

JUNE 19, ST. JULIANA, VIRGIN

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St. Juliana Falconieri, born in Florence in 1270, niece of St. Alexis Falconieri, even as a child showed such sanctity that her holy uncle told her mother that she had given birth to an angel. To hear sin spoken of made her tremble. At the age of fifteen she consecrated her virginity to God. She founded the Order of the Mantelette (wearers of a short cloak or mantle); she was then asked by St. Philip Beniti to take charge of the whole order of the Servites and thus may be regarded as a second foundress of this Community devoted to the Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin. Toward the end of her life; on account of constant sickness, it was not possible for her to receive the Blessed Sacrament; she asked that it might be held near her heart. When this was done the sacred host miraculously penetrated her breast. She died on June 19, 1340. In olden times the pagans penetrated in the mouth of the dead a piece of money as payment to the boatman Charon. In the Fourth Century it was already an ancient tradition of the Roman Church to comfort the last moments of the faithful by administration of the Eucharist; the Viaticum also was sometimes placed on the breast of the dead person. This custom which testified to the robust faith of that early age in the immortality of the soul and final resurrection was afterwards modified by the Church, decreeing that Communion after Confession and Extreme Unction should suffice as Viaticum.

Commemoration of Sts. Gervase & Protase: Sts. Gervase and Protase, said to be twins, were called by St. Ambrose the proto-martyrs of Milan. At the close of the Fourth Century he discovered their relics and had them suitably enshrined.

Their names are included in the Litany of the Saints.

INTROIT Psalms 44: 8

Dilexisti justitiam, et odisti iniquitatem: propterea unxit te Deus, Deus tuus, oleo lætitiæ præ consortibus tuis. (Ps. 44: 2) Eructavit cor meum verbum bonum: dico ego opera mea Regi. Glória Patri et Filio et Spiritui Sancto, sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper, et in sæcula sæculorum. Amen. Dilexisti justitiam, et odisti iniquitatem: propterea unxit te Deus, Deus tuus, oleo lætitiæ præ consortibus tuis.

Thou hast loved justice, and hated iniquity: therefore God, thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows. (Ps. 44: 2) My heart hath uttered a good word: I speak my works to the King. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Thou hast loved justice, and hated iniquity: therefore God, thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.