

Today is the memorial of St. Jerome, who died in 420 AD and was a priest, historian, and theologian. He is one of the four Latin doctors of the Church, the other three being Ss. Augustine, Gregory the Great, and Ambrose.

St. Jerome is best known for this meticulous translation of the Bible – which in his day was translated from the Greek Bible used by the Jews at that time – from the original Hebrew texts into the language of the people ... which at that time was Latin.

He wasn't baptized until his late teens, but then began a serious study of theology and was ordained a priest. He would then spend time in contemplation in the catacombs and crypts of the city of Rome contemplating hell and death.

He was a prolific writer, and as he grew older was not subdued in his polemic – often writing exactly what he thought in no uncertain terms.

Also, he lived for some time as a hermit in the desert and is pictured with a lion which legend tells us he tamed as a pet.

Jerome is credited with saying: “ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ.” And this should encourage us to spend more time with Sacred Scripture, rather than discourage us.

As we approach this altar to receive the Sacred Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ ... let us pray for a deeper love of Scripture ... that we may hear the voice of God in it's words and recognize Jesus Christ – the Word made Flesh – in its pages.