

Kids' Connection

This Month We Learn About

Saint Florian

Who was he?

Florian was born in what is now Austria in 250 AD. He became a Roman soldier, and eventually became a commander in the imperial army for Rome. He was known for being a firefighter and leading brigades of soldiers to stop fires. When Christians were being persecuted, Florian did not take part. He was found out and told to sacrifice to Roman gods to atone. When he refused, he was ordered to be burned. Some stories say he was burned, while others say that in his defiance, Florian said he would climb the flames to heaven.

Instead, he was weighted with a stone and drowned. His remains were eventually recovered and buried at a monastery.

interesting facts

- The word "Florian" has become interchangeable for the word "firefighter" in German.
- Many Catholic families in Bavaria and Austria name their sons after Florian as a sign of protection from fire.
- Florian is the patron saint of firefighters, drowning, chimney sweeps, brewers and Austria. He is often invoked against fire, flood and lightning.
- St. Florian's cross is used in firefighters' medals across the country.

Word Find

AUSTRIA	DROWNING	MARTYR
BRIGADES	FIREFIGHTER	POLAND
CHIMNEYSWEEPS	FLORIAN	PROTECTOR
COMMANDER	FLORIAN CROSS	SOLDIER

C F R A H M R G O U O F F S J
E H C E A R N H A B I G L E J
S K I R D I H I S R X J O D I
E A T M N N N Y E Y V G R A T
N Y U W N V A F X Q F S I G C
R V O S X E I M N C O O A I Z
V R A K T G Y S M Y U L N R T
D W H Q H R B S T O L D C B W
I H I T F N I D W G C I R A Q
N K E B L R O A H E C E O Y A
A R O T C E T O R P E R S Q G
F L O R I A N V M Q I P S I D
D N A L O P R R P V E K S R X
L T Q J D I A X O C R L Z G M
L Z O U F R T T R J O B E E K

