

## Rite of Dedication – relic of St. Florian – Patron of Firefighters



**Presider:** Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good.

**All:** His mercy endures forever.

**Presider:** My brothers and sisters, we are gathered here in celebration of St. Florian, patron of firefighters and all who assist in the work of battling flame, aiding the injured and tirelessly sacrificing their time and talents in the protection of lives and property. When the church dedicates the relic of one of its saints it looks back to the example of the person so honored, recommending that in our own time and place we imitate that saint's good works, Florian, although trained up as an officer of infantrymen, turned his attention to another need of the times, to fighting the fires which so often destroyed whole communities. Under his guidance a fire company was created not merely to quench flame, but to save lives; giving us an example to imitate. This relic, placed on the firefighter's shrine altar, will serve as a constant reminder of that dedication to something beyond dirty – something which is nothing less than to life itself.

**Presider:** Let us pray: Lord God, almighty and loving creator, we dedicate this relic to the memory of those who have served from time immemorial to battle fire and flame, to save the lives of those threatened by fire.

**All:** Lord, we thank you for your kindness.

**Presider:** Lord God, compassionate and merciful savior, we dedicate this relic to all those who today serve as firefighters and first responders, who tend to the hurting and bring them aid.

**All:** Lord, we praise you for your presence and protection.

**Presider:** Lord God, Spirit of life and goodness, we dedicate this relic to those yet to come who will take up the mantle of St. Florian in service to others as firefighters and first responders.

**All:** Lord, we seek your love and your wisdom.

**Presider:** St. Florian, patron of firefighters, intercede on behalf of all those who stand on the front line in defense of lives and property, implore our loving God to offer them his divine protection and stand with them as they seek to be the faithful servants of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen.