

# Saint Pudens

Saint Pudens was an early Christian saint and martyr.

He is mentioned as a layman of the Roman Church in 2 Timothy 4:21.

"Do your best to come before winter. Eubulus sends greetings to you, as do Pudens and Linus and Claudia and all the brethren."

According to tradition, he lodged Saint Peter and was baptised by him, and was martyred under Nero (reigned 54–68).

He is commemorated on April 14 in the Eastern Orthodox Church calendar and May 19 according to the Dominican Martyrology.

He is said to have been the son of **Quintus Cornelius Pudens, a Roman Senator**.

He is said to have had two sons, **Novatus and Timotheus**, and two daughters, **Praxedes and Pudentiana**, all saints, but if Pudens' life is documented, those of his daughters is derived only by the existence of two ancient churches, Santa Prassede and Santa Pudenziana in Rome.

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**The Search for the 12 Apostles**

McBernie, p.o. 285

story of Pudes family. Daughters Pudentiana and Praxedes, virgins, interred 3000 slain martyrs, later under Vaspacian moved them to the catacombs.

The two female saints were murdered for providing Christian burial for early martyrs in defiance of Roman law.

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**Quintus Cornelius Pudens**

was a Roman senator and early Christian.

Cornelius was husband to Priscilla. According to legend, Priscilla and Cornelius were among the first converted by St. Peter in Rome, and hosted the apostle in their house.

Quintus was father to Saint Pudens and grandfather of Saints Novatus, Timotheus, Praxedes and Pudentiana.

**Senator Quintus Cornelius Pudens** and his wife, Priscilla, were just such exceptions. They were among the first Romans to be converted by the Apostle Peter, and they opened their home to become one of the first house-churches in Rome. It is often repeated (perhaps in an attempt to discredit our Faith) that the first Christians were slaves. It is true many early converts were slaves, but Cornelius and Priscilla remind us that early Christians were also among the ruling classes, and that in Catholicism both master and slave became disciples together.

## **Cornelius and Priscilla**

So it was in the home of Cornelius and Priscilla where our first pope, St. Peter, lived and taught. Thereafter, for nearly three hundred years, the Pudens' home was the home of the popes and served as the cathedral of Rome.

St. Paul mentions a Pudens in one of his epistles, along with Linus (who would become the second pope after Peter). Priscilla's wooden table became the altar, and parts of that table are now placed like a relic within the modern-day high altar of the Cathedral Basilica of St. John Lateran in Rome. Senator Pudens' chair became the chair wherein the Apostle Peter sat to teach, and Linus thereafter, and subsequent popes besides.

The Pudens' celebrated children and grandchildren would go on to be declared saints, and today the basilica of Santa Pudenziana is built on the site of their home, and is revered as one of the most ancient parishes in Rome. Indeed,

Priscilla must have been a force of nature in her own right, for she courageously saw that the Christian martyrs were piously buried (including her own husband), and her family crypt eventually became the antechamber to one of the oldest and largest of the Christian catacombs in Rome: the Catacombs of Priscilla.