



Patron Saint: Firefighters, Those who fear death by Water; Floods; City of Linz; Country of Poland

Florian was born in 250 AD in Cetium, what is now Austria. As a young man he joined the Roman army and proved to have the makings of quickly climbing the ranks. The emperor at the time—Diocletian—recognized his dedication and ability to work well with people, and appointed Florian to a high administrative post in Noricum, now part of Austria. In addition to his military duties, he was also responsible for organizing and leading firefighting brigades. Florian organized and trained an elite group of soldiers whose sole duty was to fight fires. This was critical because much of the city buildings were built of wood - The fire brigades would be divided into companies of about 50 men and stationed throughout the city. Their responsibilities would include constant patrol throughout the city to watch for small fires that could be more easily contained. When a fire was found, the brigades organized bucket lines from the nearest public fountain to carry the water to the blaze. The work was dangerous and hard, and required daily vigilance.



During the reign of Emperor Diocletian (303 AD – 313AD), the rise of the Christian doctrine was not tolerated – it's considered the most severe persecution of Christians. Anyone proclaiming to be a Christian was sought out and punished by being put in prison or to death. The only way Christians could be spared prison or death, is if they were willing to renounce their religion and offer sacrifice to the Roman gods or emperor.

As an official working under the Emperor, St. Florian was expected to carry out his duties persecuting Christians in the areas he commanded. St. Florian refused.

Angered that he was being disobeyed, the emperor sent one of his assistants, Aquilius, to speak to Florian. When Aquilius asked Florian why he wasn't fulfilling

his orders, Florian replied, "Tell the Emperor that I am a Christian and will suffer the same fate as the Christians." Stunned by Florian's confession, Aquilius tried to entice Florian into abandoning his faith by offering him a promotion. Florian would not be swayed. In retaliation, Aquilius ordered that Florian be whipped and beaten. In response, Florian expressed that he wouldn't mind enduring a "few scratches" for his faith and personal beliefs.

Becoming angered and fearful that Florian would convince other Christians to rebel against him and the emperor, Aquilius ordered his soldiers to burn Florian to death. When Florian surrendered himself to Aquilius' soldiers, he stood on the pyre (structure made of wood) with confidence. Rather than being fearful for his impending death, Florian challenged the soldiers to go ahead and light the fire, saying, "If you do, I will climb to heaven on the flames." Irritated, Aquilius decided not to burn Florian, but instead ordered him to be scourged and drowned by throwing him into the Enns River with a rock tied around his neck.



Florian's body was recovered and buried by a faithful Christian lady. Later his remains were taken to the Augustinian Abbey of St. Florian near the present day city of Linz, Austria.

In 1138 King Casimir of Poland and the Bishop of Cracow requested that some of St. Florian's relics be taken to the city of Cracow. Since that time St. Florian has been considered a patron saint of Poland, along with his patronage of the city of Linz. There were many miracles reported through his intercession.

In his iconography, St. Florian is pictured in the uniform of a Roman officer holding a picture of water dousing flames. Other images show him wearing a rope attached to a massive stone wheel to indicate how he was martyred.

There are several reasons why it's believed Saint Florian earned the title of patron saint of fire and firefighters: legend says that during his life, St. Florian put out a massive fire with only one bucket of water, saving a village from ruin. St. Florian is often depicted in artwork pouring water from a bucket or small vessel. Many years after St. Florian's death, a man said he was saved from a deadly fire when he called on St. Florian, begging for his intercession.

<https://catholicsaintmedals.com/saints/st-florian/>

<https://www.catholicfaithstore.com/daily-bread/st-florian-how-he-became-patron-saint-of-firefighters/>



The Chaplet of St. Florian

Opening Prayer on the Crucifix: (Prayer for Firefighters)

Oh, Almighty God, whose great power and eternal wisdom embraces the universe, watch over all Firefighters. Protect them from harm in the performance of their duty to fight fire, save lives, and preserve property. We pray, help them to keep our homes and all buildings safe day and night. We recommend them to Your loving care because their duty is dangerous. Grant them Your unending strength and courage in their daily assignments. Dear God, protect these brave persons. Grant them Your Almighty protection and unite them safely with their families after duty has ended. Amen.

Bead One: Dear Lord, we thank You for giving us St. Florian as an example of holiness. Help us to imitate the virtue he showed in refusing to carry out the evil commands of his superior. Pray for me, that I may always hold fast to my Faith. Pray that I may fight valiantly for God, as you did. *Our Father...*

Bead Two: Dear Lord, we thank You for giving us St. Florian as an example of holiness. Help us to imitate the virtue he showed in his courageous work protecting others from fires. Pray for me, that I may grow in my love of others and my commitment to God. Pray that I may love God more deeply each day. *Hail Mary...*

Bead Three: Dear Lord, we thank You for giving us St. Florian as an example of holiness. Help us to imitate the virtue he showed in refusing to unjustly punish Christians on account of their Faith. Pray for me, that I may hold fast to my Faith amidst all trials, as you did. Pray that I may never waver in my Faith, no matter what sufferings I might endure on account of my love for Christ. *Glory Be...*

Bead Four: Dear Lord, we thank You for giving us St. Florian as an example of holiness. Help us to imitate the virtue he showed in opposing the persecution of Christians. Pray for me, that I may be strong in my Faith even when practicing it becomes very difficult. Pray that I may be ready even to die for my Faith if necessary. *Our Father...*

Bead Five: Dear Lord, we thank You for giving us St. Florian as an example of holiness. Help us to imitate the virtue he showed in standing firm against the unjust rulers of his society. Pray for me, that I may always place

my Faith above all worldly considerations. Pray that I may never waver in holding fast to my Faith amidst all trials. *Hail Mary...*

Bead Six: Dear Lord, we thank You for giving us St. Florian as an example of holiness. Help us to imitate the virtue he showed in choosing to do what was right, no matter how difficult. Pray for me, that I may have the fortitude to do what is right in my life, no matter how difficult it might be. Pray that I may never waver in my commitment to doing what is right. *Glory Be...*

Bead Seven: Dear Lord, we thank You for giving us St. Florian as an example of holiness. Help us to imitate the virtue he showed in choosing to confess his Faith publicly, despite the sufferings he knew he would face. Pray for me, that I may be as devoted to God as you were. Pray that I may never falter in my Faith, no matter what sufferings I might face. *Our Father...*

Bead Eight: Dear Lord, we thank You for giving us St. Florian as an example of holiness. Help us to imitate the virtue he showed in courageously confessing the Christian Faith and giving up his life for God. Pray for me, that I may be courageous in my practice of the Faith. Pray that I may be ready and willing to give up even my life for my Faith if necessary. *Hail Mary...*

Bead Nine: Dear Lord, we thank You for giving us St. Florian as an example of holiness. Help us to imitate the virtue he showed in choosing to join your Church in the midst of Christian persecution. Pray for me, that I may hold fast to my Faith, no matter the cost. Pray that I may unwaveringly serve God and His Church each day. *Glory Be...*

Closing Prayer on the Medal:

(Prayer Recited by Firefighters)

Dear God, through the intercession of our patron, Saint Florian, have mercy on the souls of our comrades who have made the supreme sacrifice in the performance of their duty, and on all who have gone before us after years of faithful discharge of their responsibilities which now rest on ourselves. Give us Grace to prepare each day for our own summons to Thy tribunal of justice.

Into Thy hands, O Lord, I commend my Spirit, wherever Thou callest me, I am ready to go. Merciful Father of all men, save me from all bodily harm, if it be thy will, but above all, help me to be loyal and true, respectful and honorable, obedient and valiant. Thus fortified by virtue, I shall have no fear, for I shall then belong to Thee and shall never be separated from Thee. Amen.

Read more at: <https://www.praymorenovenas.com/st-florian-novena>