

February 5, 2021

Good Morning All,

First Friday Adoration following morning Mass at 8:30 AM.

Today we have reached the end of Catholic Schools Week. Please see the video which celebrates and gives thanks for our school and parish community!

Music - Here I Am Lord ~<https://youtu.be/AHflmpmnel>~

1. Today's Readings: [Memorial of Saint Agatha, Virgin and Martyr | USCCB](#)

2. ***The RE Corner with Jan Heithaus:*** Memorial of Saint Agatha, Virgin and Martyr
Facts about today's saint, St. Agatha, are few, but there are many legends attesting to her greatness. Agatha is the patron saint of bellfounders, breast cancer, against fire, rape victims, and wet nurses.

3. Quote of the Day:

A Morning Prayer

I believe, O God of all gods,
That Thou art the eternal Father of life:
I believe, O God of all gods,
That Thou are the eternal Father of love.

I believe, O Lord and God of the peoples,
That Thou art the creator of high heavens,
That Thou art the creator of the skies above,
That Thou art the creator of the oceans below,

I believe, O Lord and God of the peoples,
That Thou art He who created my soul and set its warp,
Who created my body from dust and from ashes,
Who gave to my body breath and to my soul its possession.

Father, bless to me my body,
Father, bless to me my soul,
Father, bless to me my life,
Father, bless to me my belief.

~~*The Celtic Tradition*~~

Source: *The Joy of the Saints*, Robert Llewelyn

St. Agatha, Pray for Us!

St. Joseph, Pray for Us!

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Saint Agatha



Icon of St. Agatha

Little is known about the life of St. Agatha; however, due to the torture and martyrdom she suffered for her Christian faith, she has been venerated as a saint since at least the 6th century. A Patron Saint for nurses, Agatha was recently named the patron saint of those battling breast cancer. Her willingness to sacrifice, strength of faith and tenacity to the will of God makes St. Agatha a beautiful and encouraging example for anyone touched by the anguish of fighting this diagnosis.

St. Agatha was from Catania, Sicily. Though her birth date is unknown, it is believed she died around 251 AD. According to legend, St. Agatha was born to a wealthy and powerful family in Sicily. As a young woman she refused any offers of marriage. She wanted to live the life of a virgin, consecrated to God. A young man, named Quintian, felt as though his high ranking would persuade St. Agatha to give in and marry him. When she refused him, he had her arrested and brought before the judge, who was Quintian himself. He threatened her with the sentence of torture and possibly death, thinking that this would make her give in to him. Her response was a prayer to God: "Jesus Christ, Lord of all, you see my heart, you know my desires. Possess all that I am. I am your sheep: make me worthy to overcome the devil."

Quintian decided her punishment would be to be sent to a brothel in order to get her to change her mind. After a month of being assaulted and humiliated in the brothel, St. Agatha was brought before Quintian again. He sent her to prison this time, hoping that would terrify her more than the brothel. St. Agatha continued to profess her faith in Jesus, so Quintian had her tortured. When she was refused medical treatment to nurse the wounds she had gotten from the torture, she was visited by a vision of St. Peter who had come to care for her. He healed her wounds completely, and the prison guards were frightened by the magnificent light glowing from her cell while he was with her. Again, St. Agatha was tortured, having her breasts cut off. After being tortured a final time, St. Agatha said her last prayer: "Lord, my Creator, you have always protected me from the cradle; you have taken me from the love of the world and given me the patience to suffer. Receive my soul." Following this prayer, St. Agatha died.

St. Agatha was buried in an underground basilica. During the 4th or 5th century this basilica was enlarged and embellished, and became known as the Abbey of St. Agatha, in Catania. In the 11th century, her body was discovered to be incorruptible. Parts of her body still exist today.

Early depictions of St. Agatha showed her holding a plate on which lie her severed breasts. It is said that people were mistaken and thought the plate contained loaves of bread which St. Agatha had been holding at the time of her death. Due to this belief, the tradition of blessing loaves of bread on the feast of St. Agatha began, and continues to this day.

St. Agatha is one of seven women, including the Blessed Virgin Mary, who is commemorated in the Canon of the Mass.

Source: Catholicsaintmedals.com