

presented to certain archbishops. On the Feast of Saint Agnes, two lambs are traditionally brought from the Trappist Abbey of Tre Fontane in Rome to the pope to be solemnly blessed. The wool from these lambs is then used to make a pallium which the pope himself wears.

The pallium, once specific to the pope, is a vestment bestowed upon metropolitans and primates as a symbol of their jurisdiction over Christ's "flock," granted by the Holy See. It is a scarf-like band of wool cloth that sits on the shoulders on top of the chasuble. It is decorated with six black crosses, one on each tail and four on the loop, and is garnished with three jeweled gold pins. From the front or back, the pallium resembles the letter 'Y.'

\*(excerped from: [www.aquinasandmore.com](http://www.aquinasandmore.com); [//holyfamilyrockford.com](http://holyfamilyrockford.com))



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## ***Saint Agnes of Rome***

**Feast Day: January 21**



**Patron saint of engaged couples**

## ***Saint Agnes of Rome***

\*Saint Agnes of Rome was born in the year 292 or 293 AD. Her name in Latin means "lamb." It also means "pure" in Greek. Agnes has always been held in the highest honor by the Church. Along with the Blessed Virgin Mary and seven other women, she is commemorated by name in the Canon of the Mass.

Saint Agnes is also known as Ynez or Ines. It is uncertain in which period of persecution she was killed. It was either the Diocletian period around the year 304, or, during the persecution period of Decius. Her family was connected to nobility and Agnes was raised a Christian. She was still young when she consecrated her virginity to God.

There are differing accounts of how her martyrdom occurred. Some early writings merely mention the girl's young age (either 12 or 13 at her death) and purity and the method of her execution. However, some accounts expound

on the details-- that it was after either a voluntary declaration of Christian Faith or a refusal to marry the son of an important Roman prefect that Agnes was condemned to die.

She was sentenced to be raped first, but according to tradition, no man was able to look or come near her without being struck blind and she was executed still a virgin. When soldiers' attempt to burn her failed because the wood would not light, Agnes was executed by the sword. She was either stabbed or beheaded, and, was buried under the Via Nomentanain in Rome.

Saint Agnes is the patron saint of engaged couples, chastity, crops, gardeners, girls, rape victims, and virgins. She is remembered both in the Western and Eastern Catholic Churches.

The Feast of Saint Agnes is also connected to the pallium, a vestment worn by the pope and also