

Saint of the Week

for November 18

Although our saint for Thanksgiving week is one of the most famous of the Roman martyrs, the authenticity of the various stories about her cannot be completely traced. The earliest documented history was found on a piece of an inscription in the late fourth century that refers to a church named after her. The Church began celebrating her feast around 545 AD.

According to legend, our saint of the week was a young Christian of high rank engaged to a Roman named Valerian. Valerian converted to Christianity through her influence and was martyred along with his brother. Our saint met a similar end after being struck three times on the neck with a sword, although she lived for three days (remind you of anything?) and asked the pope to convert her home into a church.

Since the time of the Renaissance Era (1300—1600 AD) she has usually been portrayed with a viola or a small organ.

She is the Patron Saint of Musicians! Below is a replica of a sculpture from a church in the Trastevere section of Rome.

