April 16th

Martyrs Agape, Irene, and Chonia of Thessalononica

Stichera at "O Lord, I have cried"

Byzantine Chant Tone 1
Special melody: O all-lauded Martyrs

Adapted by Dn. John El Massih

1) O young virgin maid-ens, who were named for the great and ho-ly
virtues, and on virtues were brought up, ye have man-ful-ly at-tained
to the high-est meas-ure of ex-alt-ed pi-e-ty;

and now ye are as-cend-ed to Heav-en, O Agape and Irene and Chooni-a, en-treat-ing Christ

that He grant peace and great mer-cy to our souls.

2) O young virgin maid-ens, in all truth, our first moth-er Eve's great
long-ing af-ter de-i-fi-ca-tion ye be-fit-ting-ly have gained,
dei-fied through cease-less prayers and striv-ings af-ter God,

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as ye are ever filled with divine and sacred

vision in the heights. And now intercede ye with the Lord

that He grant peace and great mercy to our souls.

3) Since Christ was enthroned within their hearts, the courageous Virgin Martyrs, with a spirit of courage, trampled down the mighty foe, who had once beguiled Eve with most treacherous deceit;

and since they have defeated him mightily and covered him with shame, they now boldly intercede with Christ

that He grant peace and great mercy to our souls.