



## Medallion

When Genevieve was about seven years old, St. Germanus of Auxerre (July 31) noticed her as he was passing through Nanterre. The bishop kissed her on the head and told her parents that she would become great in the sight of God, and would lead many to salvation. After Genevieve told him that she wished to dedicate herself to Christ, he gave her a medal with the image of the Cross upon it. She promised to wear it around her neck, and to avoid wearing any other ornaments around her neck or on her fingers.



## Candle

St Genevieve considered the Saturday night Vigil service to be very important, since it symbolizes how our whole life should be. "We must keep vigil in prayer and fasting so that the Lord will find us ready when He comes," she said. She was on her way to church with her nuns one stormy Saturday night when the wind blew out her lantern. The nuns could not find their way without a light, since it was dark and stormy, and the road was rough and muddy. St Genevieve made the Sign of the Cross over the lantern, and the candle within was lit with a bright flame. In this manner they were able to make their way to the church for the service.

Many icons depict St. Genevieve with a candle and the devil over shoulder attempting to blow it out.



## Storm Clouds

Upon the report of the march of Attila with his army of Huns, the Parisians were preparing to abandon their city, but St. Genevieve persuaded them to avert the scourge, by fasting, watching, and prayer. Genevieve and the other nuns prayed and fasted, entreating God to spare the city. She assured the people of the protection of heaven and their deliverance, and though she was long treated by many as an impostor, the event verified the prediction, for the barbarian suddenly changed the course of his march.

This event credits Genevieve for saving the city; hence she is known as the Patron Saint of Paris.

Although specifically representing the marauding horde of Atilla, the storm also represents all encroaching evil and Genevieve's prayers to the Holy Spirit for protection.





## Bread

The bread represents more than one aspect of Genevieve's life.

God permitted her to meet with some severe trials. At one time she was cruelly persecuted. Around 449, her enemies, jealous of her power, called her a hypocrite and tried to drown her, but when Saint Germanus, shortly before his death, sent her some blessed bread as a testimony of his particular esteem for her virtues and a token of communion, the outcry ceased. Ever afterwards she was honored as a Saint.

During the siege and blockade of Paris in 464 by Childeric, king of the Franks, Genevieve went out with a few followers and procured grain for the starving citizens. Childeric, though a pagan, respected her, and at her request spared the lives of many prisoners. Genevieve is frequently depicted with a loaf of bread symbolic of her generosity for those in need.

And importantly, bread represents the "Bread of Life", Christ. Symbolically the bread is held close to her heart, as she would have Christ nearest her heart.



## Wing and Maps

A dove symbolizes Holy Spirit. When St. John The Baptist baptized Christ, Luke, the Gospel writer describes the scene as "the Holy Spirit descended upon him like a dove." Like a mother bird protects its young, the wing represents the protection the Holy Spirit offers.

Under the wing (left) is a map of 500 AD Europe, with Paris at the center. On the right is the Valley with Panorama city and St. Gen's at the center. As St. Genevieve is the Patron saint of Paris, she continues to pray and look after the community here at St. Gen's H.S.



## Tear

The life of St. Genevieve was one of great austerity, constant prayer, and works of charity. A simple tear is a reminder of her selfless devotion.

Tradition says she would pray continually and so intently that tears would run streaming from her eyes.

The tear reminds of St. Genevieve's great compassion and that her prayers continue to nourish and protect us.





## Clothing

The general color palate red, white and blue invokes the colors of France but also is symbolic of the US and the patriotic nature of St. Gen's H.S.

She is dressed in simple peasant clothing, as tradition holds that she was shepherdess. In many depictions of St. Genevieve she is shown with sheep and a crook. The simplicity of her clothing emphasizes her abstention from material possessions and contrasts with the beauty that emanates from within.

Her hair and clothing are representative of the simple fashions seen in the 5th century Europe.

The gold embroidered cloth the bread is wrapped in represents the gift from St. Germanus and the esteem in which she was held by powerful and important leaders of the time.



## Typography

**“STE. GENÉVIEVE”**

French spelling

**“CDXIII-DXII”**

Roman numerals for the years 423-512 (C=100, D=500, X=10, I=1)  
St. Genevieve lived a very long and important life. She died in 522 at the age of 89.

**“DIEU VOUS PROTÈGERA. NOUS DEVONS FAIRE  
CONFIANCE DANS LUI.”**

English translation: “God will protect you. We must trust in Him.”