



St. Cecilia Icon

By: Transcendentia Designs

St. Cecilia is one of the most revered of the early Virgin Martyrs of Rome. She is remembered today as the patron of musicians, composers, instrument makers, poets, and bodily purity. The name Cecilia means blind, of whom she is also the patron saint.

She is frequently depicted with a musical instrument. In our icon, she is depicted with an acoustic guitar, the instrument of choice of many Christian artists in the 21st century. This comes from what is often attributed to her, namely that while the musicians played at her nuptials, she sang in her heart to God.

St. Cecilia's blue garment and coif represent her living a transcendent life with the heavenly realm as the focus. The red mantle represents her martyrdom and the sacrifice and blood that accompany it. Her white veil and inner garment represent purity and her virginity.

She is one of several virgin martyrs commemorated by name in the Canon of the Mass in the Latin Church. The church of Santa Cecilia in Trastevere, founded in the 3rd century by Pope Urban I, is believed to be on the site of the house where she lived and died. In 1599, her body was found still incorrupt, seeming to be asleep.