

contained in the martyrologies of the ninth century is drawn from the legend.

A second legend has a slightly different ending. After expiring at the hands of her executioner, Saint Bibiana's body was then put in the open air to be torn apart by wild animals, yet none would touch it. After two days she was buried. No mention is made as to who or where they buried the body of the Saint.

Children should try to follow the virtues of Saint Bibiana. They should pray for fidelity and patience, to see themselves through, all their trials and hardships. They should also not let the world's vain pleasures lure them in and distract them from their duty to God.

As Saint Bibiana prayed when she was in danger, Children should also pray much. They should especially pray to our Holy Mother, who will lead you to her Son and ensure your eternal salvation, if you are faithful to her.

*(excerpted from: www.sspc.ca; www.catholic.org)

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Saint Bibiana



ST. BIBIANA

BLESSED SAVIOR,
ST BIBIANA LOST EVERYTHING EXCEPT HER FAITH IN YOU. HER PARENTS AND SISTER WERE KILLED IN THE PERSECUTIONS AND HER POSSESSIONS WERE CONFISCATED. THE TRAGEDY ONLY INCREASED HER DESIRE TO RELY ON YOU, SO THE PAGANS KILLED HER, TOO. I ASK HER TO INTERCEDE FOR ALL THOSE I KNOW WHO ARE GRIEVING THE LOSS OF LOVED ONES, HOMES, JOBS, HEALTH, THE LOSS OF INNOCENCE THROUGH RAPE, OR THE LOSS OF SAFETY THROUGH OTHER FORMS OF ABUSE. COMFORT THEM AND FILL THEIR EMPTY HEARTS WITH YOUR TREMENDOUS LOVE, O LORD. DRAW THEM CLOSER TO YOU AND GIVE THEM COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS WHO MINISTER TO THEM IN THEIR SORROW. SAINT BIBIANA, PRAY FOR US. AMEN.

FEAST DAY
DECEMBER 2

Saint Bibiana

*Saint Bibiana was born in Rome and lived there all her life. She was the daughter of Christian parents, Flavian, a Roman knight, and Dafrosa, his wife. It was the time in Rome that persecutions against Christians was rampant. In the year 363, Julian the Apostate, made Apronianus Governor of Rome. Flavian, was arrested and tortured, burned in the face with a hot iron, and was banished to a place called Acquapendente, where he died of his wounds a few days later. Bibiana's mother, Dafraosa, was caught some time after and beheaded. Both Bibiana and her sister Demetria, were left alone in the world. They were stripped of their possessions and left to suffer greatly from poverty. However, they remained in their house, spending their time in fasting and prayer.

Apronianus, seeing that hunger and want had no affect upon them, summoned them to appear before him. Demetria, after being interrogated, made a public confession of her Faith and then immediately after, fell down and died at the foot of the tribunal, in the presence of the judge.

Saint Bibiana was reserved for greater sufferings. Apronianus then gave orders for Bibiana to be sent to a wicked woman named Ruffina, who in vain endeavored to bring Bibiana towards another way of thinking, but Bibiana, the Christian virgin, using prayer as her shield, remained faithful and was invincible, against the persuasions of Ruffina.

Apronianus was enraged at the courage and perseverance displayed by this young virgin. He ordered that she be tied to a pillar and whipped with scourges until she expired. The whip they used was loaded with leaden plummets at the ends, causing the skin to have even bigger gashes than from a normal whip. All through her scourging, Bibiana remained cheerful. She endured the torments with joy, and died under the blows inflicted by the hands of the executioner.

The earliest mention in an authentic historical authority of Saint Bibiana, a Roman Virgin and Martyr, occurs in the "Liber Pontificalis", where, in the biography of Pope Simplicius (468-483), it is stated that this pope, "consecrated a basilica of the holy martyr Bibiana, which contained her body, near the 'palatium Licinianum' " (ed. Duchesne, I. 249). The Basilica of Saint Bibiana still exists.

Two legends have arisen as to what happened to her body after her death. The first legend states that two days after her death, a priest named John, buried Bibiana near her mother and sister in her home, the house being later turned into a church. It is evident that the legend seeks to explain in this way the origin of the church and the presence in it of the bodies of the above mentioned confessors. The account