



## Saint Lawrence of Rome

**Born:** at Huesca, Spain

**Died:** cooked to death on a gridiron on 10 August 258 in Rome, Italy, tradition says that the ashes of his burned body were dispersed by the winds, and appear at different places around the world on his feast day, buried in the cemetery of Saint Cyriaca on the road to Tivoli, Italy, tomb was later opened by Pelagius to inter the body of Saint Stephen the Martyr, his mummified head is enshrined at the Quirinal Chapel of the Vatican Apostolic Library in Rome, other relics and the gridiron believes to have been his deathbed are enshrined in the crypt of the Basilica of San Lorenzo Outside the Walls, Rome, his garments are enshrined in Our Lady's Chapel in the Lateran Palace, Rome

**Patronage:** against fire, against lumbago, archives, archivists, armories, armourers, brewers, butchers, chefs, cooks, comedians, comediennes, comics, confectioners, cutlers, deacons, glaziers, laundry workers, librarians, libraries, paupers, poor people, restauranteurs, schoolchildren, students, seminarians, stained glass workers, tanners, vine growers, vintners, wine makers, Ceylon, Sri Lanka, 38 cities and dioceses.

Also known as Laurence, Laurent, Laurentius, Lorenço, Lorenzo

Third-century archdeacon of Rome, distributor of alms, and "keeper of the treasures of the church" in a time when Christianity was outlawed. On 6 August 258, by decree of Emperor Valerian, Pope Saint Sixtus II and six deacons were beheaded, leaving Lawrence as the ranking Church official in Rome. While in prison awaiting execution Sixtus reassured Lawrence that he was not being left behind; they would be reunited in four days. Lawrence saw this time as an opportunity to disperse the material wealth of the church before the Roman authorities could lay their hands on it. On 10 August Lawrence was commanded to appear for his execution, and to bring along the treasure with which he had been entrusted by the pope. When he arrived, the archdeacon was accompanied by a multitude of Rome's crippled, blind, sick, and indigent. He announced that these were the true treasures of the Church. Martyr. Lawrence's care for the poor, the ill, and the neglected have led to his patronage of them.

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His work to save the material wealth of the Church, including its documents, brought librarians and those in related fields to see him as a patron, and to ask for his intercession. And his incredible strength and courage when being grilled to death led to his patronage of cooks and those who work in or supply things to the kitchen. The meteor shower that follows the passage of the Swift-Tuttle comet was known in the middle ages as the "burning tears of Saint Lawrence" because they appear at the same time as Lawrence's feast.