

in her office for Matins and Lauds in the Roman Breviary. In these we read that her soul rose to heaven, where she was seen afterwards upon a royal throne, while the Blessed sang praises to God.

The city of Rome ranks her among its particular patrons. She is mentioned in the Martyrologies of Ado and Usuard. The history of the discovery of her relics was published by Honoratus of Viterbo, an Oratorian.

God calls His saints to Him at every age; both young and old. We find martyrs ready for every torment, at all epochs of life. What is important is to be ready and to desire the most important day of our life— that of our death.

\*(excerpted from: magnificat.ca; www.ewtn.com; liturgialatina.blogspot.com)

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## ***Saint Martina***

**Feast Day: January 30**



***"O Love my Lord Jesus Christ who strengthens me."***

**Saint Martina**

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\*Saint Martina, a Roman virgin, was the child of a noble Christian consul, of whom it was said that he was extremely merciful towards the poor, and very zealous for faith in the Most Holy Trinity. His daughter (Martina) lost both her parents while she was still very young, and for the love of Christ, she distributed all she inherited to the poor, so that she might be more free to hasten towards martyrdom, during the persecution which had recently begun.

Under the emperor Alexander Severus she was discovered in a church one day by three officers of a search party, and was commanded to follow them to a temple of Apollo. She cheerfully agreed, saying she would do so after praying for a short time and taking leave of her bishop. The officers reported their important capture to the emperor, believing she would readily renounce her faith. But when he ordered her to speak, she replied that she would sacrifice to none other than the true God, and never to idols, the handiwork of men. She was tortured by iron hooks, but her executioners were thrown to the ground amid a great light as

she prayed, and arose converted, like Saint Paul, to the Christian faith.

She was tormented again the following day before the emperor, cruelly scourged while attached by her hands and feet to posts. When, one day later, she was taken to a temple of Diana, the demon left amid horrible screams. Fire from heaven fell and burnt the idol, which in tumbling crushed many of its priests and pagan worshipers. Saint Martina, after suffering other tortures and being spared by an enraged lion and a fiery furnace, was finally beheaded. Her death occurred on January 1st during the fourth year of Alexander Severus.

Her relics were found in 1634, during the papacy of Urban VIII, near the Mamertine Prison, with those of several other martyrs. All were placed in a beautiful church dedicated to Saint Martina in a former temple of Mars who is recalled as the god of war. Urban VIII spared no efforts in promoting her veneration. He himself composed the hymns used