

**“BLESSED ARE THE PURE IN HEART . . .”**

## **SAINT MARKELLA**

**The life and death of the MARTYR MARKELLA OF CHIOS is a story that, even in our modern era where very little surprises us, would be considered most shocking. Markella was born in the 16<sup>th</sup> century on this small Greek Island. It was said that her physical appearance was stunning beyond description. Still, Markella’s true beauty was found in the depth of her soul, for she exhibited purity and gentleness at all times. Her family was prominent and wealthy – her father was the local mayor – but Markella was much more interested in developing a spiritual relationship with the Lord than in material gain.**

**When her mother died, Markella totally immersed herself in service to Christ. Her father, however, was not a believer, and soon Markella found herself abused by him both verbally and physically. Finally, after thwarting his perverted, amorous advances towards her, Markella attempted to runaway. As her infuriated father chased her, she attempted to hide in a thorny bush. Discovering her place of concealment, the crazed man set fire to the bush, forcing her out from her hiding place. She continued to run, but was soon felled by an arrow. Trapped now between two rocks, Markella was brutally murdered by her father – her lifeless body cut into pieces.**

**After her death, the villagers found a spring of water flowing from the rocks at the location where Markella had died. The waters from it were found to have miraculous powers of healing. A small chapel was erected on the site in memory of this lovely young martyr named Markella.**