

Feastday: August 11

Patron: of infants, babies, and youth

Birth: c. January 10, 291

Death: c. August 10, 304

Canonized: 1837

Little is known about the life of St. Philomena. However, it is believed she was a Greek princess who became a virgin martyr and died at 13-years-old.

Remains of a young lady were discovered in May 1802 at the Catacombs of Priscilla on the Via Salaria Nova with three tiles reading "Peace be to you, Philomena."

All that is known about St. Philomena's life comes from a Neapolitan nun's vision. Sister Maria Luisa di Gesu claims St. Philomena came to her and told her she was the daughter of a Greek king who converted to Christianity. When Philomena was 13-years-old, she took a vow of consecrated virginity.

After her father took his family to Rome to make peace, Emperor Diocletian fell in love with Philomena. When she refused to marry him, she was subjected to torture.

St. Philomena was scourged, drowned with an anchor attached to her, and shot with arrows. Each time she was attacked angels took to her side and healed her through prayer.

Finally, the Emperor had Philomena decapitated. According to the story, her death came on a Friday at three in the afternoon, the same as Jesus.

Two anchors, three arrows, a palm symbol of martyrdom, and a flower were found on the tiles in her tomb, interpreted as symbols of her martyrdom.

The nun's account states Philomena was born on January 10 and was killed on August 10.

Devotion for Philomena began to spread once her bones were exhumed and miracles began to occur. Canon Francesco De Lucia of Mugnano del Cardinale received relics of St. Philomena and had them placed in the Church of Our Lady of Grace in Mugnano, Italy.

Soon after her relics were enshrined, cancers were cured, wounds were healed and the Miracle of Mugnano, when Venerable Pauline Jaricot was cured of a severe heart issue overnight, were all attributed to St. Philomena.

Other Saints began to venerate Philomena and attributing miracles in their lives to the young martyr, including St. John Marie Vianney and St. Peter Louis Marie Chanel.

Although controversy sometimes surrounds the truth behind St. Philomena's life and sainthood, many believers all around the world continue to see her as a miraculous saint, canonized in 1837.

St. Philomena is the patron saint of infants, babies, and youth. She is often depicted in her youth with a flower crown, a palm of martyrdom, arrows, or an anchor. Her feast day is celebrated on August 11.

Chaplet of Saint Philomena

This chaplet consists of a medal, 3 white beads and 13 red beads.

On the medal say the **Apostle's Creed** to ask for the grace of faith.



On **each of the white beads** say an Our Father in honor of the three Divine Persons of the Blessed Trinity in thanksgiving for all favors obtained through her intercession.

On **each of the 13 red beads** that commemorate the thirteen years that St. Philomena spent on earth, say the following prayer:

**“Hail, O holy St. Philomena,
whom I acknowledge, after Mary,
as my advocate with the Divine Spouse,
intercede for me now
and at the hour of my death.**

**St. Philomena,
beloved daughter of Jesus and Mary,
pray for us who have recourse to thee.**

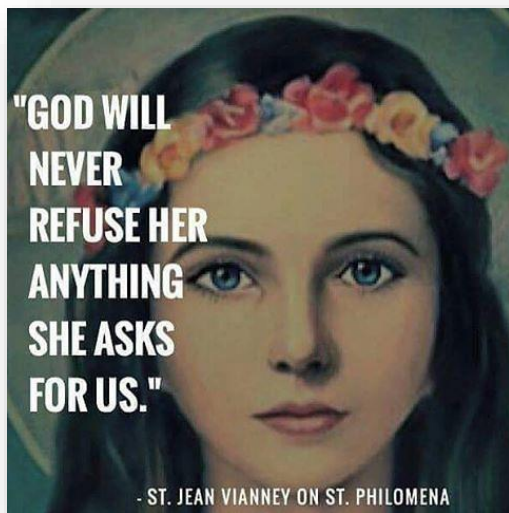
Amen”



In conclusion say:

**“Hail, O illustrious St. Philomena,
who shed so courageously your blood for Christ!
I bless the Lord for all the graces
He has bestowed upon thee during thy life,
and especially at thy death.
I praise and glorify Him
for the honor and power with which
He has crowned thee,
and I beg thee to obtain for me from God
the graces I ask through thy intercession.”**

[State your intention here...]



Read more: Chaplet of Saint Philomena <https://www.powerfulcatholicprayers.com/chaplet-of-saint-philomena/#ixzz6UjHxuJG0>