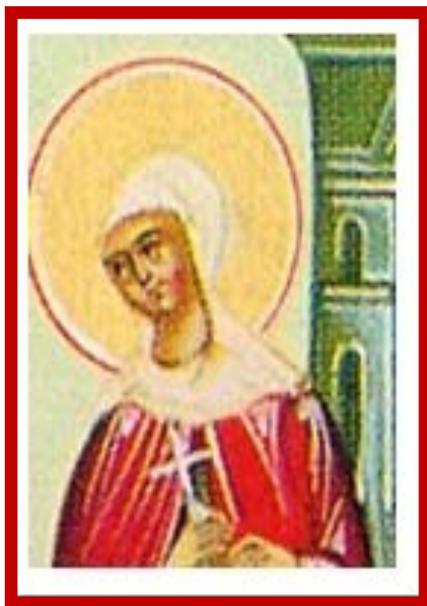


their house, which he attributes to no other among the twenty-five Christians whom he saluted, and were then in Rome. This agrees with the immemorial tradition at Rome, that Saint Peter consecrated an altar, and baptized there in an urn of stone, which is now kept in the church of Saint Prisca.

Aquila and Priscilla are still honored in this church, as titular patrons with our saint, and a considerable part of their relics lies under the altar. Aquila and Priscilla were tent makers, and lived at Corinth, when they were banished from Rome under Claudius. She who is called Priscilla in the Acts of the Apostles, the Epistles to the Romans, and first to the Corinthians, is named Prisca in the second to Timothy, as noted in the Roman Martyrology for the 18th of January.



* (excerpted from: www.bartleby.com; www.newadvent.org; www.antiochian.org)

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Saint Prisca Virgin and Martyr

Feast Day: January 18



Grant, we beseech Thee, almighty God that we, who venerate the birthday of blessed Prisca, Thy virgin and martyr, may both rejoice for her annual solemnity and profit by the example of so great faith.

Saint Prisca, Virgin and Martyr

* She was a child martyr of the early Roman Church, whose dates are unknown. Born to Christian parents of a noble Roman family. Prisca was raised during the reign of the Roman Emperor Claudius. While Claudius did not persecute those who believed in Christ with the same fervor as other Roman emperors, Christians still did not practice their faith openly. In fact, Prisca's parents went to great lengths to conceal their faith, and thus were not suspected of being Christians.

Prisca, however, did not feel the need to take precautions. The young girl openly professed her dedication to Christ, and eventually was reported to the emperor. Claudius had her arrested, and commanded that she make sacrifice to idols. Prisca refused and she suffered many torments for the Faith. Suddenly, a bright, yellow light shone about her, and she appeared to be a star.

Claudius ordered that Prisca be imprisoned, in the hopes that she would denounce Christ. When all efforts to change her mind failed, she was taken to the coliseum and

made to face a ferocious lion. Prisca stood before the lion without fear. The lion approached her and began to gently lick her feet. Prisca received a martyr's crown when the emperor ordered that she be beheaded with the sword.

The name Prisca or Priscilla is often mentioned by early authorities of the history of the Church of Rome. The wife of Aquila, the pupil of Saint Paul, bore this name. The grave of a martyr Prisca was venerated in the Roman Catacomb of Priscilla on the Via Salaria. Her relics are preserved in the ancient church which bears her name in Rome, and gives title to a cardinal.

She is mentioned in the sacramentary of Saint Gregory, and in almost all western Martyrologies. Saint Paul, in the last chapter of his epistle to the Romans, salutes Aquila, a person of Pontus, of Jewish extraction, and Priscilla, whom he and all churches thanked, because they had exposed themselves for his sake. He mentions the church which assembled in