

SAINT AGNES

Located in the Sacristy

St. Agnes was twelve years of age when she was faced with sacrificing to the gods and renouncing her virginity. Neither tortures nor promises could change her mind or her practice of Christian faith. She would not marry a pagan Roman as “It is an insult to my heavenly Spouse.”

She was led through the streets to a brothel and her nudity was protected by hair that grew miraculously long enough to cover her body. Her virtue was miraculously preserved by an angel.

She was martyred between the years 254 and 304 A.D., by sword since flames would not devour her.

She is now considered the patroness of chastity.

Symbols:

In art Saint Agnes is represented with a lamb, probably because of the similarity of “angus” with “Agnes”.

The archiepiscopal pallium is made from the wool of two lambs which are blessed each year in her basilica on January 21, her feast day.

The lamb of purity expresses innocence, gentleness, and purity; and symbolizes temperance, prudence, and chastity.

Saint Agnes is frequently depicted with long, flowing hair, with a sword at her side and flowers at her feet.

The figure of Saint Agnes is depicted in the middle window of the Sacristy.

The window to the left contains a white rose and a red rose. The white rose is a symbol of purity and the red rose a symbol of martyrdom.

The window to the right contains two birds. They represent the soul or the spirit.

