

Memorial of St. Lucy
Homily of Bishop Barres
St. Agnes Cathedral
December 13, 2023

Today, we celebrate the Memorial of St. Lucy – Virgin and Martyr, patroness of Syracuse and all of Sicily.

St. Lucy is considered the patroness of those afflicted with diseases of the eye. A courageous young woman, she could be considered the Sicilian equivalent of St. Agnes of Rome or St. Maria Goretti of Nettuno.

We ask St. Lucy's intercession in the Roman Canon, Eucharistic Prayer I, which we will pray today.

All saints who intercede for specific types of physical healing draw on their deep intimacy and union with Jesus Christ.

And as we know, our Lord's physical healings have both a physical and a spiritual component.

Our Lord healed the physically blind but in so doing healed, at the same time, the spiritual blindness of the person.

Humility is critical to clear spiritual sight.

That is why our Lord says to us in Matthew 11: "Learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart."

In this Advent season, we ask our Lord and we ask the intercession of St. Lucy to heal our spiritual blindness and to give us spiritual sight.