

## St. Lucy December 13

St. Lucy was one of the earliest Christian saints to achieve popularity, having a widespread following before the 5th century.

She is the patron saint of the city of Syracuse (Sicily) and of virgins.

Because of various traditions associating her name with light, she came to be thought of as the patron of sight and was depicted by medieval artists carrying a dish containing her eyes.

She is one of 8 women explicitly commemorated in the Canon of the Mass—the Eucharistic Prayer.



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St. Lucy is venerated on her feast day by a variety of ceremonies.

In Sweden, St. Lucia's Day marks the beginning of the Christmas celebration.

On that day the eldest daughter of the family traditionally dresses in a white robe and wears as a crown an evergreen wreath studded with candles.

The festival is meant to bring hope and light during the darkest time of the year.