



**SAINT
EUGENIA**

December 18, 2022

Sunday before Nativity

Saints of the Day: Sebastian & his Companions; Michael Synkellos the Confessor

WELCOME TO ALL VISITORS!!!

Thank you for worshipping with us!!! Please join us for fellowship immediately following The Divine Liturgy. For those visiting an Orthodox Church for the first time, please be aware that Holy Communion is a sign of unity of faith which is only offered to Baptized or Chrismated Orthodox Christians. All present are welcome, and encouraged, to receive the antidoron (bread given to those who do not/are not able receive Holy Communion) which is distributed at the end of the service. For those interested in learning more about the Orthodox Christian faith, please feel free to speak with Fr. Demetri after the service.

**WE ENCOURAGE EVERYONE TO FOLLOW ALONG AND PARTICIPATE IN
THE DIVINE LITURGY WITH THE BOOKS PROVIDED!!!**

MEMORIAL

George Lalopoulos

Today's coffee hour sponsored in his memory by the Lalopoulos family.

WEEK IN PREVIEW

Sun., Dec 18

Orthros 8:45am

Divine Liturgy 10am

George Lalopoulos
Memorial

Sponsored Coffee Hour

Mon., Dec 19

Anagennesis Meeting

6:30pm

Basketball

3/4 Coed 6pm

HS Boys 7:30pm

Tues., Dec 20

Library Memory Project

Photo ID by Zoom 7pm

Basketball HS Boys 7pm

Thurs., Dec 22

Basketball

5/6 Boys 6pm

Combined 7/8 & HS

Boys 7:30pm

Fri., Dec 23

OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., Dec 24

Greek Preschool 9am

Christmas Eve

Divine Liturgy 4:30pm

Sun., Dec 25

Nativity of our Lord

Christmas Day

Orthros 7:30am

Divine Liturgy 8:30am

Mon., Dec 26

OFFICE CLOSED

Hymns Chanted Following the Small Entrance

Resurrectional Hymn in the Second Tone

Ὅτε κατήλθες πρὸς τὸν θάνατον, ἡ ζωὴ ἡ ἀθάνατος, τότε τὸν ἄδην ἐνέκρωσας, τῇ ἀστραπῇ τῆς θεότητος· ὅτε δὲ καὶ τοὺς τεθνεῶτας, ἐκ τῶν καταχθονίων ἀνέστησας, πᾶσαι αἱ δυνάμεις τῶν ἐπουρανίων ἐκραύγαζον· Ζωοδότα Χριστέ, ὁ Θεὸς ἡμῶν δόξα σοι.

When You descended unto death, O Lord who yourself are immortal Life, then did You mortify Hades by the lightning flash of Your Divinity. Also when You raised the dead from the netherworld, all the Powers of the heavens were crying out: O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to You

Anthem for the Fathers in the Second Tone

Μεγάλα τὰ τῆς πίστεως κατορθώματα! Ἐν τῇ πηγῇ τῆς φλογός, ὡς ἐπὶ ὕδατος ἀναπαύσεως, οἱ ἅγιοι Τρεῖς Παῖδες ἡγάλλοντο, καὶ ὁ προφήτης Δανιήλ, λεόντων ποιμὴν, ὡς προβάτων ἐδείκνυτο. Ταῖς αὐτῶν ἱκεσίαις Χριστέ ὁ Θεός, σῶσον τὰς ψυχὰς ἡμῶν.

Magnificent are the accomplishments of faith! The holy Three Servants greatly rejoiced, as they stood in the fountain of fire, as if beside the still waters; and the Prophet Daniel appeared to be a shepherd of lions, as if they were sheep. At their entreaties, O Christ God, save our souls.

Anthem of St. George in the Fourth Tone

Ὡς τῶν αἰχμαλώτων ἐλευθερωτής, καὶ τῶν πτωχῶν ὑπερασπιστής, ἀσθενούντων ἱατρός, βασιλέων ὑπέρμαχος, Τροπαιοφόρε Μεγαλομάρτυς Γεώργιε, πρέσβευε Χριστῷ τῷ Θεῷ, σωθῆναι τὰς ψυχὰς ἡμῶν.

Liberator of captives and defender of the poor, physician of the sick and champion of kings, oh Trophy-bearer and Great Martyr George, intercede with Christ our God, that our souls be saved.

Seasonal/Kontakion Hymn in the Third Tone

Ἡ Παρθένος σήμερον, τὸν προαιώνιον Λόγον, ἐν Σπηλαίῳ ἔρχεται, ἀποτεκεῖν ἀπορρήτως. Χόρευε ἡ οἰκουμένη ἀκουτισθεῖσα, δόξασον μετὰ Ἀγγέλων καὶ τῶν Ποιμένων, βουληθέντα ἐποφθῆναι, Παιδίον νέον, τὸν πρὸ αἰώνων Θεόν.

On this day the Virgin Maid * goes to the grotto to give birth * to the pre-eternal Word * in an ineffable manner. * Dance for joy, all the inhabited earth, on hearing. * Glorify along with Angels and with the shepherds * Him who willed that He appear as * a newborn Child, * the pre-eternal God.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Hebrews 11:9-10;32-40

BRETHREN, by faith Abraham sojourned in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city which has foundation, whose builder and maker is God.

And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets - who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated - of whom the world was not worthy - wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.

And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

Ἑβραίους 11:9-10, 32-40

Ἀδελφοί, πίστει παρώκησεν Ἀβραὰμ εἰς τὴν γῆν τῆς ἐπαγγελίας ὡς ἄλλοτρίαν, ἐν σκηναῖς κατοικήσας μετὰ Ἰσαὰκ καὶ Ἰακώβ τῶν συγκληρονόμων τῆς ἐπαγγελίας τῆς αὐτῆς· ἐξεδέχετο γὰρ τὴν τοὺς θεμελίους ἔχουσαν πόλιν, ἧς τεχνίτης καὶ δημιουργὸς ὁ Θεός. Καὶ τί ἔτι λέγω; Ἐπλείψει γάρ με διηγούμενον ὁ χρόνος περὶ Γεδεών, Βαράκ τε καὶ

Σαμψῶν καὶ Ἰεφθάε, Δαυΐδ τε καὶ Σαμουὴλ καὶ τῶν προφητῶν, οἱ διὰ πίστεως κατηγωνίσαντο βασιλείας, εἰργάσαντο δικαιοσύνην, ἐπέτυχον

ἐπαγγελιῶν, ἔφραξαν στόματα λεόντων, ἔσβεσαν δύναμιν πυρός, ἔφυγον στόματα μαχαίρας, ἐνεδυναμώθησαν ἀπὸ ἀσθενείας, ἐγενήθησαν ἰσχυροὶ ἐν πολέμῳ, παρεμβολὰς ἐκλιναν ἀλλοτρίων· ἔλαβον γυναῖκες ἐξ ἀναστάσεως τοὺς νεκροὺς αὐτῶν· ἄλλοι δὲ ἐτυμπανίσθησαν, οὐ προσδεξάμενοι τὴν ἀπολύτρωσιν, ἵνα κρείττονος ἀναστάσεως τύχωσιν· ἕτεροι δὲ ἐμπαιγμῶν καὶ μαστίγων πείραν ἔλαβον, ἔτι δὲ δεσμῶν καὶ φυλακῆς· ἐλιθάσθησαν, ἐπρίσθησαν, ἐπειράσθησαν, ἐν φόνῳ μαχαίρας ἀπέθανον, περιῆλθον ἐν μηλωταῖς, ἐν αἰγείοις δέρμασιν, ὑστερούμενοι, θλιβόμενοι, κακουχούμενοι, ὧν οὐκ ἦν ἄξιος ὁ κόσμος, ἐν ἐρημίαις πλανώμενοι καὶ ὄρεσι καὶ σπηλαίοις καὶ ταῖς ὁπαῖς τῆς γῆς. Καὶ οὗτοι πάντες μαρτυρηθέντες διὰ τῆς πίστεως οὐκ ἐκομίσαντο τὴν ἐπαγγελίαν, τοῦ Θεοῦ περὶ ἡμῶν κρεῖττόν τι προβλεψαμένου, ἵνα μὴ χωρὶς ἡμῶν τελειωθῶσι.

Matthew 1:1-25

The book of the Genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Aram, and Aram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David the king.

And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asa, and Asa the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham

the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amon, and Amon the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Salathiel, and Salathiel the father of Zerubbabel, and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ.

So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations.

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel" (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took his wife, but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called his name Jesus.

A PRAYER IN TIME OF NEED

Almighty God, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, come to my help and deliver me from this difficulty that besets me. I believe, Lord, that all trials of life are under Your care and that all things work for the good of those who love You.

Take away from me fear, anxiety and distress.

Help me to face and endure my difficulty with faith, courage, and wisdom. Grant that this trial may bring me closer to You, for You are my rock and refuge, my comfort and hope, my delight and joy.

I trust in Your love and compassion. Blessed is Your name, Father Son and Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

A PRAYER FOR THOSE GOING THROUGH DEPRESSION

Lord Jesus Christ our God, who brought great joy into the world with Your Divine Birth, and salvation through Your glorious Resurrection; who shed Your precious blood to wash away the sins of humankind and to revive our spirit;

Approaching Your goodness, I ask that you hear my prayer and the voice of my petition and look with compassion upon (*person's name*) and restore hope and well-being to *his/her* life.

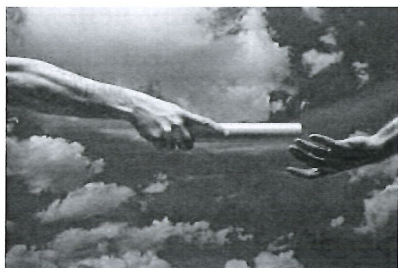
Banish from *him/her* the spirit of depression and melancholia by Your Grace. And if it was brought by the stain of sin, wash it away with your precious blood; if by unrighteousness, remove it with Your justice; if by guilt, lead *him/her* to confession and forgiveness; if by fear, drive it away with Your reassurance; if by anger and hostility, replace them with calmness and love.

Let not *his/her* faith waver; permit not *his/her* hope to flee; let not *his/her* trust in you fade away.

Illumine the darkness of *his/her* soul; disperse the cloud of despair that has encompassed *him/her*; reassure *his/her* mind; lift up *his/her* spirit; restore *his/her* confidence, and open the doors of *his/her* heart to permit the Holy Spirit to enter and abide there, and bring renewal and healing to *his/her* body and soul.

Honoring the Old Testament Athletes of our Faith

By Archimandrite Dionysios Anthopoulos



Today, my beloved, is the Sunday before the Nativity of Christ, and our holy Orthodox Church prepares us for the great feast by setting before us sacred figures "who throughout the ages have pleased God, from Adam until Joseph, the betrothed of the Most Holy Theotokos."

Let us proceed by listening to the content of the Apostolic reading of today which the Apostle Paul addressed to the Hebrew Christians:

Brethren, by faith Abraham made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city with firm foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson and Jephthah, about David and Samuel and the prophets, who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions, quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies. Women received back their dead, raised to life again. There were others who were tortured, refusing to be released so that they might gain an even better resurrection. Some faced jeers and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were put to death by stoning; they were sawed in two; they were killed by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated — the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, living in caves and in holes in the ground.

These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised, since God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect. (Heb. 11:9-10, 32-40)

This sacred text is dedicated - as we understand it - to the holy figures our Church honors today, and as I said before, they pleased God with their faith, their life and their struggles. They were men, women and children who maintained the flame of faith and hope in God's promise lit within their hearts. The promise that has been assured to mankind, troubled by sins and death as we are, of the coming of He who is the Messiah, who will restore with His salvific words and redeemable works

human nature to its high position and paradisiacal state as it was before our disobedience and fall.

A promise given by our compassionate Creator to the first-formed when they were still overwhelmed by the revelation of the cunning trap to which they had fallen, by speaking to them of a "seed of a woman" who will crush the head of the sinister foe (Gen. 3:15). A promise of restoration made sure throughout the ages, until the human race - like a spiritual tree - matured properly and offered that splendid fruit, the Most Holy Theotokos, who would be made worthy to be the Mother of His Son.

But among those early people and the "blessed among women" Mariam, a holy army of people intervened, who like a spiritual "relay race" received from those who came before them and handed off to those who came after, the divine promise of the coming Messiah, who would shatter like a spider web the veil of corruption and death that overshadowed human nature throughout the years and would restore it again to the height and value of our pre-fallen position and honor. But this spiritual "relay race" was neither easy nor without cost. It took hard work, pain, tears and sacrifices to maintain lit and bright the candle of faith, hope and love for God, in a world deceived by the falsehood of polytheism and the darkness of selfishness and the passions.

These spiritual "relay racers" are presented before us today by our Mother the Church, these athletes of our faith, the porters of the divine promise, the foremessengers of the incarnation of the Son and Word of God. It is they whom we contemporary Christians are called to imitate: their benevolent intent, their virtuous life, and their zeal to pass on to those who will come after us the faith, the hope and love for the one and only true Triune God. Amen.

Source: John Sanidopoulos

Divine Services for December 24 & 25



Children and Faith

Christmas Eve

430pm

(Elements of Great Vespers, 7-10 minutes) followed by The Divine Liturgy

Christmas Day

Orthros 730am Divine Liturgy of St. Basil

St. George Cathedral Presents



New Year's Eve Dance

Saturday December 31, 2022

Doors open 8 p.m.

Tickets \$60 per person (children 12 and under free)

Tickets available through Tuesday December 27

Music by the Kosta Taslis Band

Champagne, Dinner, and Dancing

Cash Bar—Wine and Beer

St. George Greek Orthodox Cathedral
650 Hanover Street, Manchester, NH 603-622-9113 office@stgeorgenh.org

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORSHIP TIME CHANGE - On Sunday December 25, Orthros starts at 7:30am and Divine Liturgy starts at 8:30am.

OFFICE CLOSED - The office is closed on Friday December 23 and Monday December 26.

NEW YEAR'S EVE DANCE - Tickets are still available from the church office! Come celebrate the start of the New Year at the New Year's Eve dance. See flyer for more info.

CADILLAC 50/50 RAFFLE TICKETS - Stop by the office to pick up your 50/50 Cadillac Raffle ticket, \$10 each. You do not need to attend the event for a chance to win. If you are interested in attending the Cadillac Classic, please call the office for more information.

KOURAMBIETHES - Cookies are available while supplies last! \$2 each or 6 for \$10. Available on Sundays at coffee hour until noon and during the week from 9am to 4pm. Cash or check made payable to Anagennesis Ladies Society.

SPONSORED COFFEE HOUR - The coffee hour today is sponsored in memory of George Lalopoulos by the Lalopoulos family.

GOYA MEETING - There will be a GOYA member meeting on Sunday January 8 after Sunday School.

PROSFORA, PLEASE - You are invited to make Prosfora to be used during the Sunday Services. Thank you for helping with this special need.

PHOTOGRAPHERS WANTED - Photographers wanted to take pictures at future events for the St. George Memory Project. Please contact the office for more info.

SAVE THE DATES - The Apokreatiko Dance will be held on Saturday, February 18. AHEPA and Daughters of Penelope will host a pancake breakfast on Sunday, February 19.

THE VENERATION OF SAINTS

Every day of the year is dedicated to one or more of the saints of the Church. Commemoration is usually on the date of their “falling asleep” in Christ rather than a birthdate. We honor the saints because they were dear to God during their lives on earth and are now with the Lord, having received the crown of glory.

The honor and reverence accorded the saints is sharply distinguished from that given to God. We worship God, never the saints. We venerate and revere the saints, who are Christian heroes, having struggled for faith and virtue, and gave their lives for Christ.

The saints have been honored from the earliest days of Christianity. Early writers attest to this practice. Tertullian, year 240, writes “We offer oblations every anniversary in honor of their natal feasts.” The ancient Liturgies likewise make commemoration of the saints: “That they may offer their untiring prayers to Thee for us, so that, though we place little reliance on our own selves, we may though them presume to come to Thee.” (St. Basil).

Certainly there is a great need in our day to have proper heroes to emulate in life. What better than the countless numbers of saints, coming from every station in life, who have served God faithfully and are now with the Lord?

Our bulletin contains the icon of **ST. EUGENIA**, martyred in the 3rd century. In Greek, her name means “noble.” She was born into a pagan home, but came to believe in Christ, dedicating her life to Him. She is said to have converted her father Philip, a Roman officer, and the rest of her family. She met a martyr’s death by sword in Rome.

The Orthodox Weekly Bulletin Vestal, Cliffwood, New Jersey Litho in U.S.A.

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Lord's Day (Sunday) Services:

Orthros/Matins: 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy: 10:00 a.m.

An electronic copy of this bulletin is available on the website.

The Children's Word

"Let the little children come to me, and do not forbid them, for to such is the Kingdom of Heaven." Mark 10:14

Sunday, December 18, 2022

Volume 10, Issue 51

A Ministry of the
Orthodox Christian Network



Call His name Jesus

Sometimes you might hear some-body say, "He was born to do that." A great runner might be "born to run," or people might say a great scientist might be "born to" find a cure for some disease. If somebody is really good at something, people might say that God made him for that whole reason.



Today is the Sunday before Christmas, the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ. In the Gospel reading today, we hear the long story of where Jesus came from—it tells who Joseph was, who Joseph's father was, who *his* father was, and so on. You might remember how Joseph had a dream before the baby, Jesus, was born. In the dream, an angel of God told Joseph where Jesus came from. He told him that the baby was from God! The angel told Joseph, "Call his name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." (The name "Jesus" means "He saves.")

Jesus was born to save His people from their sins! As Christians, we always know why Jesus came to us. It wasn't just to make blind people see again. It wasn't just to make people who couldn't walk, to walk again. It wasn't just to tell stories about how to be good people. Jesus came to save us. He was born as a baby to grow up and "save His people from their sins." Let's thank God for Jesus, and what He was born to do!

WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

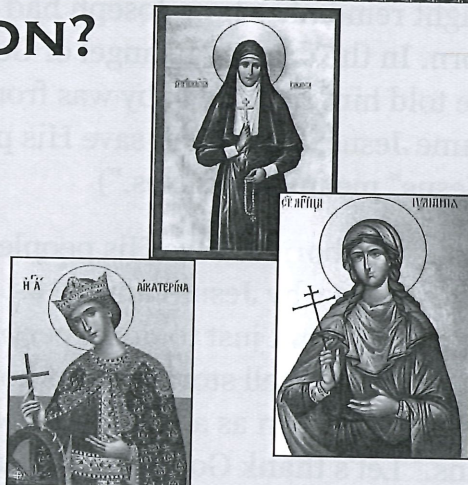
Beauty
Bride
Genealogy
He saves
Jesus
Juliana
Nativity
Saint
Wedding

N	G	B	C	S	T	S	D	U	A	X	Q	O	F	W
A	A	Y	R	R	N	C	E	Z	O	R	T	G	S	M
Z	Q	T	X	L	I	U	I	V	S	J	E	V	C	A
Y	R	L	I	F	A	V	C	F	A	E	L	S	X	Q
R	C	R	U	V	S	Z	D	G	W	S	D	H	E	G
F	L	Z	A	S	I	G	C	E	O	F	E	T	F	E
L	I	R	C	N	M	T	D	B	Y	K	U	H	X	N
H	Y	O	Q	E	A	D	Y	T	N	J	L	P	X	E
U	L	B	D	I	I	I	E	B	M	V	G	A	E	A
C	T	I	M	N	O	F	L	F	M	H	B	H	I	L
M	R	T	G	V	D	F	S	U	S	E	J	O	B	O
B	E	A	U	T	Y	Z	I	O	J	B	F	S	I	G
K	Q	B	J	R	N	A	F	N	M	W	I	O	S	Y
B	M	K	Y	H	V	T	U	K	F	I	O	V	T	V
A	D	R	T	I	C	L	G	Y	Y	V	K	U	S	W

WHAT'S IN THE ICON?

Many saints were beautiful during their lifetimes. Think of Saint Katherine, Saint Elizabeth the Grand Duchess, and Saint Juliana this week.

They knew that real beauty meant having a beautiful soul. That's why we remember them as saints!



SAINT JULIANA

"GO AND SEE YOUR BEAUTY"

Have you ever been to a wedding?

If it was an Orthodox wedding, you heard prayers, asking God to make the man and the woman "one in Christ." That means that our Lord, Jesus Christ joins them together so they can both follow Him.

This week we celebrate a saint who knew how important it is to marry somebody who is also a Christian. Saint Juliana was a young woman who was engaged to a pagan man. (He worshiped many false gods.) Juliana was a secret Christian. She did not want to marry this man. He was smart. He was rich. He was important. But he didn't worship the one, true God. Juliana told her parents, no, she would not marry him.

This man, Eleusius, was really mad and he was embarrassed. He tried everything to get her to still marry him. When he found out Juliana was a Christian, he told the Roman governor. She was sent to jail. Eleusius hurt her again and again. He even burned her face with an iron, and he told her, "Go look in the mirror and see your beauty now!" But Juliana told Eleusius that when she died, these horrible marks wouldn't be there anymore. She would be alive with Christ.

Saint Juliana was finally killed, but now she is a special saint in our Church. She reminds us what real beauty is!



We celebrate St. Juliana on Wednesday, Dec. 21st (OC: Jan. 3rd).

Saint Juliana, pray for us!



The Children's Word is a weekly bulletin for Orthodox Christian young people. Copyright 2022 Alexandra Houck.
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