranks ahead of me
because he existed before me.'"
From his **FULLNESS** we have all received,
grace in place of grace,
because while the law was given through **MOSES**,
grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.
No one has ever seen God.
The only-begotten Son, God, who is at the Father's
side,
has **REVEALED** him.

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

FROM THE CATECHISM

556. What is the prayer of praise?

Praise is that form of prayer which recognizes most immediately that God is God. It is a completely disinterested prayer: it sings God's praise for his own sake and gives him glory simply because he is.

Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, Q. 556