

May 12, 2021

Good Morning All,

**Remember no Adoration today due to some minor construction in the**

**Church.** 

1. Today's Readings: <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/051221.cfm>

2. The RE Corner with Jan Heithaus: Today we celebrate the optional memorials for 3 early saints in the universal calendar, Saints Nereus, Achilles and Pancras. They have been honored together on this day since the fourth century.

3. Quotes of the Day:

~ "A Christian is - a mind through which Christ thinks, a heart through which Christ loves, a voice through which Christ speaks and a hand through which Christ helps." *St. Augustine*

~ "If you wish to walk securely and be certain of your salvation, if you aspire to a great crown in Heaven that will never fade, love and honor Mary, and strive to make her known, loved, and honored by others". *St. Joseph Cafasso*

***Sts. Nereus, Achilleus, Pancras, Pray for Us!***

***Blessed Mother Mary, Pray for Us!***

***St. Joseph, Pray for Us!***

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## St. Nereus, Achilleus and Domitilla

It was under the persecution of Domitian, during which John the Evangelist was condemned to be burned alive in the cauldron of boiling oil, that Flavia Domitilla was honored with banishment and death for the sake of our Redeemer, whom she had chosen for her Spouse. She was of the imperial family, being a niece of Flavius Clemens, who adorned the consular dignity by martyrdom. She was one of the Christians belonging to the court of the Emperor Domitian, who show us how rapidly the religion of the poor and humble made its



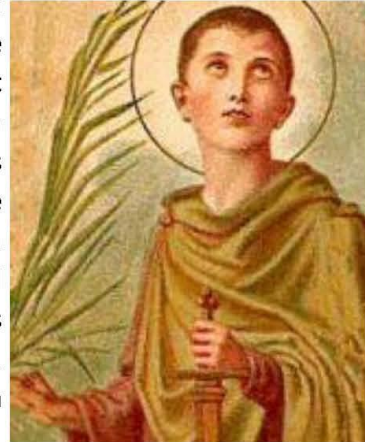
way to the highest classes of Roman life. A few years previous to this, St Paul sent to the Christians of Philippi the greetings of the Christians of Nero's palace. There is still extant, not far from Rome, on the Ardeatine Way, the magnificent subterranean cemetery which Flavia Domitilla ordered to be dug on her praedium, and in which were buried the two martyrs, Nereus and Achilleus, whom the Church honors today together with the noble virgin who owes her crown to them. Nereus and Achilleus were in Domitilla's service. Hearing them one day speaking of the merit of virginity, she there and then bade farewell to all worldly pleasures, and aspired to the honor of being the Spouse of Christ. She received the veil of consecrated virgins from the hands of Pope St Clement: Nereus and Achilleus had been baptized by St Peter himself.

The bodies of these three Saints reposed, for several centuries, in the Basilica, called the Fasciola, on the Appian Way; and we have a Homily which St Gregory the Great preached in this Church on their feast. The holy Pontiff dwelt on the vanity of the earth's goods; he encouraged his audience to despise them by the example of the three martyrs whose relics lay under the very altar around which they were that day assembled. "These Saints," said he, "before whose tomb we are now standing, trampled with contempt of soul on the world and its flowers. Life was then long, health was uninterrupted, riches were abundant, parents were blessed with many children; and yet, though the world was so flourishing in itself, it had long been a withered thing in their hearts." - Excerpted from *The Liturgical Year*, Abbot Gueranger O.S.B.

**Symbols:** Two posts and lions; fire; two swords.

## St. Pancras

Pancratius was the descendant of a noble Phrygian family. As a youth of fourteen, he came to Rome while Diocletian and Maximian were in power (about 304). He was baptized by the Pope and given instructions in the Christian religion. Arrested for his action, he steadfastly refused to sacrifice to the pagan gods and was condemned to death. With manly courage, he bared his neck for the sword and received the martyr's crown. During the night, his body was removed by the pious matron Octavilla, anointed with sweet smelling balsam and interred on the Via Aurelia.



Pancratius is the patron saint of fidelity to oaths. The basilica that Pope Symmachus erected over his remains about the year 500 later became a station church (since 1798 his relics have been lost). On the first Sunday after Easter the saint exhorted the catechumens gathered at his station church to remain loyal to their baptismal vows. The saint warns us to proceed slowly and prudently before taking an oath or vow. But once our word is given we must remain true to our pledge, true unto death itself, whether it concerns baptismal vows, ordination vows, profession vows, or marriage vows. - Excerpted from *The Church's Year of Grace*, Pius Parsch

**Symbols:** Sword and stone; armor; Saracen crown under his feet.

**Patron:** Against false witness; against perjury; children; cramps; headaches; fidelity to oaths; treaties.

*Source: catholicculture.org*