From the Life of the Holy and Glorious Hieromartyr Januarius
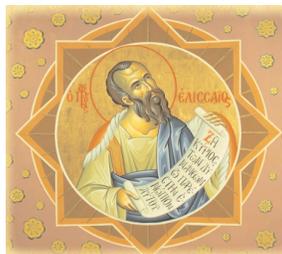
(Commemorated April 21)

Translated from the Greek by His Eminence,
Bishop Chrysostomos
Metropolitan *Emeritus* of Etna

The holy, glorious Hieromartyr Januarius lived during the years of the impious and fearful persecutor of Christianity, Diocletian, and came to his end in glory, by beheading, after a horrendous martyrdom, which he endured with unflagging faith and wondrous valor.

In his life, it is written that when the persecution ended, under St. Constantine the Great, and Christianity shined forth, the only son of a certain widow, named Maximina, fell ill and died. The poor widow mourned her son and wept over her misfortune and woe, without anyone being able to comfort her in her immense sorrow.

When the dead son was fetched and taken to the Church, in order to chant the funeral service and bury him, the unfortunate mother saw over the portal of the Church an Icon of St. Januarius, painted on fabric.

Thereupon, He Who "supports the widows and the orphans" brought to this distraught woman's mind what the Prophet Elisha had done, when he resurrected the son of the Shunammite woman.

Thus, with much faith and great piety, she immediately took the sacred Icon in question and placed it on the dead body of her son—face to face, mouth to mouth, eye to eye, forehead to forehead— and pouring forth an abundance of tears, besought the Hieromartyr, saying: "O Saint of God, take pity on me and resurrect my son, just as the Prophet Elisha raised up the son of the Shunammite woman.

And then the God of wonders, that His faithful servant might be glorified, answered the prayer and supplication of the widow and forthwith His Saint raised up the son alive.

All were amazed and joyous and glorified God. The mother, the widow Maximina, naturally, was overjoyed, and took her son, alive and also joyous, and returned to her home with hymns of appreciation and thanksgiving to Christ, the Life-Giver, and to Saint Januarius the Hieromartyr.