

SAINT AGATHAFeast Day: February 5th

St. Agatha, also known as Agatha of Sicily, is one of the most highly venerated virgin martyrs of the Catholic Church. It is believed that she was born around 231 in either Catania or Palermo, Sicily to a rich and noble family.

From her very early years, the notably beautiful Agatha dedicated her life to God. She became a consecrated virgin, a state in life where young women choose to remain celibate and give themselves wholly to Jesus and the Church in a life of prayer and service. That did not stop men from desiring her and making unwanted advances toward her.

However, one of the men who desired Agatha, whose name was Quintianus, because he was of a high diplomatic ranking, thought he could force her to turn away from her vow and force her to marry. His persistent proposals were consistently spurned by Agatha, so Quintianus, knowing she was a Christian during the persecution of Decius, had her arrested and brought before the judge. He was the Judge.

He expected her to give in to his demands when she was faced with torture and possible death, but she simply reaffirmed her belief in God by praying: "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." With tears falling from her eyes, she prayed for courage.

To force her to change her mind, Quintianus had her imprisoned - in a brothel. Agatha never lost her confidence in God, even though she suffered a month of assaults and efforts to get her to abandon her vow to God and go against her virtue. Quintianus heard of her calm strength and ordered that she be brought before him once again. During her interrogation, she told him that to be a servant of Jesus Christ was her true freedom.

Enraged, Quintianus sent her off to prison instead of back to the brothel, a move intended to make her even more afraid, but it was probably a great relief to her.

Agatha continued to proclaim Jesus as her Savior, Lord, Life and Hope. Quintianus ordered her to be tortured. He had her stretched on a rack to be torn with iron hooks, burned with torches, and whipped. Noticing Agatha was enduring all the torture with a sense of cheer, he commanded she be subjected to a worse form of torture, this evil man ordered that her breasts be cut off.

He then sent her back to prison with an order of no food or medical attention. But the Lord gave her all the care she needed. He was her Sacred Physician and protector. Agatha had a vision of the apostle, St. Peter, who comforted her and healed her wounds through his prayers.

After four days, Quintianus ignored the miraculous cure of her wounds. He had her stripped naked and rolled over naked over hot coals which were mixed with sharp shards.

When she was returned to prison, Agatha prayed, "Lord, my Creator, you have ever protected me from the cradle; you have taken me from the love of the world, and given me patience to suffer: receive now my soul." Agatha is believed to have passed into Heaven around the year 251.

St. Agatha is the patron saint of Sicily, Palermo, breast cancer patients, rape victims, wet nurses, and bellfounders. She is also considered to be a powerful intercessor when people suffer from fires.

Prayer: Saint Agatha, you suffered sexual assault and indignity because of your faith and purity. Help heal all those who are survivors of sexual assault and protect those women who are in danger. Amen

ANNOUNCED MASSES
February 2nd – 10th, 2019

Saturday 10:00 a.m..	Feb. 2nd	Presentation of the Lord Remy Manzo Pineda – RIP – by Jerry and Ofelia Roy
Saturday 4:30 p.m.	Feb. 2nd	Sunday Vigil Margarita Pasia – RIP – by Lemuel and Aliz Salazar & Family
Sunday 9:00 a.m.	Feb. 3rd	Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Constantino Lopez - RIP – by the family
11:00 a.m		Angelito Omictin – RIP – by the family
Monday	Feb. 4th	NO MASS
Tuesday 7:00 p.m.	Feb. 5th	Saint Agatha Jose J. Ponte – RIP – by Luis Ponte
Wednesday 9:00 a.m.	Feb. 6th	Saint Paul Miki and companions Emma Sysing – Fast Recovery – by Isabel Slama
Thursday 9:00 a.m.	Feb. 7th	Weekday Thanksgiving by Ruth Gaudreau
Friday 9:00 a.m.	Feb. 8th	Weekday Mellie Francisco – RIP – by Tony and family
Saturday 4:30 p.m.	Feb. 9th	Sunday Vigil Raymond Jack- For Spiritual Guidance
Sunday 9:00 a.m.	Feb. 10th	Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time All Living and Deceased Members of the Ponte and Melo families – by Luis Ponte
11:00 a.m.		Ernie Morelli – RIP – by Frances and the family

**Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed
through the mercy of God rest in peace.**

ENVELOPES FOR 2019 SUNDAY OFFERINGS

Envelopes for 2019 Sunday offerings are at the front of the Church. **PLEASE TAKE ONLY THE BOX WITH YOUR NAME AND NUMBER ON IT.** If you have never used the envelopes and wish to start, please ask for a new box at the Rectory or call (514) 747-4226 during office hours (9 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.) to register. **We request all users to please put your name and address on the first few envelopes for the New Year to ensure proper recording.** Thank you.

THE POPE ON LIFE

Every child who is born brings us God's smile and invites us to recognize that life is his gift, a gift to be welcomed with love and preserved with care, always and at every moment. God entrusts every child who is born to his parents: so how important is the family founded on marriage, the cradle of life and love! The House of Nazareth where the Holy Family lived is the model and school of simplicity, patience and harmony for all Christian families. I pray the Lord that your families too may be welcoming places where these little ones can not only grow in good health but also in faith and love for God.

- Pope Benedict XVI, January 7, 2007

HOLY HOUR



Silent adoration every Tuesday evening, following the 7:00pm mass (from 7:30pm to 8:30pm) Also, Adoration every Friday, following the 9:00am mass (from 9:30am to 10:30am). Come and spend some time with the Lord!

"Our Lord hears our prayers anywhere, but He has revealed to His servants that those who visit Him in the Eucharist will obtain a more abundant measure of grace." -- St. Alphonse Ligouri

THE FOOD BANK "OASIS"



Please remember to bring non-perishable food and leave them in the bins at the doors of the church...Thank you.