

The feast day of Saint Romanus is August 9. The origin of Feast Days: most saints have specially designated feast days and are associated with a specific day of the year and these are referred to as the saint's feast day. The feast days first arose from the very early Christian custom of the annual commemoration of martyrs on the dates of their deaths at the same time celebrating their birth into heaven.

REFLECTION: We are bound to glorify God by our lives, and Christ commands that our good works shine before men. It was the usual saying of the apostle Saint Matthias, "The faithful sins if his neighbor sins." Each one of us should have zeal to instruct and edify his neighbor, by example first of all, and by words when fitting. * (excerpted from: www.catholic-saints.info; www.magnificat.ca; www.bartleby.com)

COLLECT

God all-powerful, through the intercession of
Your Martyr St. Romanus,
protect our bodies against the dangers of life
and keep all rebellious thoughts out of our minds.

This we ask of You
through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son,
who lives and reigns with You
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever.

Amen.

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Saint Romanus

Feast Day: August 9



Saint Romanus, pray for us.

SAINT ROMANUS

*Saint Romanus was a soldier in the legion of emperor Valerian in Rome, at the time of the arraignment and interrogation of Saint Lawrence. Seeing the joy and constancy and the absolute silence of that holy martyr during his first torments, he could not understand how a creature of flesh and blood could be thus tormented without opening his mouth to complain. He was moved to embrace the Faith, and at that very moment, he beheld beside the Saint a young man of incomparable grace and beauty, who was wiping away the perspiration of the martyr's face and the blood of his wounds. Addressing himself to Saint Lawrence, still on the rack, he asked to become a Christian. The Saint was untied and imprisoned, and later was able to respond to the pressing request of the soldier, who brought him in prison the water for his baptism.

Saint Romanus was summoned before the tribunal, for everyone soon learned of his conversion. He said fearlessly and joyfully, there as he had said elsewhere, "I am a Christian!" He was condemned and beheaded immediately, the day before the martyrdom of Saint Lawrence, on August 9, 258. The body of Saint Romanus was buried by a priest in a cavern on the road to Tibur, but his remains were translated to Lucca, where they are kept under the high altar of a beautiful church which bears his name. Saint Romanus is mentioned on this day in the Antiphony of Saint Gregory, and in ancient Martyrologies.

The example of the martyrs and other primitive saints, by the powerful grace of God, had not less force in converting infidels than the most evident miracles. Saint Justin observed to the heathens, that many of them by living among Christians, and seeing their virtue, if they did not embrace the faith, at least were worked into a change of manners, were become meek and affable, from being overbearing, violent, and passionate. By observing the patience, constancy, and contempt of the world which the Christians practiced, had learned themselves some degree of those virtues.

Thus are we bound to glorify God by our lives, and Christ commands that our good works shine before men. Saint Clement of Alexandria tells us, that it was the usual saying of the apostle Saint Matthias: "The faithful sins if his neighbor sins." Such ought to be the zeal of every one to instruct and edify his neighbor by word and example. But woe to us on whose hearts no edifying examples or instructions, even of saints, make an impression! And still more dreadful woe to us who by our lukewarmness and scandalous lives are to others an odor not of life, but of death, and draw the reproaches of infidels on our holy religion and its divine author!