

Daily Parish Communication

September 19, 2022

Good Morning All,

Today - Pictures for the Parish Directory at the parish office.

Tomorrow - Joseph Pearce discussion on Catholicism of *The Lord of the Rings*
Church at 7:00PM

1. Today's Readings: [Monday of the Twenty-fifth Week in Ordinary Time | USCCB](#)

2. The RE Corner with Jan Heithaus: St. Januarius is not a well-known saint, except for when the relic of his blood can liquify even to this day. The first article gives some information about his life. The other describes what we should know about his blood liquifying. One of the many interesting mysteries in the Church.

3. Quote of the Day: *St. Augustine*

"It makes no difference, Augustine says, whether God works his miracles directly, or through the martyrs in heaven, or through holy men on earth, or through angels. God is still ultimately responsible for the miracle; "what is said to be done by the martyrs is done not by their operation, but only by their prayer and request."

St. Januarius, Pray for Us!

St. Joseph, Pray for Us!

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Everything You Need to Know About the Miracle of Liquefaction of the Blood of St. Januarius



Pope Francis and Cardinal Sepe hold relic of St. Januarius' blood in Naples cathedral March 21, 2015. | CTV.

On Sept. 19th, the Catholic Church celebrates the feast of St. Januarius, bishop, martyr, and patron saint of Naples, Italy. Traditionally, on this day and on two other occasions a year, his blood, which is kept in a glass ampoule in the shape of a rounded cruet, liquifies. According to documentation cited by the Italian media Famiglia Cristiana, the miracle has taken place since at least 1389, the first instance on record.

Here are the key facts:

1. The Blood Is Kept In Two Glass Ampoules.

The dried blood of St. Januarius, who died around 305 A.D., is preserved in two glass ampoules, one larger than the other, in the Chapel of the Treasury of the Naples Cathedral.

2. The Liquefaction Is A Miracle

The Church believes that the miracle takes place in response to the dedication and prayers of the faithful. When the miracle occurs, the mass of reddish dried blood, adhering to one side of the ampoule, turns into completely liquid blood, covering the glass from side to side.

3. The Blood Traditionally Liquefies Three Times a Year.

The saint's blood traditionally liquefies three times a year: in commemoration of the transfer of his remains to Naples (the Saturday before the first Sunday in May); on his liturgical feast (Sept. 19), and on the anniversary of the eruption of nearby Mount Vesuvius in 1631 when his intercession was invoked, and the city was spared from the effects of the eruption (Dec. 16).

4. The Liquefaction Can Take Days.

The liquefaction process sometimes takes hours or even days, but sometimes it doesn't happen at all. Normally, after a period that can range from two minutes to an hour, the solid mass turns red and begins to bubble.

The ampoules, which contain a dark solid mass, are enclosed in a reliquary that is held up and rotated sideways by a priest to show the blood has liquified. This is usually done by the Archbishop of Naples while the people pray.

According to the Italian Catholic magazine *Famiglia Cristiana*, the reliquary with the ampoules remains on view for the faithful for eight days, during which they can kiss it while a priest turns it to show that the blood is still liquid. Then it is returned to the safety vault and locked away inside the Chapel of the Treasury of the Cathedral.

5. The Faithful Venerate The Relic Every Year.

With the exclamation: "The miracle has happened!" the people approach the priest holding the reliquary to kiss the relic and sing the "Te Deum" in thanksgiving.

6. There Is No Scientific Explanation.

Several investigations have already been conducted in the past to find a scientific explanation that answers the question of how something solid can suddenly liquefy, but none has been satisfactory so far.

7. The Liquefaction Does Not Always Occur.

When the blood doesn't liquefy, the Neapolitans take it as an omen of misfortune.

The blood did not liquefy in September 1939, 1940, 1943, 1973, 1980, nor in December 2016 and 2020.

The relic also remained solid the year Naples elected a communist mayor, but it spontaneously liquefied when the late Archbishop of New York, Cardinal Terence Cooke, visited the St. Januarius shrine in 1978.

8. The Blood Has Liquefied In The Presence Of Some Popes.

In 2015, while Pope Francis was giving some advice to the religious, priests, and seminarians of Naples, the blood liquefied again.

The last time the liquefaction occurred before a pontiff was in 1848 with Pius IX. It did not happen when John Paul II visited the city in October 1979 or in the presence of Benedict XVI in October 2007.

Source: catholicnewsagency.com

St. Januarius

Little is known of the life of Januarius, and what follows is mostly derived from later Christian sources, such as the *Acta Bononensia* (BHL 4132, not earlier than 6th century) and the *Acta Vaticana* (BHL 4115, 9th century), and from later folk traditions.

Legend



Ribera, *Saint Januarius Emerges Unscathed from the Furnace*, Naples Cathedral

According to various hagiographies, Januarius was born in Benevento to a rich patrician family that traced its descent to the Caudini tribe of the Samnites. At a young age of 15, he became local priest of his parish in Benevento, which at the time was relatively pagan. When Januarius was 20, he became Bishop of Naples and befriended Juliana of Nicomedia and Saint Sossius whom he met during his priestly studies. During the 1+¹/₂-year-long persecution of Christians by Emperor Diocletian, he hid his fellow Christians and prevented them from being caught. Unfortunately, while visiting Sossius in jail, he too was arrested. He and his colleagues were condemned to be thrown to wild bears in the Flavian Amphitheater at Pozzuoli, but the sentence was changed due to fear of public disturbances, and they were instead beheaded at the Solfatara crater near Pozzuoli. Other legends state either that the wild beasts refused to eat them, or that he was thrown into a furnace but came out unscathed.

History

The earliest extant mention of him is contained in a 432 letter by Uranius, bishop of Nola, on the death of his mentor Saint Paulinus of Nola, where it is stated that the ghosts of Januarius and Saint Martin appeared to Paulinus three days before

the latter's death in 431. About Januarius, the account says only that he was "bishop as well as martyr, an illustrious member of the Neapolitan church". The Acta Bononensia says that "At Pozzuoli in Campania [is honored the memory] of the holy martyrs Januarius, Bishop of Beneventum, Festus his deacon, and Desiderius lector, together with Sossius deacon of the church of Misenum, Proculus, deacon of Pozzuoli, Eutyches, and Acutius, who after chains and imprisonment were beheaded under the emperor Diocletian".

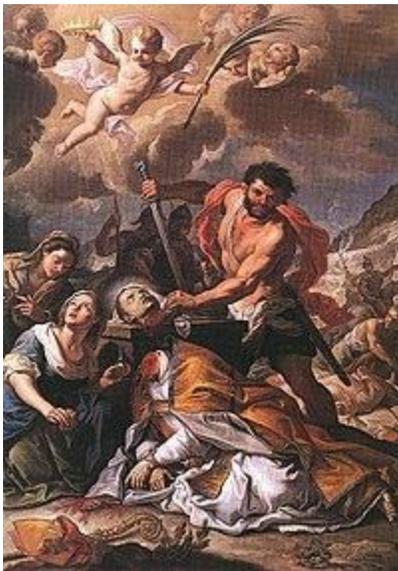
Celebrations



San Gennaro procession in Naples, 1631

The Feast of St Januarius or San Gennaro is celebrated on 19 September in the calendar of the Catholic Church. In the Eastern Church, it is celebrated on 21 April.^[8] The city of Naples has more than fifty official patron saints, although its principal patron is Saint Januarius.

In the United States, the "Feast of San Gennaro" is also a highlight of the year for New York's Little Italy, with the saint's polychrome statue carried through the middle of a street fair stretching for blocks.



Martyrdom of Saint Januarius by Girolamo Pesce



The Martyrdom of St Januarius, by Artemisia Gentileschi (1636)

Relics

According to an early hagiography, Januarius's relics were transferred by order of Saint Severus, Bishop of Naples, to the Neapolitan catacombs "outside the walls" (*extra moenia*). In the early ninth century the body was moved to Beneventum by Sico, prince of Benevento, with the head remaining in Naples. Subsequently, during the turmoil at the time of Frederick Barbarossa, his body was moved again, this time to the Territorial Abbey of Montevergine where it was rediscovered in 1480.

At the instigation of Cardinal Oliviero Carafa, his body was finally transferred in 1497 to Naples, where he is the city's patron saint. Carafa commissioned a richly decorated crypt, the *Succorpo*, beneath the cathedral to house the reunited body and head properly. The *Succorpo* was finished in 1506 and is considered one of the prominent monuments of the High Renaissance in the city.

Source: catholic.org