

Akathist to Saint Argyra the New Martyr



**For Being a Godly Wife
For Enduring Persecution**

Kontakion 1

We praise God for His holy martyrs of whom we are not worthy, yet whose sufferings give us direction and encouragement in these treacherous days. Let us pray for strength to carry our cross and witness of Christ before governments and even other religions which are in opposition to true spirituality. We see that in the eighteenth century such conviction was demonstrated by a young wife, Saint Argyra, who lived in Bithynia within a Christian minority. Despite extreme consequences, she remained devoted to the True God and loyal to her husband, and therefore we declare:

Praise God, Saint Argyra, faithful Christian and honorable wife.

Ikos 1

Saint Argyra, you got married when you were eighteen years old, to a man who cherished you and who lived according to the teachings of Christ. As a young bride, you had your whole life ahead of you, and you looked forward to daily companionship and family unity. However, the environment of a Christian minority was to prove disruptive to normal development. O devoted disciple of Christ, you were to be separated from your husband but not from God, and hence we offer you these earnest praises:

Praise God, prized daughter of Godly-minded parents.

Praise God, fine lady of virtue and Christian friendship.

Praise God, wholesome wife of a God-loving man.

Praise God, brave worshipper in a non-Christian setting.

Praise God, Saint Argyra, faithful Christian and honorable wife.

Kontakion 2

Although you were happily married, the selfish son of a government official desired you for himself. He made improper advances toward you, and also tried to persuade you to join his religion. Saint Argyra, you were faithful to your First Love, the Son of God, and to the husband sent to you by God and for the working out of your salvation on this earth. In accordance with your pious upbringing and the Sacrament of Marriage, you refused the lurking man and rejected his religion, and said: **Alleluia!** **(People sing Alleluia!)**

Ikos 2

Saint Argyra, it was your instinct to protect your husband, given the harsh realities of a Christian minority in Bithynia. You did not tell him about the appalling behavior of the lurker, because you knew that your husband's instinct would be to protect you also — by confronting the lurker and consequently meeting with punishment from the authorities. In all ways and at all times, O firm believer of the Scriptures, you were a blessing at home and a witness of Christ in public. It is therefore our privilege to sing praises to you:

Praise God, for you gave priority to the safety of your spouse.

Praise God, for you guarded his life though he knew it not.

Praise God, for your main concern was not your own welfare.

Praise God, for your greatest treasure was not your own wishes.

Praise God, Saint Argyra, faithful Christian and honorable wife.

Kontakion 3

In time, the situation with the lurker was revealed because he took you to court over your refusal to give in to his desires. He accused you of having agreed to marry him and convert to his religion, and then breaking your promises to him. Saint Argyra, he brought false witnesses against you — you, who had lived blamelessly and prayed zealously all your young life. Despite the lies and defamation of character, you repelled the pressure to betray your conscience. You remained loyal to your husband and to God, and you faithfully said: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

Ikos 3

Saint Argyra, the court wrongly judged you guilty of immorality. Then, O holy woman of the True God, you were flogged and taken to prison. Wounded in body and separated from your husband, but with confidence in all righteousness, you entered prison and offered your burdens to Jesus Christ. You knew that God is present everywhere, that He hears our prayers at all times, and that the evils of this world can never divide those who worship in the True Church. In recognition of your steadfastness, we bring you these praises:

Praise God, trustworthy spouse and fearless disciple.

Praise God, upright citizen and innocent prisoner.

Praise God, angelic daughter and bold confessor.

Praise God, solitary defendant and Church adherent.

Praise God, Saint Argyra, faithful Christian and honorable wife.

Kontakion 4

Saint Argyra, your husband appealed your case in Constantinople where again, upon confessing that you were a Christian, you were found guilty and you were sentenced to life in prison. For the next fifteen years, the duration of your lifetime, you were recurrently beaten by the authorities and mentally tormented by the other women prisoners who were not Christians. Yet, you maintained your spiritual perception and discernment of all events, and even increased your faith in the True God, always saying: **Alleluia! (People sing Alleluia!)**

Ikos 4

Now without options or possibilities, you had been rendered a prisoner instead of homemaker, and a captive instead of a mother. You gladly suffered all mistreatment and deprivation, O faithful follower of Jesus Christ, for you knew that Christ Himself suffered and that the world will not treat us Christians any better. Not only the unbelievers but even other religions will persecute those who love Christ and refuse to denounce Him. We therefore venerate you, Saint Argyra, because you foresaw and willingly walked the path to martyrdom as many of our predecessors have done:

Praise God, for you endured without affirmation from people.

Praise God, for you imitated Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane.

Praise God, for you continued without validation from peers.

Praise God, for you prayed to the saints of the Holy Church.

Praise God, Saint Argyra, faithful Christian and honorable wife.

Kontakion 5

Saint Argyra, at one point, a Christian man, Manolis, thought he might be able to intervene on your behalf and obtain your release from prison. To the amazement of everyone, you refused his help, preferring to remain in constant prayer and to know nothing but Jesus Christ and Him crucified. The authorities finally killed you in 1721, at the age of thirty-three. You have taught us, O blessed martyr for the sake of Christ, that even if life does not turn out the way we had envisioned, we can still love God under any and all circumstances and be found pleasing in His sight. **Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. (People sing Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.)**

Closing Verse

May we love God above all created things and all ideals, living purely for Him alone and confessing Christianity before all cultures and institutions.

Glorifying God Through His Light
50 Hour Prayer Vigil

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