



*Saint Eugene's Cathedral
2323 Montgomery Drive
Santa Rosa, California 95405
Phone (707) 542-6984*

PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Frank Epperson, Rector
Rev. John Boettcher, Parochial Vicar
Rev. Jeffrey Keyes, In Residence
Deacon Mike Heinzelman
Deacon Gary Moore
Deacon Russ Bowden

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Email Comments/Suggestions to:
cathedralresponse@gmail.com

Parish Office Phone	542-6984
Parish Office Fax	542-1621
Religious Education	326-3408
Pastoral Council – George Berg	985-8377
Parish Organist – Pam Ziemiński	578-8848
School Office – David Gallagher	545-7252
Preschool Office – Sharry Caesare	528-9133

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Friday – 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Entrance is located at SW corner of Rectory

WEBSITES

Parish: www.steugenes.com
School: www.steugenesch.org

REGISTRATION IN THE PARISH

Our warmest welcome to all who worship in our community. If you are not registered in the parish, please complete a registration card. Cards are available at church entrances or at the parish office.

MARRIAGES & BAPTISMS

Please contact the office at least 6 months in advance for weddings and 3 months in advance for baptisms. Check the parish website for more information.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Please call the parish office when a parishioner is home bound or hospitalized to arrange for Holy Communion and Anointing of the Sick.



MASS TIMES

Daily Mass: 6:45 and 8:00 a.m.
Saturday: 8:00 a.m.; 4:30 p.m. & Sp. 6:30 p.m.
Sunday: 7:30, 9:00 & 10:30 a.m.
12:00 noon and 5:30 p.m.
Tuesday Latin Mass: 5:30 p.m.
Sunday Latin Mass: 1:30 p.m.

CONFESSIONS

3:30 – 4:30 p.m. Saturday or by appointment

PERPETUAL ADORATION

Perpetual Adoration is in the Chapel of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. To sign up for your hour with our Lord, call 539-2772.

Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament is held in the chapel every First Friday following 8:00 a.m. Mass.

DEVOTIONS

Recitation of the Rosary is Monday – Saturday at 7:30 a.m. in the Cathedral

Chaplet of Divine Mercy is Saturday after the 8:00 a.m. Mass in the Cathedral

CATHEDRAL SHOPS

Cathedral Thrift Shop is open Tues & Wed 9:30 – 2:30
Cathedral Books & Gifts Hours: Wed-Sat 8:30-4:30
& Sun 8:30-1:30, Closed Mon/Tues - Phone: 542-0250

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – FEBRUARY 16, 2020

PARISH CALENDAR

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 16

Coffee Social – PLC – 8:00 am – 12:00
Masses – Cathedral – 7:30 am, 9:00 am, 10:30 am, 12:00, 1:30
pm (Latin) & 5:30 pm
RCIA/RCIF Classes – Becker Ctr. – 10:30 a.m.

MONDAY FEBRUARY 17

President's Day – Office Closed
Morning Masses – Cathedral – 6:45 & 8:00 am
Rosary for Life – Chapel - 9:00 am

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 18

Morning Masses – Cathedral – 6:45 & 8:00 am
Women of the Word – PLC (Hope Rm) – 9:30 am
Latin Mass – Cathedral- 5:30 pm

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 19

Morning Masses – Cathedral – 6:45 & 8:00 am
Legion of Mary – PLC – 5:30 pm

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 20

Morning Masses – Cathedral – 6:45 & 8:00 am
Chant Schola Fr. Keyes – PLC – 5:30pm

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 21

Morning Masses – Cathedral – 6:45 & 8:00 am
Bible Study – PLC – 9:30 am – 11:30 am

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 22

Morning Mass – Cathedral – 8:00 am
Confession - Cathedral -3:00 – 4:30 pm
Mass – Cathedral -4:30 pm; 6:30 pm (Spanish)

SECOND COLLECTION

~TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM~

This weekend, February 15 & 16, our second collection is for our school Tuition Assistance Program. Next weekend, February 22 & 23, will be our Annual Diocesan Ministry Appeal, *One Family in Mission*. Please see box to the right for more information. Thank you for your generosity!

~40 DAYS FOR LIFE~

The Santa Rosa "40 Days for Life" will begin on (Ash) Wednesday, February 26th. We will meet at 11:00 a.m. for Opening Prayer at the Planned Parenthood building #3, at 1140 Sonoma Ave. Please also join us the evening before, Tuesday, February 25th, for Holy Mass at 5:30 p.m. followed by a potluck in the PLC at 7:00 p.m. For more info call Judy at 477-8937; (for donations) call Mary 321-8948 or for Spanish speaker, call Theresa at 795-8890.

Hearing Aid Users, Switch to T-Coil

ADMINISTRATION

For the Weeks of: 1/26/20

Sunday Donations Received:	\$ 13,877
Collection Revenue Received for: <i>Church in Latin America</i>	\$ 3,139

~CATHEDRAL BOOKS & GIFTS~

During the month of February, all missals are 25% off! According to NCR: "The liturgical year of the Catholic Church is far more than an artificial collection of feasts and seasons. It is a profound and soul-altering spiritual rhythm that provides a veracity as real as cosmic time. The Roman Missal provides us with a vital navigational tool for the spiritual reality of our glorious faith." Please stop in and see us! The shop hours are: Wed-Sat from 8:30 am-4:30 pm & Sun 8:30 am-1:30 pm. We are closed Mon./Tues. Call us at 542-

~2019 CHARITABLE DONATION LIST~

St. Eugene's greatly appreciates your donations to the Sunday collections. A year-end list of donations suitable for tax purposes is provided to parishioners who use offertory envelopes, credit cards or online banking direct pay for Sunday collections. **NOTE:** Tax statements are sent to envelope users **upon request only**. If you wish to receive a tax statement, email bookkeeper@steugenes.com or call 542-6984 ext. 13. Be sure to include your envelope number.

~SCHOOL REGISTRATION NOW OPEN~

St. Eugene's Cathedral School is accepting applications for grade K - 8th for the 2020-2021 school year. We offer an excellent academic education with a challenging curriculum integrated with gospel values. For further information, please visit our website www.steugenesch.org or call the school office at 545-7252 to arrange a tour. St. Eugene's Preschool is accepting applications for three, four and five year olds. We offer an age appropriate balance of teacher directed and child initiated learning in a nurturing environment. For further information, please call Sharry Caesare, our preschool director, at 528-9133.

~ANNUAL DIOCESE MINISTRY APPEAL~

The annual appeal, *One Family in Mission*, will be conducted next weekend, February 22 & 23. Our parish target this year is \$54,841. Our parish receives 100% of funds raised over that amount. With your help, we can assure the continued support of many important programs that help individuals and parishes throughout our diocese – the Catholic education of our children, Seminarians, Religious Education & Youth Ministry, clergy formation and more. Please respond generously when you are asked to make a pledge. For more information, visit www.srdiocese.org.

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday	February 15
8:00 am	Leo Pimentel, deceased
4:30 pm	Meghan McCurry, living
6:30 pm	All Souls in Purgatory
Sunday	February 16
7:30 am	Jack Bjornstrom, deceased
9:00 am	George Schirle, deceased
10:30 am	People of St. Eugene's
12:00 pm	Deirdre McCormick, deceased
1:30 pm	Andrea Bond, living
5:30 pm	Helen Dunn, deceased
Monday	February 17
6:45 am	Russell and Maryann Sherman, deceased
8:00 am	George Uribe, deceased
Tuesday	February 18
6:45 am	Tim Williams, deceased
8:00 am	McShane and Stronge Families, living and deceased
5:30 pm (EF)	Lisa Tran, living
Wednesday	February 19
6:45 am	All Souls in Purgatory
8:00 am	George Uribe, deceased
Thursday	February 20
6:45 am	People of St Eugene's
8:00 am	Paul Palanos, deceased
Friday	February 21
6:45 am	Mario E. Ordonez, deceased
8:00 am	Eileen and Kathleen Carol, living
12:00 pm Hosp.	Maria Sanchez, living
Saturday	February 22
8:00 am	George Carda, deceased
4:30 pm	Meghan McCurry, living
6:30 pm (Sp)	Jose Luis Galvan, deceased

IN NEED OF PRAYERS

~IN NEED OF PRAYERS~

Those who are ill need your support and prayers: Tristan Humble, Samuel Agius, Sandy Torti Wilcox, Marjorie Miles, Amelia Lansangan, Gail Brown, Luigi Fabiano, Leo Del Santo, Daniel Velasquez, Emeline Jane Smith, Rosalind Britto, Ken Davis, Rita Wyatt, Karen Mills, Eileen Carol, Nancy Amador, Patrick Welter, Cristeta Marentes, Jesus Navarro, Michael Boland, Stephen Warner, Thomas Patrick, Aida Catapang, Hike Kazarian, John Bugbee, Bob Goldman, Pat Davenport, Joan Cosgrove, Paulita Castro and Tiffany Hutchinson.

~RESPECT LIFE~

"All life comes from God ... and therefore deserves our infinite respect, our infinite love, our infinite care."
Malcolm Muggeridge

SPIRITUAL ACTIVITY

~PRIESTLY ORDINATION~

On **Saturday, March 7, at 10:00 am**, His Excellency, Bishop Robert Vasa, will ordain Deacons Thomas Stuart and John Plass to the Holy Priesthood here at the Cathedral of St. Eugene. A reception will follow in the Msgr. Becker Center. All are invited to attend this most joyous and holy occasion.

~'GOD IS' RETREAT~

The *God Is! Day of Renewal* one-day retreat is an opportunity to experience the fullness of faith found in the Catholic Church. This retreat meets people along their faith journey, reaching out through proclamation, personal witness, Sacramental renewal, prayer, Eucharistic adoration, music, and skits to help the participant's faith come alive. It is the Good News of Salvation shared personally, lovingly, and joyfully! Additionally, the *God Is! Day of Renewal* provides a wonderful opportunity for a person to participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The *God Is! Day of Renewal* one-day retreat will be presented on **Saturday, March 28th** here at St. Eugene's parish. The retreat, which begins at 8:00 a.m. (with check-in at 7:30 a.m.) and includes lunch, will conclude with the 4:30 p.m. Mass. There is no charge however a \$20 donation helps to cover the food costs for the day. Please **RSVP by March 15th** by sending an email to GodIs@sonic.net, write your full name, the name of your parish and your affiliation (Marriage Prep, Catechist, Confirmandi or Parish Member.)

~ADORERS NEEDED~

St. Eugene's is so blessed to have Perpetual (24/7) Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in our Adoration Chapel. There are several time slots that are available to those who can give one or two hours per week to spend in silent contemplation and prayer with our Lord. Please call Ellen Moore at 539-2772 if you would like to sign up.

SAVE THE DATE

~ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER~

St. Eugene's is having their annual St. Patrick's dinner/fundraiser on Tuesday, March 17, at 5:30 p.m. in the Becker Center. Tickets and more information will be available soon. Volunteers and raffle prize/auction donations are needed. If you can help, please call the Parish Office at 542-6984, extension 13.

~YMI FUNDRAISER DINNER~

The Young Men's Institute (YMI) is having its annual "all you can eat" Polenta & Stew dinner fundraiser on Saturday, Feb. 29th. Menu includes Polenta, Stew, Cheese, Salad, Antipasta, Bread & Ice Cream. The No-Host Bar opens at 5:30pm and dinner is served at 7:00 pm. Tickets are \$25.00 per person and will be on sale in the Parish Life Center on Sundays from 8:00 am to 12:00 noon at the coffee social. You can also call 707-545-7000 for tickets and more information.

The bulletin item deadline is Thursday @ 3:00pm for the Sunday after next bulletin. E-mail items to: office@steugenes.com. We reserve the right to edit or omit items.

MY CATHOLIC FAITH

FREEDOM OF CHOICE

~FROM THE PASTOR~

We see in our first reading from Sirach the words: "... he has set before you fire and water to whichever you choose, stretch forth your hand. Before man are life and death, good and evil, whichever he chooses shall be given him." We hear this word - *choice* - a lot today. Mainly, we hear it in terms of abortion but we are also increasingly hearing it in terms of legalizing euthanasia. So, for example, in looking at the choice that is involved in abortion, we can surmise that whether one wants to call the nascent life in the womb a "person" or not, sheer biology tells us that anything that is growing and developing is living. To permanently stop something from growing and developing is to kill it. Pretty simple. So, the choice in "pro-choice" is: a) allow the being inside of the mother to continue to grow and develop (life) or 2) stop the being from growing and developing (death). "Life and death, good and evil." The same dynamic can be seen with euthanasia. Allow the person (hopefully, society can agree on the fact that *personhood* has been firmly established after birth) to continue to breathe and function, however minimal these functions may be, or stop them. "Life and death, good and evil." Scripture makes it perfectly clear that we are indeed given the freedom to make choices but that the choice we make can either be good or evil. Finally, we read in our Gospel reading from Mathew, when speaking of keeping God's commandments, Jesus tells the crowd: "But I say to you, whoever divorces his wife - unless the marriage is unlawful - causes her to commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery." We will take a closer look at both of these topics—divorce/remarriage and abortion by reading some interesting articles and quotes. First, divorce & remarriage...

MATHEW 19:9

~ILLCIT UNIONS AND DIVORCE~

"While Jesus forbade divorce, He set aside or excluded certain unions that were illicit or unchaste and indicated that these were not unions to which one should cling. In effect, He said that they are not

marriages at all. so the term "divorce" does not apply to them and they should be set aside. Consider the text from Matthew 19. Let me first present the text itself and then provide some background and interpretation. (I am using the Catholic NABRE translation.) [Jesus said], *I say to you, whoever divorces his wife (unless the marriage is unlawful) and marries another commits adultery* (Matt 19:9). The RSV (Catholic Edition) translates the passage this way: *whoever divorces his wife, except for unchastity, and marries another, commits adultery.*"

~WHAT DOES IT ALL MEAN?~

"Now the phrases, "unless the marriage is unlawful" and "except for unchastity," are translations of the Greek phrase $\mu\eta\ \epsilon\pi\iota\ \pi\omicron\rho\nu\epsilon\iota\alpha$ (*me epi porneia*). The usual meaning of the word *porneia* is "fornication" (i.e., sex between two unmarried people). However, depending on the context, *porneia* can also refer to other forms of sexual contact that are illicit or irregular by biblical standards. For example, many Greek lexicons (e.g., Strongs and Thayer & Smith) define *porneia* broadly as "illicit sexual intercourse" and then go on to define *porneia* to include fornication, homosexual activity, lesbian activity, sexual intercourse with animals, sexual intercourse with close relatives (as spelled out in Leviticus 18), or sexual intercourse with a divorced man or woman. Protestants tend to include adultery in the definition of *porneia* more so than do Catholics. The reason that Catholics in general do not is that there is another Greek word specifically for adultery: $\mu\omicron\iota\chi\alpha\tau\alpha\iota$ (*moichatai*). Therefore we do not consider adultery to be grounds for divorce based on either Matt 19 or Matt 5. So, fundamentally, *porneia* most often means fornication (pre-marital sex) but can mean other illicit things as well. Why then does Jesus utter this "exception" to the otherwise air-tight prohibition of divorce? The answer would seem to lie in the influence of certain Gentile notions, which the Lord wanted to be clear to exclude, at least in the settings Matthew recalled. The Gentile world was a very sexually confused—even depraved—world. All sorts of strange sexual practices were tolerated and even tied into some of the pagan religious practices. Gentile notions of marriage were often at wide variance with Jewish ones. Gentiles often called

“marriage” what Judeo-Christians would call incest. There were also difficulties encountered with homosexual behavior and other sexual liaisons that the Christian Church could not and would not recognize as legitimate or anything but sinful. (The most thorough discussion of this background can be found in the Navarre Biblical Commentary.)”

~NOT REALLY A MARRIAGE AT ALL~

“So, in effect, Jesus is declaring that certain so-called marriages that featured *porneia* (some form of illicit sexual union) were not marriages at all, and that His forbiddance of divorce should not be seen as applying to these illicit unions. The implication is that since such unions were not considered marriage at all, one could and should leave them without being guilty of divorce. The bottom line is this: there was a defined understanding of marriage that Jesus insisted upon, and He freely declared that just because someone called something a “marriage” didn’t make it a marriage. Many today want to redefine marriage into something other than one man and one women in a fruitful (child-bearing) relationship until death do them part. I have little doubt, based on biblical evidence alone, that Jesus would declare such unions as “not marriages at all,” since He clearly set aside certain unions of His day by calling them unlawful, or more specifically, unchaste. To those who would argue that Jesus did not specifically mention homosexual unions, I would point out, as already noted, that the term *porneia* can and does include all forms of illicit sexual unions: incest, fornication, and homosexual acts. Hence His use of the word here does include an exclusion of unions based on this form of unchastity.” For the complete article by Msgr. Charles Pope, go to: www.lifesitenews.com/opinion/jesus-rejected-unlawful-and-unchaste-marriages-in-his-own-day-heres-why-and

ABORTION: THE GREAT SIN

~THE GREAT MYSTERY~

“Today we ponder the great mystery that is expressed in the 139th psalm: *For it was you who created my being, knit me together in my mother’s womb. I thank you for the wonder of my being. ... Already you knew my soul my body held no secret from you when I was being fashioned in secret [E]very one of my days*

how mysterious your thoughts, the sum of them not to be numbered!”

~A GREAT MIRACLE~

“Consider the miracle of the human body. Its chemistry is just as extraordinarily well tuned as is the



physics of the cosmos. Our world on both sides of the divide that separates life from lifelessness is filled with wonder. Each human cell has a double helix library of three billion base pairs providing fifty thousand genes. These three billion base pairs and fifty thousand

genes somehow engineer 100 trillion neural connections in the brain—enough points of information to store all the data and information contained in a fifty-million-volume encyclopedia. And then after that, these fifty thousand genes set forth a million fibers in the optic nerves, retinae having ten million pixels per centimeter, some ten billion in all, ten thousand taste buds, ten million nerve endings for smell, cells that exude a chemical come-on to lure an embryo’s lengthening neurons from spinal cord to target cell, each one of the millions of target cells attracting the proper nerve from the particular needed function. And all this three-dimensional structure arises somehow from the linear, one-dimensional information contained along the DNA helix. Did all this happen by chance or do you see the hand of God?”

~HE HAS KNOWN US FROM THE BEGINNING~

“No human being is an accident, no conception a surprise or inconvenience to God. He knew and loved us long before we were ever conceived, for He says, *Before I ever formed you in the womb I knew you* (Jer 1:4). God has always known everything we would ever do or be.” By: Msgr. Charles Pope, <http://blog.adw.org/2017/01/miracle-life-march/>

~THE EARLY CHURCH & ABORTION~

“In our case, a murder being once for all forbidden, we may not destroy even the fetus in the womb, while as yet the human being derives blood from the other parts of the body for its sustenance. To hinder a birth is merely a speedier man-killing; nor does it matter whether you take away a life that is born, or destroy one that is coming to birth. That is a man which is going to be one; you have the fruit already in its seed” (*Apology* 9:8 [A.D. 197]). — Tertullian

CATEDRAL DE ST. EUGENE'S — 16 de Febrero del 2020

ORACION A SAN MIGUEL ARCANGEL

SAN MIGUEL ARCÁNGEL, defiéndenos en la batalla. Sé nuestro amparo contra la perversidad y asechanzas del demonio. Reprímele Dios, pedimos suplicantes, y tu príncipe de la milicia celestial arroja al infierno con el divino poder a Satanás y a los otros espíritus malignos que andan dispersos por el mundo para la perdición de las almas.

Amen.



Nota:

Por recomendación de nuestro Obispo R. Vasa aprender de memoria esta oración y hacerla después de que termina la Santa Misa. (claro que usted puede rezarla lo mas seguido posible)

CLASES PRE-BAUTISMALES

Preparación Pre-Bautismal en Español, Para Padres y Padrinos. Cada Primer Jueves de cada mes en el Salón Parroquial (PLC) La próxima será: el 5 de Marzo a las 7:00pm.

NO NIÑOS.

Antes de hacer preparativos tienen que hablar a la oficina mínimo 2 meses antes de la Ceremonia.

Si los padrinos son una pareja (matrimonio) necesitamos copia del certificado de Matrimonio a la Iglesia. (La Iglesia nos pide a una persona para que sea el padrino o madrina, no precisamente una pareja, siempre y cuando esta tenga la n... ir que practique la Fe)



CALENDARIO PARROQUIAL

Lunes -Legión de María: Nuestra Señora del Carmen Presídium PLC 5:00pm.
Legión de María: Nuestra Señora de Fátima Presídium en el PLC 7:00pm.
Cursillos: Ultreya PLC 7:00pm.
Martes -Grupo de Oración Shalom en el salón del Brinker a las 7:00pm.
Viernes -Grupo de Oración Carismática Familias Unidas en el Espíritu Santo, en el salón del Brinker a las 7:00pm.
-Armada Blanca 7:00pm.
Sábado -Confesiones de 3:00pm a 4:30pm
Santo Rosario 6:00pm.
Santa Misa 6:30pm.
Confesiones después de Misa.

TIENDA DE ARTICULOS RELIGIOSOS

~ TIENDA DE LIBROS Y REGALOS
EN LA CATEDRAL ~

¡Durante el mes de Febrero, todos los misales tienen un 25% de descuento! Según NCR: “El año litúrgico de la Iglesia Católica es mucho más que una colección artificial de fiestas y estaciones. Es un ritmo espiritual profundo y que altera el alma que proporciona una veracidad tan real como el tiempo cósmico. El Misal Romano nos proporciona una herramienta vital de navegación para la realidad espiritual de nuestra gloriosa fe.”

¡Por favor, visítenos!

El horario de la tienda es: Miércoles a Sábado de 8:30 a.m. a 4:30 p.m. y Domingos de 8:30 a.m. a 1:30 p.m.

Pregunte por ayuda en Español tenemos voluntarios que pueden contestar todas sus preguntas.

Si hay algo que necesita y no lo tenemos, nosotros podemos ordenarlo por usted.

Vida de Santa Ágata o Santa Águeda

Es la patrona de las enfermeras y de la ciudad de Sicilia es invocada para prevenir los daños del fuego, rayos y volcanes. También se recurre a ella cuando hay problemas de los senos, partos difíciles y problema con la lactancia. De hecho, es la patrona de los pechos de las mujeres, (ya que ella fue torturada arrancándole los pechos). En la actualidad es invocada como protectora contra el cáncer de mamas, que hace tantos estragos en las mujeres de nuestros tiempos, es por ellos que cada día hay más y más mujeres que se acogen a su fervor y devoción para que esta santa interceda ante Dios por su enfermedad. Celebramos su festividad el 5 de febrero.

En italiano es conocida como Ágata y Águeda en español, estos dos nombres tienen como significado “La buena, la virtuosa”, del nombre griego Agathe derivado de la palabra agathos que significa buena. El documento donde consta su vida fue escrito en el siglo VI, basado en la tradición oral.

Santa Águeda de Catania una de las mártires vírgenes más veneradas por la Cristiandad antigua. Fue una Virgen y Mártir siciliana nacida aproximadamente en el año 230, de origen noble y distinguida, fue martirizada en Catania, Sicilia en el año 251, aunque es incierto bajo que persecución tuvo lugar, aceptamos la evidencia de su vida, basados en la tradición antigua, que su martirio, ocurrió durante la persecución de Decio, por rehusarse a las proposiciones de un senador romano y en defensa de su Fe. Hay disputas por su lugar de nacimiento y se han confrontados los estamentos universitarios, eclesiásticos y populares de Palermo y Catania.

Se cuenta que cuando esta joven tuvo uso de razón decidió conservarse siempre pura y virgen, por amor a Dios. En ese tiempo Quintianus el procónsul, era el gobernador de la isla y al ver a esta joven que era hermosa y distinguida quedó prendado de ella y quiso poseerla, pero fue rechazado varias veces así que buscó la ayuda de Afrodisia quien era regente de un prostíbulo, y entre ambos planearon la forma de que la joven perdiera su pureza. Fue llevada con engaños al prostíbulo y por más que lo intentaron no pudieron abusar de ella, ya que se defendía con uñas y dientes.

Asombrado el gobernador de su resistencia mandó a que la llevaran a su casa donde le ofreció riquezas a cambio de que sucumbiera a su petición, pero ella firme e inquebrantable a su juramento de virginidad y pureza a Dios no accedió. Mientras tanto, asume el poder el emperador Decio, quien decide perseguir a los cristianos. Quintianus recibe en Sicilia un edicto general, para que citaran en el tribunal a todos los habitantes para que sacrifiquen a los dioses y al que se negara, se le privaba de todo, así podían detectar a los verdaderos cristianos, ya que se negarían a adorar a los dioses paganos.

Águeda fue llevada ante el tribunal para que prestara su sacrificio, pero ella se negó a realizar la ofrenda haciendo pública así su profesión de fe a Cristo. Por lo que fue llevada ante el gobernador quien le hizo ver los castigos que le esperaba sino apostataba, aun el guardaba esperanza de poseerla. Ella le respondió: que el que tenía que cambiar de vida era el para que se librara de los tormentos eternos. Este herido en su orgullo y en venganza, la envía a prisión y luego de un tiempo la volvió a llamar, pero fue rechazado nuevamente, impotente ante tal fortaleza mandó a que la sometieran al tormento de los azotes, pero ella se mantuvo firme en sus creencias, y ya escéptico y resignándose a que nunca la haría suya, ordenó que le quemaran los pechos y se lo cortasen después con unas tenazas.

Fue enviada de nuevo a la prisión con enormes dolores, a media noche se le apareció un venerable anciano que le dijo: “Yo soy Pedro, el mismo Jesucristo me ha enviado para que te sane en su nombre”, así fue curada milagrosamente. Al encontrarla curada el gobernador, le preguntó: ¿Quién se había atrevido a curarla? y ella respondiéndole: que había sido curada por el poder de Jesucristo, se enfureció y la mandó echar sobre llamas y brasas ardientes y mientras se quemaba ella elevaba sus plegarias al cielo expirando, blanca y pura como había vivido. Al morir los cristianos recogen sus reliquias. Un año después de su muerte el volcán Etna hizo erupción y los pobladores de Catania pidieron su intervención logrando detener la lava a las puertas de la ciudad, por lo que se agranda por toda la cristiandad la fama de su heroísmo, concluida la persecución a los cristianos, escriben sobre ella y edifican numerosos templos por todas partes en su honor. Se dice que el pueblo quedó tocado de la llama de su constancia y de su martirio, llegando a ser su devoción una de las más grandes de todos los tiempos. Las reliquias de esta Santa se conservaron en Catania, más por temor a la profanación, luego fueron trasladadas a Constantinopla en el año de 1040, y luego fueron rescatadas en el año de 1126. La certeza histórica se fundamenta en el hecho de su martirio y la veneración pública que le rinde la iglesia desde la más remota antigüedad como lo demuestra que fuera incluida en el antiguo Canon Romano.