



**The Holy Righteous Martyr Eugenia  
Whom the Holy Church Celebrates on December 24.**

This martyr was the daughter of most distinguished and noble parents named Philip and Claudia. Philip, a prefect of Rome, moved to Alexandria with his family. In Alexandria, Eugenia had the occasion to learn the Christian Faith, in particular when she encountered the Epistles of Saint Paul, the reading of which filled her with compunction and showed her clearly the vanity of the world. Secretly taking two of her servants, Protas and Hyacinth, she departed from Alexandria by night. Disguised as a man, she called herself Eugene while pretending to be a eunuch, and departed with her servants and took up the monastic life in a monastery of men. Her parents mourned for her but could not find her. After Saint Eugenia had laboured for some time in the monastic life, a certain woman named Melanthia, thinking Eugenia to be a monk, conceived lust and constrained Eugenia to comply with her desire; when Eugenia refused, Melanthia slandered Eugenia to the Prefect as having done insult to her honour. Eugenia was brought before the Prefect, her own father Philip, and revealed to him both that she was innocent of the accusations, and that she was his own daughter. Through this, Philip became a Christian; he was afterwards beheaded at Alexandria. Eugenia was taken back to Rome with Protas and Hyacinth. All

three of them ended their life in martyrdom in the years of Commodus, who reigned from 180 to 192.

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*Dismissal Hymn of the Martyr  
Third Tone. Thy confession*

**B**EING mystically moved by the Spirit, \* thou didst sing God's praise, thereby receiving \* the clear light of divine knowledge in thy heart; \* and shining bright as the sun with a righteous life, \* thou overcamest the devil in martyrdom. \* O Eugenia, thou most glorious Martyr of the Lord, \* entreat Christ God to grant great mercy unto us.

*Kontakion of the Martyr. Fourth Tone  
On this day thou hast appeared*

**F**LEEING from the fleeting world's \* temporal glory, \* thou didst greatly long for Christ, \* and didst preserve wholly unhurt, \* the high nobility of thy soul, O godly Martyr, all-lauded Eugenia.

**EXAPOSTILARION**

*Of the Forefeast. Second Tone. Upon that mount in Galilee*

**N**OTHING could prove a hindrance to \* Thy handmaid's perfect struggles; \* for Thou didst grant Thine unseen strength \* unto her female weakness. \* Wherefore, O Christ God, Thy Martyr \* Eugenia strove in contest \* with valour past all human strength; \* her remembrance in glory \* hast Thou now joined \* to the brilliant feast of Thine own august Birth, \* which Thou, O Master, didst receive \* from the all-holy Virgin.

**SYNAXARION**

On the twenty-fourth of this month we commemorate the doubly Righteous Martyr Eugenia.

*Verses*

Crowned first of all, O Eugenia, with labours,  
Thou wast dyed fast by the sword with lasting colours.

On the twenty-fourth Eugenia suffered the sword.