

## SAINT GENNARO IN NEW YORK

Although not the best-known saint on the North American continent, Saint Gennaro is gradually making a name for himself in our midst. In New York, for example, there are thousands of “clients” of this Saint who hold their illustrious patron in very high esteem.

Over the years many Neapolitans have elected to make the daring move from Italy to America, bringing with them the time-honored traditions and customs they held sacred in their native land. In the mulberry Street Southern Manhattan district, which is justly called the “Little Italy” or “Little Naples,” the annual feast of Saint Gennaro is solemnized with some 30,000 electric lights adding their brilliant glow to the profuse decorations. Hundreds of U.S. and Italian flags and draperies in all the colors of the rainbow are displayed with legitimate pride and joy.

The celebration continues through the weekend after September 19, with a procession in which the statue of the Saint is carried in triumph. Representatives of civil and public authorities of the city and State of New York join in the ceremony. The Neapolitans, who are basically a deeply religious people, begin preparing months ahead for the grand occasion. Well over half a million people welcome the opportunity to take part in the festival which exalts the name and fame of Saint Gennaro.

The Church of the Most Precious Blood, on Baxter Street, N.Y. City, N.Y., popularly known as the Church of San Gennaro, enjoys the distinction of possessing some treasured relics of the Saint. Here a solemn Mass is held each year on the anniversary of his glorious confession of the faith. Thousands attend the liturgical celebration and pray to the dear Saint of Benevento to protect them and their compatriots back in the mother country.

Neapolitans and descendants of Neapolitans in New York and surrounding areas are sure Saint Gennaro plays no favorites. They consider him the patron of all Italians the world over.



### ***PRAYER TO SAINT GENNARO***

O great Saint Gennaro, valiant athlete of Jesus Christ and patron of Catholic Naples, we have recourse to your powerful intercession.

With grateful hearts we acknowledge your constant readiness to help your fellow citizens. You have protected them from the ravages of Vesuvius in eruption. You have miraculously saved them from plague, earthquake, famine, and other disasters, which they firmly believe have been averted through your power with God.

The continuing wonder of the liquefaction of your blood is another striking proof of your care and concern for the people of Naples. You are aware of our needs and you assist us in the hardships we encounter along life's way.

With the assurance of being heard, we implore you to obtain God's mercy for us. Protect your city of Naples from the scourge of spreading disbelief. Free us from the evils and dangers that threaten us on every side. May the faith for which you sacrificed your life produce in our midst, through your prayers, the good works which the Lord our God can rightfully demand from His servants.

Amen.



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