

St. Cecilia, Virgin, Martyr Feast Day – Nov. 22

Please join in the Memorial of our patron Saint.

Mass - Wednesday, November 22, 7:30 pm.

Cake and refreshments to follow.



St. Cecilia, a noble woman who lived in the second century, is one of the best known Roman martyrs. She is one of the few women noted in the Roman Canon of the mass by name.

The traditional story of St. Cecilia's life, written several centuries after her death, is a romantic tale.

St. Cecilia was a Christian from birth and as a young woman took a vow of chastity. Forced by her parents to marry a pagan Roman, Valerian, she is said to have “sung in her heart to the Lord” during her wedding ceremony. For this reason she is the patron saint of musicians.

On her wedding night, St. Cecilia told Valerian that an angel watched over her to protect her chastity. Valerian asked to see the angel. St. Cecilia told him to go the third milestone on the Via Appia and be baptized by Pope Urban I. Valerian did as she said. Following his baptism Valerian returned home and saw the angel standing beside St. Cecilia. After Valerian's baptism, his brother Tiburtius was also baptized. Valerian and Tiburtius took on the task of burying Christian martyrs until they were put to death by the Roman authorities.

**“sung in her heart
to the Lord”**

During her life St. Cecilia is said to have converted many people to Christianity and worked to make her home into a church. Following the executions of Valerian and Tiburtius, St. Cecilia was sentenced to death by steam vapors in her own bathhouse. She was left in her bathhouse overnight but did not die. The executioner then tried three times to cut off St. Cecilia's head unsuccessfully. St. Cecilia took three days to die and is said to have spent these days praising God.

Although the story of St. Cecilia's life has been romanticized, there is historic evidence to show that St. Cecilia, Valerian and Tiburtius existed and were buried in the Catacomb of Praetextatus on the Via Appia. Their relics were moved by Pope Paschal I (817-824) to St. Cecilia's church in the Trastevere quarter of Rome. St. Cecilia's feast day has been celebrated since the 4th century.