

# Lucia of Syracuse

---

*Saint Name:* Saint Lucy or Saint Lucia

*Dates:* 283 AD – 304 AD

*Location:* Syracuse, Italy

*Feast Day:* December 13

Lucia (“Lucy”) was born 283 A.D. in Syracuse, Italy. Most of her history has been lost but it is believed that she was born of rich and noble parents. Her father being of Roman origin, died when she was about 5 years old, leaving Lucia and her mother, Eutychia, without a protective guardian. When Lucy was of marrying age, her mother arranged a marriage to a young wealthy pagan man, not knowing that Lucy had vowed her virginity to God. It was Lucy’s wish to distribute her dowry to the poor and remain virginal. The rejected bridegroom, angered by Lucy’s refusal of marriage betrayed her by confessing her Christian faith to Paschasius, the Roman governor. The governor tried to force Lucy into defilement at a brothel, but with no success. Lucy foretold the punishment of Paschasius and the end of Christian persecution and Maximian, the Roman Emperor; so Paschasius ordered the removal of her eyes followed by execution. The guards tried to move her by hitching her to a team of oxen and when that didn’t work they tried to burn her. When burning failed they resorted to their swords and Lucy met her death. Another version of the story is that Lucy removed her own eyes out to discourage suitors.



All that is known for certain about Lucy is that this brave young woman lost her life during the persecution of Christians in the early fourth century. She was forced to endure horrific torture for her faith and for her love of God. Her name means “light” and she is the patron saint of the blind. St Lucy, virgin and martyr, was one of the earliest Christian saints to have a widespread following before the 5<sup>th</sup> century. Her feast day is December 13.