



St. Lucy

December 13



Patron Saint of Eyes and Against Blindness, Against Dysentery, Against Epidemics, Against Eye Disease, Against Sore Throats, Against Spiritual Blindness, Against Poverty

Who is She?

Saint Lucy, a native of Syracuse in Sicily, was born around 283 and was educated in the Faith by her father, a Christian, until he died. Her widowed mother, Eutychia, continued her teaching but wanted her to marry a rich pagan man. At an early age Lucy had already secretly made a vow of virginity and wanted to distribute her dowry to the poor. Her mother did not agree. Lucy's mother became very ill from a bleeding problem. She had tried many treatments but all failed. Lucy asked her long-suffering mother to accompany her to the tomb of Saint Agatha, and there her mother was cured of her disease. Saint Lucy then disclosed to her mother the vow she had taken, and her mother, in gratitude for her recovery, left her free to follow her pious desires.

The young nobleman who had sought her in marriage was so enraged that he accused Lucy of being a Christian, which was cause for arrest under the Emperor Diocletian. When the soldiers came to take her, Lucy was filled with the Holy Spirit and she could not be moved – they claimed she was heavier than a mountain. She told them it was the power of Jesus her Lord and God. They tortured her and she finally died from a knife wound to her neck. The year was 304.

She is the patron saint of blindness because it is said she tore out her own eyes to deter the nobleman from pursuing her. But God restored her eyes to her. She is also often depicted wearing a candle lit wreath because according to one legend she brought food and aid to Christians hiding in the Roman catacombs. A similar story is told in Sweden!

How to pray her Chaplet

On the Medal Saint Lucy, whose beautiful name signifies light, By the light of Faith, which God bestowed upon you, increase and preserve His light in my soul so that I may avoid evil, be zealous in the performance of good works, and abhor nothing so much as the blindness and the darkness of evil and sin. Obtain for me, by your Intercessory with God, perfect vision For my bodily eyes and the grace to use them For God's greater honor and glory and the salvation of souls. Saint Lucy, virgin and martyr, hear my prayers and obtain my petitions. (**Mention petitions here**). Amen.

- On Each Bead of the First Set of Three, Pray the Our Father for the Intention of Preserving the Light of My Eyes so that I may see the beauties of creation
- On Each Bead of the Second Set of Three, Pray the Hail Mary for the Intention of Preserving the Eyes of My Soul, the Faith through which I can know my God, understand His teaching, and recognize His love for me.
- On Each Bead of the Third Set of Three, Pray the Glory Be for the Intention of the Spiritual Sight of all the Earth

On the Crucifix O God, our Creator and Redeemer, mercifully hear our prayers as we venerate Thy servant, Saint Lucy, for the light of faith Thou didst bestow upon her, Thou wouldst vouchsafe to increase and to preserve this same light in our souls, that we may be able to avoid evil, to do good and to abhor nothing so much as the blindness and the darkness of evil and of sin.

Relying on Thy goodness, O God, we humbly ask Thee, by the intercession of Thy servant, Saint Lucy that Thou wouldst give perfect vision to our eyes, that they may serve for Thy greater honor and glory, and for the salvation of our souls in this world, that we may come to the enjoyment of the unfailing light of the Lamb of God in paradise. Saint Lucy, virgin and martyr, hear our prayer and obtain our petitions.

<http://www.family-prayer.org/saint-lucy.html>

<https://www.blessedbeadsrosaries.com/about-saint-lucy>



Saint Odilia of Cologne

Feast Day December 13 (or July 18)

Patron Saint against Blindness

In the fourth century, Odilia, the daughter of a powerful ruler of Britain, went to her martyrdom at Cologne, Germany, together with Ursula and a group of other virgins. These virgins were seeking a place where they might practice their faith in peace and quiet, but at the gates of Cologne they were met by fierce and cruel barbarians. The life-story of these valiant women ends here. They chose death.

The work of the Saints in heaven, though sometimes unseen and unheralded, is richer by far than it was on earth. So it was with Saint Odilia. About eight hundred years later, in 1287, she appeared to John Novelan, a lay brother of the Crosier Order in Paris, and told him she had been appointed by God to be the Patron Saint and Protectress of the members of the Order of the Holy Cross (now commonly called Crosier Fathers). She informed him also that her relics were to be found in an orchard in Cologne and begged him to get permission to unearth them. He did ask permission of his superior but was refused. Saint Odilia was persistent; she appeared twice more. Finally the Prior consented and commanded a priest of the Order to accompany the brother.

When these two reached Cologne, they had little trouble finding the relics. Joyfully they informed the Archbishop, who came personally to witness the findings. Saint Odilia had instructed Brother John that her relics were to be taken to the Motherhouse of the Order at Huy in Belgium. Both at Cologne and on the way to Huy various cures took place, of blindness, of paralysis and other bodily infirmities.

In 1797, at the time of the French Revolution, the monastery at Huy was totally destroyed; and although the relics were saved they were lost to the Order. Fortunately, just recently, in 1949, Saint Odilia "came back home". Her relics were returned to the order, and a large portion of one of her bones was brought to Onamia, Minnesota, and now rests in her Shrine here. It can be viewed by entering the Shrine, where it is encased in a marble reliquary. Saint Odilia has promised to shower a stream of graces upon the Crosier Fathers and upon all those who invoke her aid in their hour of need. For centuries it has been the practice in the Crosier Order to bless water in honor of Saint Odilia, dipping her relic in it and asking God to give it "power against all diseases

and bodily infirmities". Many are the cures, especially of diseases of the eyes, obtained through her intercession.

https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=155

St. ODILIA OF ALSACE

Feast Day: December 13

Patron Saint: Blindness



Odilia, also known as Odile, was born in France in the seventh century. Her father was the Duke of Alsace. When she was still an infant, her parents realized that she was blind. Her father was so angry that he ordered his only child put to death. But Odilia's mother convinced him to allow Odilia to be raised by nuns. The nuns raised Odilia with faith and love. They gathered around her on the day of her baptism when she was 12 years old. As the priest blessed her with chrism, her blindness was cured. A legend about this miracle is that the priest then said to her, "Now you will see me in the kingdom of heaven."

Odilia was welcomed home and began to get to know her family. She was a beautiful young woman, and her father planned for her to marry a rich man. Odilia wanted to become a nun and to live the life she knew so well. Her father again lost his temper and treated her badly until one day he saw her hiding a bowl of food under her cloak as she left the castle. He asked her what she was doing. Odilia explained that she was bringing food to the poor. Odilia's father gave her his castle to use as a convent and a place for the hungry and sick to find help. At her request, her father also built a monastery at the foot of the steep hill that led to the castle so that the elderly and lame could be cared for without a long journey uphill. Soon, Odilia's father also built a large church so that everyone, poor or wealthy, could worship God together.

Odilia died around the year 720. She is the patron saint of anyone with eye problems. St. Odilia teaches us to see the everything we do with eyes of faith and to believe that with the Lord, anything is possible.

<http://saintsresource.com/odilia-of-alsace>