February 5th
Martyr Agatha of Palermo in Sicily
Stichera at "O Lord, I have cried"

1) Thou didst keep thy body wholly incorrupt for thy Bride-groom, Christ, O wise Agatha, bride of God, resplendent and very fair with virginal beauty.

And to the divine bridal chamber hast thou made thy way, shining with bright flashing rays of martyrdom. And therefore, as we keep thy universal feast day, we glorify Christ the Savior, Who hath Himself glorified thee forevermore.

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2) Thou didst bear the burning of the fire, O glorious Agatha, and the severing of thy breasts, and scrapings most merciless of thy tender body; for thou hadst the gaze of thy heart fixed steadfastly upon the everlasting rewards and yonder bliss, and on the crown that fadeth not, which Christ hath now granted unto thee, since thou strovest resplendently for His sake, O all lauded one.
3) Thou didst check the violence of Etna's wild and unruly fire by thy prayers; and thou didst preserve thy city, which honor eth thy most hallowed relics, whence it reap eth rivers of heal ings by the Spirit's grace,

O blessed name sake of goodness rightly named; for when thou didst contend therein, thou didst abase the despite ful foe and didst win crowns of victory,

O all famed Martyr Agatha.