Cecilia

Third Century

Feast Day—November 22

Cecilia has been honored as a martyr since about 545. According to a written legend, *The Passion of St. Cecilia*, she was a Roman Christian of the patrician class betrothed to the pagan Valerian. The Cecilia *Passion* has her singing to God in her heart on her wedding day. Cecilia tells Valerian she has made a vow of virginity and persuades him to convert to Christianity and enter into a celibate marriage. His brother, Tiburtius, also becomes a Christian. The brothers are later martyred. When Cecilia refuses to perform an idolatrous act, she too is martyred. Cecilia is the patron of musicians.