Reading for HOLY INNOCENTS, MARTYRS 28.12

**Reading 1, *First John 1:5-2:2***

5 This is what we have heard from him and are declaring to you: [God](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=5217) is light, and there is no darkness in him at all. 6 If we say that we share in God's [life](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=7101) while we are living in darkness, we are lying, because we are not living the truth. 7 But if we live in light, as he is in light, we have a share in another's life, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from all sin. 8 If we say, 'We have no sin,' we are deceiving ourselves, and [truth](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=11728) has no place in us; 9 if we acknowledge our sins, he is trustworthy and upright, so that he [will](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=12332) forgive our sins and [will](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=12332) cleanse us from all evil. 10 If we say, 'We have never sinned,' we make him a liar, and his word has no place in us. 1 My children, I am writing this to prevent you from sinning; but if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, [Jesus](https://www.catholic.org/clife/jesus) Christ, the upright. 2 He is the [sacrifice](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=10284) to expiate our sins, and not only ours, but also those of the whole world.

**Responsorial Psalm, *Psalms 124:2-3, 4-5, 7-8***

2 if [Yahweh](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=6291) had not been on our side when people attacked us, 3 they would have swallowed us alive in the heat of their anger.

4 Then water was washing us away, a torrent running [right](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=10046) over us; 5 running [right](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=10046) over us then were turbulent waters.

7 We escaped like a bird from the fowlers' net. The net was broken and we escaped; 8 our help is in the name of Yahweh, who made [heaven](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=5593) and earth.

**Gospel, *Matthew 2:13-18***

13 After they had left, suddenly the [angel](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=774) of the [Lord](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=5217) appeared to [Joseph](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=6477) in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother with you, and escape into Egypt, and stay there until I tell you, because [Herod](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=5721) intends to search for the child and do away with him.' 14 So [Joseph](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=6477) got up and, taking the child and his mother with him, left that night for Egypt, 15 where he stayed until [Herod](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=5721) was dead. This was to fulfil what the [Lord](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=5217) had spoken through the prophet: I called my son out of Egypt. 16 Herod was furious on realising that he had been fooled by the wise men, and in [Bethlehem](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=1846) and its surrounding district he had all the male [children](https://www.catholic.org/shopping/?category=28) killed who were two years old or less, reckoning by the date he had been careful to ask the wise men. 17 Then were fulfilled the words spoken through the [prophet](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=9674) Jeremiah: 18 A voice is heard in Ramah, lamenting and weeping bitterly: it is [Rachel](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=9810) weeping for her children, refusing to be comforted because they are no more.