



St. Justin Martyr

June 1

Who was St. Justin Martyr?

St. Justin Martyr was born around 120 AD in Palestine into a pagan Gentile family. He studied the wisdom of Plato, Aristotle and other great Greek thinkers and became a professional philosopher. One day, while reading philosophy by the seashore, he was noticed by an old man who took the time to strike up a conversation about philosophy and religion. The elderly gentleman was a Christian and taught Justin about the life of Jesus and how he had fulfilled the prophecies of the holy books.

Justin felt fulfilled and enlightened by his new found wisdom, and he became a Christian teacher. He wrote and spoke openly about Christ, addressing two “apologies” or defences of the Christian faith to the emperor of Rome, Marcus Aurelius, who was known for being one of the worst persecutors of Christians in history. Justin Martyr became one of the most influential teachers of the 2nd century.

A rival philosopher turned Justin over to the authorities for his Christian faith, and Justin was martyred around the year 165 AD. An eyewitness account of his interrogation and martyrdom at the hands of the Roman authorities has been preserved for us and is read each year in the Church’s office of Readings on June 1, St. Justin’s feast day.

At St. Justin Martyr CES in Unionville, students are inspired by the unwavering faith and dedication of their patron saint. Known for his courage in defending his beliefs, the school encourages students to exhibit bravery and resilience in all aspects of their lives. Intellectual curiosity is highly valued, reflecting St. Justin's passion for truth and learning. This fosters an environment where critical thinking and a quest for knowledge thrive. Integrity and honesty are foundational principles taught at the school, guiding students to act truthfully and ethically in their interactions. Additionally, compassion and service are integral to the school's ethos, encouraging students to embody charity and kindness in their daily lives. Lastly, perseverance and determination are instilled in students, teaching them to remain steadfast in their efforts and goals, no matter the challenges they face.

[St. Justin Martyr CES Website](#)

[St. Justin Martyr Parish Website](#)



Quotes

"We pray for our enemies; we seek to persuade those who hate us without cause to live conformally to the goodly precepts of Christ, that they may become partakers with us of the joyful hope of blessings from God, the Lord of all."

- St. Justin Martyr

"We expect to receive again our own bodies, though they be dead and cast into the earth, for we maintain that with God nothing is impossible."

- St. Justin Martyr

"And hence all men everywhere, whether bond or free, who believe in Christ, and recognize the truth in His own words and those of His prophets, know that they shall be with Him in that land, and inherit everlasting and incorruptible good."

- St. Justin Martyr

Prayer

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit;

Heavenly Father,

On this sacred Feast Day, we gather in humble reverence to honour Saint Justin the Martyr, whose life was a testament to your boundless wisdom and mercy. As we reflect upon his steadfast devotion to truth, we are inspired to emulate his virtues of courage, integrity and faith.

Saint Justin, you pursued truth with the heart of a philosopher and the soul of a martyr, recognizing in every inquiry the divine spark bestowed by your Creator's hand. Through your intercession, may we open our minds and broaden our understanding of the mysteries of faith, offering support to seekers, guidance to questioners, and clarity to the confused.

Grant us the grace to follow in your footsteps, seeking wisdom in the Church's teachings, advocating for the union of faith and reason, and building communities of learning and faithfulness. May your example guide us in nurturing a school environment where all are encouraged to question wisely, learn eagerly and act justly.

Saint Justin the Martyr, pray for us, that we may be instruments of truth, channels of your wisdom and heralds of your Kingdom here on earth.

Amen.

Patron Saint of:

Lecturers

Apologists

Philosophers





York Catholic District School Board



FEAST DAY:

June 1

SCHOOL LOCATION:

Unionville, ON

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