

**FROM THE ORTHODOX WEEKLY BULLETIN . . . VESTAL PUBLISHING, CLIFFWOOD, NEW JERSEY**

**THE PATRON SAINT OF PHARMACISTS**

**Great Martyr ANASTASIA**

**“Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in Heaven.”**

Saint Anastasia, whose name means ‘resurrection,’ lived in the early 4<sup>th</sup> Century. Persecution and suffering were still everyday realities for Christians believers. Pagan rulers of the Roman Empire used every means possible to stop the growth of our Christian Faith.

Anastasia was the daughter of a heathen father and a Christian mother. Of noble birth, she was given in marriage to a Roman official who was embittered against the Christian Gospel. During the violent persecutions carried on by the command of the Emperor Diocletian, Anastasia devoted herself to the care of Christians who were arrested for their faith and packed into prisons and dungeons. She gave of her time, money and skill to ease the suffering of those who bore witness to their faith in Christ. She provided medicines for the sick and wounded, and came to be known as “ the medicine woman.”

Starvation, disease and torture took the lives of many. After tending to them in their suffering, Anastasia saw to it that the martyrs received a Christian burial.

Her husband was killed while on a journey for the empire. Anastasia then sold her earthly possessions and used the funds in caring for the incarcerated. It wasn’t long before she herself was arrested by the pagan rulers and brought to trial for her Faith. She remained steadfast and was martyred in the year 304.

Not much else is know about St. Anastasia; few incidents of her life have been preserved. But the most important of these are known: She believed in Christ, served Him faithfully, loved Him and died for Him. Surely that is more than enough!