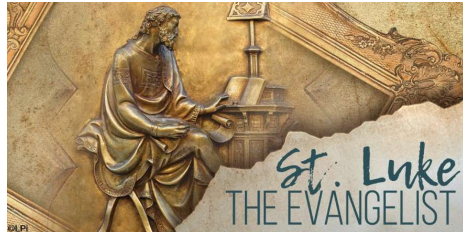


## St. Luke the Evangelist Parish 13 North St., Geneseo, NY



### ***Our Saints and Intercessors, Part II***

Fr. Jeffrey S. Tunncliff  
October 2, 2019



## ***Our Saints and Intercessors, Part II***

### Opening Prayer

"Saint Lucy, **you did not hide your light under a basket**, but let it shine for the whole world, for all the centuries to see. We may not suffer torture in our lives the way you did, but we are still called to let the light of our Christianity illumine our daily lives. Please help us to have the courage to bring our Christianity into our work, our recreation, our relationships, our conversation -- every corner of our day. Amen. (St. Lucy - Prayer to St. Lucy IV, North, 59)



## ***Our Saints and Intercessors, Part II***

### Review Part I

- The saints are real people who lived lives just like us and are examples of holy life as well as intercessors
- We worship God. We venerate the saints.
- The Virgin Mary – “Do whatever he tells you.” John 2:5 – good things happen when we follow Jesus
- Holy Angels – We are never alone. Jesus is with us and sends angels to watch over and guide us.

A video of Part I is available online at  
[www.renewaloffaith.org/saints1](http://www.renewaloffaith.org/saints1)



## ***Our Saints and Intercessors, Part II***

### St. Lucy

Memorial:  
December 13<sup>th</sup>





## Our Saints and Intercessors, Part II

### St. Lucy

- "For a saint about whom so very little is really known, Saint Lucy has a surprisingly impressive religious pedigree. Her relics have travelled the world." (North, 4)
- Included in the canon (Eucharistic Prayer I)
- Miracles but little is known about her or so I thought



## Our Saints and Intercessors, Part II

### St. Lucy – Spiritual Information

- Lucy means "light" (North, 4)
- "one of eleven female saints officially recognized in the Roman Catholic Mass as early as the year 600" (North, 4).
- Also revered in Orthodox, Anglican, and Lutheran churches (North, 4)
- Lucy came of age in a time of **severe** persecution of Christians (North, 29)



## Our Saints and Intercessors, Part II

### St. Lucy - Biography

- After North tells little is known about Lucy, he tells us more than I expected (beginning on page 7):
  - Born 283 AD, Syracuse (Roman province of Sicily)
  - Died 304 AD, Syracuse



## Our Saints and Intercessors, Part II

### St. Lucy - Family

- (North, 17-18)
  - "daughter of wealthy and noble parents"
  - Father thought to be a Latin Roman
  - Father passed away when she was about 8
  - Mother named Eutychia (name indicates a Greek heritage)
  - No siblings mentioned
  - Unlikely mom remarried - "In a world where most women were to a large degree subject to men, we can only imagine how growing up with an independent female role model could have affected Lucy." (North, 19)



## Our Saints and Intercessors, Part II

### St. Lucy - Family

- Level of education uncertain (North, 19)
- "As for the faith of Lucy's family, it would seem that by the time Saint Lucy herself was a Christian, so was her mother. This is not entirely certain." (North, 20)
- "While Lucy was still a teenager, her mother fell very ill with dysentery." (North, 22) and "unable to shake the infection for several years" (North, 22)



## Our Saints and Intercessors, Part II

### St. Lucy - Worldly Influences

- City of Syracuse
  - Greek by heritage but at the time of Lucy was under Roman rule (North, 14)
  - Primary religion then was Roman paganism (North, 14)
  - "Syracuse itself was a major Christian center. The Christian community there claimed to hark back to the days of Saint Peter, who it was said founded the church in Syracuse directly after that of Antioch, the first church. Saint Paul too, it was claimed, had preached there, and the *Acts of the Apostles* (28:11-13) do mention his stay there for three days, probably sometime around the year 59." (North, 16)



## Our Saints and Intercessors, Part II

### St. Lucy - Influence of St. Agatha



- "Saint Agatha was born approximately 50 years before Saint Lucy, and died, at the age of around 20, 30 years earlier. She was from Sicily, like Lucy, but from the city of Catania." (North, 22)
- "By the time Saint Lucy was a young woman herself, the tomb of Saint Agatha in Catania was receiving veneration and becoming famous for its miracles." (North, 23)
- Lucy had a vision of St. Agatha in Heaven that lead to miraculous healing of Lucy's mother attributed to Lucy herself rather than intercession of Agatha (North, 25-26)



## Our Saints and Intercessors, Part II

### St. Lucy - Common Images

- "In icons, Saint Lucy is often easily identified because she frequently carries a **dish on which lie two eyes**, along with the palm branch signifying her martyrdom." (North, 11)
  - Patron saint of the blind and eye ailments
- "She often carried a lamp, or is depicted with a **sword, fire, or oxen**, signifying her three miracles." (North, 11)



## Our Saints and Intercessors, Part II

### St. Lucy – Story of Her Suffering

- "betrothed to a pagan man" but never married (North, 31)
- He made her life difficult for turning him down (North, 35) taking her before a judge named Paschasius who:
  - "he called upon **oxen** to be brought forth and harnessed to her. Not even they could move the frail maid." (North, 40)
  - "He commanded the men "to light a great pile around the maiden, and sprinkle her with pitch and oil." The **fire** soon roared around Saint Lucy, but she stood unharmed." (North, 41)



## Our Saints and Intercessors, Part II

### St. Lucy – Story of Her Suffering (cont'd)

- "but her assailants plucked out both of her eyes, but the **Blessed Virgin Mary intervened on the part of Lucy and gave her eyes anew.** This is why in icons Saint Lucy is often seen holding her eyes on a dish, without being eyeless herself." (North, 42)



## Our Saints and Intercessors, Part II

### St. Lucy – Story of Her Suffering (cont'd)

- "Jacobus de Voragine tells us that it was the friends of Paschasius who, upon seeing how much Saint Lucy's words pained him, ran a **sword** into her throat. Even so, Saint Lucy did not die." (North, 42)
- Finally, the people of Syracuse came to her aid and beheaded him. (North, 43)



## Our Saints and Intercessors, Part II

### St. Lucy – Story of Her Suffering (cont'd)

- "Saint Lucy continued to pray in that same place, where she was disemboweled or had her throat cut, until finally the priests came and administered the Sacrament with the Holy Mysteries. On the word "Amen" she departed her Earthly life." (North, 43)



## Our Saints and Intercessors, Part II

### St. Lucy – After Death

- After her death they built a church on the spot where she died and her relics remained there for at least 400 years, moved to safe place in 878 during Saracene raids (North, 46)
- Relics moved various places until 2004 when they were returned to Syracuse (North, 46-47)



## Our Saints and Intercessors, Part II

### St. Lucy - Prayer to St. Lucy I

"Relying on Your goodness, O God, we humbly ask You, through the intercession of Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr, to give perfect vision to our eyes, that they may serve for Your greater honor and glory. Saint Lucy, hear our prayers and obtain our petitions. Amen" (North, 56)



## Our Saints and Intercessors, Part II

### St. Lucy - Prayer to St. Lucy II

"Dear Sicilian Virgin and Martyr, whom the Church recalls in Eucharistic Prayer I, you valiantly rejected great promises and resisted several threats in remaining faithful to your beloved Lord. For centuries Christians have invoked you particularly when suffering from eye trouble. So now we implore your assistance on behalf of {name of sufferer}. We also ask you to teach us to imitate you and to avoid spiritual blindness of any kind. Amen. (North, 57)



## Our Saints and Intercessors, Part II

### St. Lucy - Prayer to St. Lucy III

"Saint Lucy, your beautiful name signifies light. By the light of faith which God bestowed upon you, increase and preserve this 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 of sin. By your intercession with God, obtain for me perfect vision for my bodily eyes and the grace to use them for God's greater honor and glory and the salvation of all men. Saint Lucy, virgin and martyr, hear my prayers and obtain my petitions. Amen." (North, 58)





## Our Saints and Intercessors, Part II

### St. Lucy - Prayer to St. Lucy IV

"Saint Lucy, you did not hide your light under a basket, but let it shine for the whole world, for all the centuries to see. We may not suffer torture in our lives the way you did, but we are still called to let the light of our Christianity illumine our daily lives. Please help us to have the courage to bring our Christianity into our work, our recreation, our relationships, our conversation -- every corner of our day. Amen." (North, 59)



## Our Saints and Intercessors, Part II

### St. Patrick

Optional  
Memorial :  
March 17<sup>th</sup>



## Our Saints and Intercessors, Part II

### St. Patrick

According to [catholic.org/saints](http://catholic.org/saints), there are at least six St. Patrick's.



## Our Saints and Intercessors, Part II

### St. Patrick - Saints as "Legends"

- fanciful legend - example driving snakes out of Ireland
  - "About AD 200, the Roman author Solinus records that Ireland was inhabited by a warlike people, but that the island had no snakes." (Freeman, 4)
- "Telling the story of the life of a Christian saint is known as *hagiography*, from the Greek *hagios* ("holy") and *graphe* ("writing"). (Freeman, 55)
- "Hagiography was never intended to be a historical description of a subject's life as much as an inspiration for Christians in their own spiritual journey." (Freeman, 56)



## Our Saints and Intercessors, Part II

### St. Patrick - Biography

- Lived in Britain with his family (Freeman, 6)
- Kidnapped around 16 to slavery in Ireland (Freeman, 6)
- Father a deacon (Freeman, 6)
- Mother's name Concessa (Freeman, 59)
- Grandfather a priest (Freeman, 6)
- Raised Christian but atheist at time of kidnapping, became fervent believer while a slave
  - every saint has a past and every sinner has a future
- Escaped back to Britain only to be called to return to Ireland to evangelize the people who had made him a slave (Freeman, 6).



## Our Saints and Intercessors, Part II

### St. Patrick - Biography

- Traditional dating puts Patrick's arrival in Ireland around 432 and his death in 461 or 463 (Freeman, 7)
- However, Muirchu's "Life of Saint Patrick" dates his death to 436 (Freeman, 58)



## Our Saints and Intercessors, Part II

### St. Patrick – Worldly Influences

- "About AD 200, the Roman author Solinus records that Ireland was inhabited by a warlike people, but that the island had no snakes. From that date to the end of the Roman Empire, the few references to Ireland in classical sources are largely complaints that the island was a land of savages who brought terror to the good people of Roman Britain with their vicious attacks and pirate raids. In spite of the biased reports about Ireland from classical sources, we can be sure that Ireland was no more barbaric than any other land on the borders of the Roman world." (Freeman, 4)



## Our Saints and Intercessors, Part II

### St. Patrick – Worldly Influences (cont'd)

- Polytheistic (Freeman, 4) Druid priests (5)
- "Christianity was probably established in Britain by the third century and there may have been missions to Ireland as early as the fourth century" (Freeman, 5)
- "the year 431 Pope Celestine ordained the deacon Palladius and sent him to Ireland as a bishop to serve the Christians who were already there. The flock Palladius ministered to may have consisted primarily of Christians captured in Britain and transported against their will to Ireland as slaves." (Freeman, 6)



## Our Saints and Intercessors, Part II

### St. Patrick - Writings

- Two documents by Patrick survive (Freeman, 6-7)
  - "Letter to the Soldiers of Coroticus"
  - "Confession" - This letter is the source of most of the factual biography we have of Patrick



## Our Saints and Intercessors, Part II

### St. Patrick – Writings (cont'd)

- Letter to Coroticus
  - First sentence "I am Patrick a sinner and a very ignorant man. I declare that I have been appointed as a bishop in Ireland-and I believe that I have received this position from God himself. I live as a stranger and exile here among barbarians and pagans because of my love for God." (Freeman, 8)
  - Cites Scripture frequently



## Our Saints and Intercessors, Part II

### St. Patrick – Writings (cont'd)

- Saint Patrick's Confession
  - First sentence "I am Patrick, a sinner and a very unsophisticated man. I am the least of all the faith and to many the most despised." (Freeman, 17)
  - Says himself he did not know God at time of his capture (Freeman, 17)
  - "After many years of slavery, he gave me abundant grace for the sake of these people." (Freeman, 21)



## Our Saints and Intercessors, Part II

### St. Patrick – Writings (cont'd)

- Saint Patrick's Confession cont'd
  - Faith grew as a slave (Freeman, 21)
  - After escape, recaptured as a slave for two months (Freeman, 24)
  - Vision - "It was as if they were crying out with a single voice: "Holy boy, we beg you, come back and walk among us again." I was struck through my heart and could read no more, then I awoke. I thank God that after many years the Lord granted them their request." (Freeman, 24)
  - Admits he didn't always live a good life (Freeman, 25-26, 31)





## Our Saints and Intercessors, Part II

### St. Patrick – Writings (cont'd)

- The First Synod of Saint Patrick (Freeman, 37ff)



## Our Saints and Intercessors, Part II

### Summary

- The saints are real people who lived lives just like us and are examples of holy life as well as intercessors
- We worship God. We venerate the saints.
- The Virgin Mary – *"Do whatever he tells you."* John 2:5 – good things happen when we follow Jesus
- Holy Angels – We are never alone. Jesus is with us and sends angels to watch over and guide us.
- St. Lucy – As a martyr, example of perseverance in faith
- St. Patrick – Every saint has a past and every sinner has a future



## Our Saints and Intercessors, Part II

### "Homework"

Research one or more of the saints of the closed churches in our parish

- St. Raphael
- Holy Name
- Assumption
- St. Maria de Mercede (St. Mary of Mercy~Our Lady of Mercy)

Suggested resources

- <https://www.catholic.org/saints/>
- <https://www.franciscanmedia.org/source/saint-of-the-day/>
- Parish office resources



## Our Saints and Intercessors, Part II

### Future Schedule

- Date - November 6<sup>th</sup> – St. Thomas Aquinas and St. Luke
- Location
- Time



## Our Saints and Intercessors, Part II

Thank You!

- Leslie
- Cathy
- Bakers
- Steve et al setup and tear down



## Our Saints and Intercessors, Part II

### Resources

*Catechism of the Catholic Church. Second Edition.* Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 1997.

*Compendium: Catechism of the Catholic Church.* Libreria Editrice Vaticana. USCCB, 2006.

Freeman, Philip, *The World of St. Patrick.* Oxford University Press: New York. 2014.

Wyatt North, *The Life and Prayers of Saint Lucy of Syracuse.* Wyatt North Publishing. 2013.



## Our Saints and Intercessors, Part II

### Resources (cont'd)

Sri, Edward, *Walking with Mary: A Biblical Journey from Nazareth to the Cross.* Image: New York. 2017.

Sri, Edward, *Love Unveiled: The Catholic Faith Explained.* Ignatius Press: San Francisco. 2015.

*St. Joseph Edition of The New American Bible Revised Edition.* New Jersey, Catholic Book Publishing Corp. 2010.

USCCB, *United States Catholic Catechism for Adults.* Washington, DC: USCCB, 2006.