

SAINT FLORIAN OF LORCH “Florianus, m. Lauriaci”

Where the heat of fire burns and sin and strife grow, St. Florian comes to help and saves us from the force of the wave.

Death:	304 AD
Name day:	May 4
Patron of:	Fire fighters, potters, blacksmiths, chimney sweeps, brewers, coopers, masons, miners, worshipped also as a protector against drought, fire, floods and crop failures
Attributes:	Armour, home, pot, millstone, banner, crown, cross, sword, eagle, fire, flame, pennant, river, bucket, water
Life story:	<p>Florian was born in Cetia, later changed to Zeiselmauer (today St. Pöllten) near present-day Vienna. In the 3rd century, it was part of Noricum, a territory annexed by the Roman Empire. Florian became a prominent officer in the Roman army and an administrator of the province, based in Lauriacum (today's Enns in Austria). At that time, Rome was ruled by Diocletian, a well-known and cruel persecutor of the Christians to whom Florian belonged. Thus he ended up in the Lorch court, where he wanted to free the Christians serving in his army, and fearlessly professed his faith. Emperor's commissioner Aquilinus sentenced him to death. In his defence, Florian stated: “Serving in the army, I worshipped God secretly. I will be obedient in military matters, but as a Christian I will not be forced to deny Christ and worship dead idols.” Legend describes his double flogging, which failed to break his allegiance or weaken his love. Therefore, his torturers peeled the skin off his back and tore off pieces of flesh. Eventually, a heavy millstone was tied to his neck. He stood with it around his neck for a long time on a bridge over the Enns River near the Roman fortress Lauriacum (Lorch). The legionaries refused to carry out the verdict and threw their former commander into the river. But in the end, he was thrown from the bridge into the river, where he drowned. Florian's dead body was washed up on a rock and guarded by an eagle so that neither pagans, nor predators could desecrate it. A brave woman named Valerie, a widow of Linz, found the body and buried it on her farm where the today's town of Sankt Florian is located. Florian was later canonized for his martyrdom. Parts of the relics of St. Florian are also found in our country, for instance in the Cathedral of St. Vitus in Prague, in Saint Wenceslas Cathedral in Olomouc and in Havlíčkův Brod. A millstone pulled out of the Enns River is still exhibited in the crypt of the monastery church of St. Florian near Linz. In medieval folklore, Florian became a protector against floods and drought, crops failures, storms and fire (due to his death in water).</p>

Almighty and merciful God. You gave Saint Florian the strength and courage to pass the trials of life. Help us, who respectfully honour him as our patron, so that with Your help we too can stand wherever we, as fire fighters, risk our health and life for the good of our neighbours in saving their lives, health and property. Please give us the strength to change the things we can change and help us always carry the weight of the lives we have failed to save. We ask this through Your Son Jesus Christ, our Lord, for He lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit for all ages. Amen



CZ



EN



DE



FR



RU