

September 17

Commemoration: Hildegard, Abbess of Bingen, 1179



Blessed Hildegard of Bingen (German: *Hildegard von Bingen*; Latin: *Hildegardis Bingensis*) (1098 – 17 September 1179), also known as Saint Hildegard, and Sibyl of the Rhine, was a writer, composer, philosopher, Christian mystic, German Benedictine abbess, visionary, and polymath. Elected a *magistra* by her fellow nuns in 1136, she founded the monasteries of Rupertsberg in 1150 and Eibingen in 1165. One of her works as a composer, the *Ordo Virtutum*, is an early example of liturgical drama.^[3]

She wrote theological, botanical and medicinal texts, as well as letters, liturgical songs, poems, and arguably the oldest surviving morality play, while supervising brilliant miniature Illuminations.