

dreams and needs. Saint Scholastica is obviously one of those who learned the lesson of her own helplessness.

Saint Scholastica is usually depicted in art as a habited nun, holding a crozier and crucifix, with her brother. Sometimes she may be shown (1) with Saint Justina of Padua, with whom she is confused though Justina was never a nun; (2) receiving her veil from Saint Benedict; (3) her soul departing her body like a dove; (4) with a dove at her feet or bosom; or kneeling before Saint Benedict's cell.

She is the patroness of Monte Cassino and all Cassinese communities. She is invoked against storms.

\*(excerpted from: [//www.saintbenedict.org](http://www.saintbenedict.org))

**\*\***Louis of Granada, treating on the perfection of the love of God, mentions the miraculous storm obtained by Saint Scholastica to show with what excess of goodness God is always ready to hear the petitions and desires of his servants. The short prayer by which St. Scholastica gained this remarkable victory over her brother, who was one of the greatest saints on earth, was doubtless no more than a single act of her pure desires, which she continually turned toward, and fixed on, her Beloved. By placing herself, as a docile scholar, continually at the feet of the Divine Majesty, who filled all the powers of her soul with the sweetness of his heavenly communications, she learned that sublime science of perfection in which she became a mistress to so many other chaste souls by this divine exercise. Her life in her retirement, to that happy moment which closed her mortal pilgrimage, was a continued uniform contemplation, by which all her powers were united to and transformed into God.

\*\* (excerpted from: [www.sehs.org](http://www.sehs.org))

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## ***Saint Scholastica***

Feast Day February 10th



O God, to show us where innocence leads,  
you made the soul of your virgin Saint Scholastica  
soar to heaven like a dove in flight.  
Grant through her merits and her prayers that we may so live  
in innocence as to attain to joys everlasting.  
This we ask through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with You,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, forever and ever.  
Amen. ([www.saintbenedict.org](http://www.saintbenedict.org))

## Saint Scholastica

\*Saint Scholastica was born in Nursia, Italy, (c. 480); and she died near Monte Cassino, Italy, (c. 543). Almost everything we know about Saint Scholastica comes from the Dialogues of Saint Gregory the Great. She was the twin sister of Saint Benedict of Nursia who founded the Benedictine order. Scholastica was consecrated to God at a very early age but probably continued to live in her parents home. It is said that she was as devoted to Jesus as she was to her brother. So, when Benedict established his monastery at Monte Cassino, Scholastica founded a convent in nearby Plombariola, about five miles south of Monte Cassino. The convent is said to have been under the direction of her brother, thus she is regarded as the first Benedictine nun.

The siblings were quite close. The respective rules of their houses proscribed either entering the other's monastery. According to Saint Gregory, they met once a year at a house near Monte Cassino monastery to confer on spiritual matters, and were eventually buried together, probably in the same grave. Saint Gregory says, "so death did not separate the bodies of these two, whose minds had ever been united in the Lord."

Saint Gregory tells the charming story of the last meeting of the two saints on earth. Scholastica and Benedict had spent the day in the "mutual comfort of heavenly talk " and with nightfall approaching, Benedict prepared to leave. Scholastica, having a presentiment that it would be their last opportunity to see each other alive, asked him to spend the evening in conversation. Benedict sternly refused because he did not wish to break his own rule by spending a night away from Monte Cassino. Thereupon, Scholastica cried openly, laid her head

upon the table, and prayed that God would intercede for her. As she did so, a sudden storm arose. The violent rain and hail came in such a torrential downpour that Benedict and his companions were unable to depart.

"May Almighty God forgive you, sister" said Benedict, "for what you have done." "I asked a favor of you," Scholastica replies simply, "and you refused it. I asked it of God, and He has granted it!"

Just after his return to Monte Cassino, Benedict saw a vision of Scholastica's soul departing her body, ascending to heaven in the form of a dove. She died three days after their last meeting. He placed her body in the tomb he had prepared for himself, and arranged for his own to be placed there after his death. Her relics were alleged by the monk Adrevald to have been translated (July 11) to a rich silver shrine in Saint Peter's Church in Le Mans, France, which may have been when Benedict's were moved to Fleury. In 1562, this shrine was preserved from the Huguenots' plundering.

Some say that we should only petition God for momentarily important matters. God's love, however, is so great that he wishes to give us every good thing. He is ever ready to hear our prayers: our prayers of praise and thanksgiving, and our prayers of petition, repentance, and intercession. Nothing is too great or too trivial to share with our Father. The dependent soul learns that everything we are and have is from His bountiful goodness; when we finally learn that lesson we turn to Him with all our hopes and