

Cecilia, Virgin and Martyr: Third Century

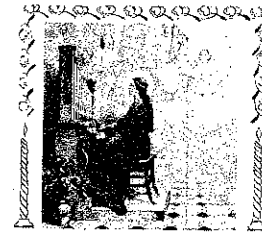
(November 22-Memorial)

Much of the knowledge about Cecilia is based on tradition. We do know, however, that a strong devotion to St. Cecilia began toward the end of the fifth century. Cecilia (of Cecily) was born in Rome, the daughter of patrician parents, and was raised as a Christian. When of a suitable age, she was married against her will to Valerian. After their marriage, she converted Valerian and his brother, Tiburtius, to Christianity.

Valerian and Tiburtius devoted themselves to good works until they were arrested by the Roman prefect Almachius. They were martyred, together with Maximus, a Roman official who had been so impressed by their witness to Christ that he too became a Christian. These three martyrs are also saints. Cecilia buried the three and was, in turn, arrested and called upon to renounce her faith. Instead she converted the people who came to convince her to sacrifice to the Roman gods. Pope Urban visited her in her home while she was awaiting trial and baptized more than four hundred converts who were influenced by Cecilia.

When Cecilia was called into court, Almachius tried to convince her to give up her beliefs. Unable to shake her faith, he sentenced her to death by suffocation. When her death in this manner was miraculously prevented, a soldier was sent to behead her. The soldier struck her neck three times, then left her for dead. Legend tells us that Cecilia lived for three days following her beheading and, in that time, turned her house over to the pope to be used as a church. Gordian, a high ranking Roman official who was one of Cecilia's converts, established the church in her house which Pope Urban later dedicated in her name.

St. Cecilia is the patroness of musicians and singers and is often portrayed with an organ or viola.



St. Mary's Catholic School

The Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB) is pleased to announce the implementation of French Immersion Programming at St. Mary Catholic School for September 2018. Registration will begin in January 2018.

The gradual implementation of French Immersion at St. Mary will begin with establishing one French Immersion Kindergarten class in September 2018, in addition to continuing to provide English programming across all grades for families who do not wish to participate in French Immersion. This will ensure balanced growth within the school community over the coming eight years as French Immersion expands through the grades at St. Mary, so that by 2026 French Immersion will be available to students from Kindergarten through to Grade 8. Students in the English program stream will continue to receive daily instruction in Core French from Grade 1 through to Grade 8.

Should you have any questions about the implementation of French Immersion at St. Mary, please contact the school office at 416.393.5205.

You are invited to share this news with families in your neighborhood who may be seeking French Immersion education for their children in the TCDSB and invite them to contact the admissions department for information about registration in January.