

SAINT CORONA, PRAY FOR US



*St. Corona altarpiece, c. 1350
at Statens Museum for Kunst*

Not much is known about **ST. CORONA**. Like St. Valentine and so many early martyrs, the fullness of her deeds and holiness are known only to God.

Early hagiography tells us that this holy soul had witnessed the martyrdom of St. Victor, a soldier who was executed by his brothers-in-arms for his faith. While Victor was being tortured and disfigured, the brave 16-year-old Corona cried out comforting words and encouragement as Victor held fast to his faith and gave up his life for the Lord. Victor's persecutors soon turned on Corona and executed her by tying her to drawn palm trees, which ripped her in half when snapped upright, yet the young saint never gave up her faith. In a time when preaching faith, hope, and love can seem foolish, St. Corona provides a model for clinging to Christ even when all seems lost. As the Coronavirus wreaks havoc and vexes us all, St. Corona gives us an opportunity to remember our

faith and cling to hope, no matter the costs.

The name *corona*, of course, merely means *crown* and so the name can feel like a coincidence. In this moment, however, while that "corona" anxiety races through our minds, we have a saintly woman named Corona who can help us to shoulder these burdens and provide relief when we need it most.

St. Corona's feast day, May 14th, is a mere few weeks away. During these weeks, as our movements are restricted and we spend more time in isolation and quarantine, let's look to St. Corona to learn how to hold onto radical hope and request her intercession to heal the sick and protect us and our neighbors from the scourge of Coronavirus.

Join us in asking St. Corona to storm heaven for miracles big and small. Use this prayer below to call graces down upon all those who are suffering or anxious at this time. If you are moved to get others around you to help in this prayer effort. Please take one of the St. Corona prayer cards enlist others to join us in this prayer. The holy cards also offer others the great gift of hope, hope that we have the prayers of the saints and power of Christ behind us, and that this too shall pass.

PRAYER TO ST. CORONA IN A TIME OF EPIDEMIC

Lord Jesus Christ, You came into this world for our salvation. Look kindly on us now, we pray, that we, and all those who serve You, might be kept safe from this epidemic.

Heal those who are sick, comfort the suffering, bring back those who have gone astray, and above all, increase our faith, O Lord.

Give us the grace to follow You and, like the martyr St. Corona, who gave her life for love of You, to take up our crosses daily without fear or hesitation.

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

St. Corona, patroness of epidemic victims, pray for us.