



Main Church Iconography

SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

TOGETHER, LET US ADORN OUR PARISH

Sponsor an Icon today!



Martyr Kalliope

June 8



Kalliope was a saint of the third century AD. She was executed in 250, near the beginning of Emperor Decius' violent oppression of Christians within the Roman Empire.

By the age of twenty-one, Kalliope had already passed the age at which most girls marry, yet she had no social prospects at all. She spent her days dedicated to her religion with little thought to social life. When at last she seemed ready for marriage, many suitors asked for her hand. One pagan suitor sent word that were she to reject him in favor of another, he would see to it that the pagan authorities would carry out their form of justice. Kalliope did not hesitate to not only deny this suitor, but made it plain that she would not marry him even if he were a Christian.

The spurned suitor arranged for her to be brought before a magistrate, where she was accused of a variety of crimes ranging from a mockery of the pagan faith to treason against the state. The suitor paid a parade of witnesses to testify against Kalliope in order to destroy her reputation. She was deemed guilty, and the rejected suitor stepped forth to offer a withdrawal of the charges against her if she would disavow Christ and become his pagan bride. The alternative was torture, and if that did not bend her will, then it was death. When she refused to disavow Christ, she was beheaded.

Apolytikion: Having loved the beauty of the Savior from your soul, O comely-virgin lady, O all-praised Kalliope, you struggled steadfastly on His behalf, and were made worthy of divine glory. Because of this, we honor your holy memory and cry out to you: glory to Him Who gave you strength, glory to Him Who crowned you, glory to Him Who grants to us, through you, remission of offenses.