

# Saint Lucy

Lucy's Latin name Lucia shares a root (luc) with the Latin word for light, lux.

Her mother, Eutychia had arranged a marriage for Lucy with a non-Christian bridegroom, but Lucy urged that the dowry be spent on alms so that she might retain her virginity. Eutychia suggested that the sums would make a good bequest, but Lucy countered, "...whatever you give away at death for the Lord's sake you give because you cannot take it with you. Give now to the true Saviour, while you are healthy, whatever you intended to give away at your death." News that the patrimony and jewels were being distributed came to the ears of Lucy's betrothed, who heard from a chattering nurse that Lucy had found a nobler Bridegroom.

The rejected bridegroom denounced Lucy as a Christian to the magistrate who ordered her to burn a sacrifice to the emperor's image. Lucy replied that she had given all that she had: "I offer to Him myself, let Him do with His offering as it pleases Him."

The Christian tradition states that she was killed by having a dagger thrust into her throat. As final torture, her eyes were gouged out. She was miraculously still able to see without her eyes. In paintings and statues, St. Lucy is frequently shown holding her eyes on a golden plate.

Feast Day 13th December  
Patron saint of the blind



Luciakrona

Her mid-winter feast is a festival of light in Sweden. [John Donne's](#) poem, "A Nocturnal upon St. Lucie's Day, being the [shortest day](#)", begins with: "'Tis the year's midnight, and it is the day's," and expresses, in a mourning piece, the withdrawal of the world-spirit into sterility and darkness, where "The world's whole sap is sunk."

This timing, and her name meaning light, is a factor in the particular devotion to St. Lucy in [Scandinavian](#) countries, where young girls dress as the saint in honour of the feast. A special devotion to St. Lucy is present in the North Eastern regions of Italy.