

Saint Agatha of Sicily (231 AD – 251 AD) is a Christian saint and virgin martyr. Her memorial is on the 5th of February. **Agatha** was born in Sicily, and **martyred** in approximately 251.

What we know about Agatha is mostly legend.

From 205-253 the emperor (Emperor Trajanus Decius) conducted a series of anti-Christian campaigns.

Agatha was probably executed in one of those persecutions. The site of her martyrdom was probably Sicily.

St. Agatha's family lived in Sicily. They were very rich and important. Young, beautiful and rich, Agatha lived a life dedicated to God.

A Roman senator, listed as the prefect of the region, asked Agatha to marry him. When she refused, he retaliated by subjecting her to sexual indignities and torture, but she bravely resisted his advances. However, after imprisonment she was beaten and tortured to death. She died as a virgin and martyr.

Catania, Sicily is the location of the martyrdom as well as her birthplace.

She is the patron saint of Catania, Sicily.

Her intervention was credited with calming the eruption of Mount Etna the year after her burial, and people began to ask her for protection against fire.

A number of miracles have been attributed to her.

And people turn to her during natural disasters, earthquakes, and mountain eruptions.

She is the patroness of nursemaids, goldsmiths, blast furnace workers, miners, and weavers.

She was one of the most venerated virgins of the early Church and she became even more famous in the Middle Ages because of the miracles attributed to her in times of natural disasters.

She is one of seven women, who, along with the Blessed Virgin Mary, are commemorated by name in the one of the Eucharistic Prayers of the Mass.

She is also listed in two different Martyrologies.
(You may not be familiar with these books unless you spent time in a monastery, convent or seminary where it is customary to read a few paragraphs of a martyrology each day at meal time.)

Besides the martyrologies we find that two versions of her martyrdom were recorded in the early Church.

What is the meaning of the name Agatha?

The Latinized form of the Greek “agathos” means “good” and suggests a good heart.

We are not to confuse **our** St. Agatha with two others by the same name.

1. There is St Agatha (d.c.790), a nun at a Benedictine convent in England.
2. St. Agatha (d.1024) wife and model of patience.

May we imitate Agatha’s desire to belong wholly to Christ.

She is said to have prayed these words,

“You see my heart, you know my desires.

Possess all that I am – you alone.”

P S Did you know that the headquarters for the high-end sports car, **Lamborghini** is **Sant'Agata Bolognese**, which is a small [community](#) in the [Metropolitan City of Bologna](#) in northern [Italy](#).

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lamborghini>