

Saint Lucia, pray for us!



The Children's Word is a weekly bulletin for Orthodox Christian young people. Copyright 2024 Alexandra Houck. Email is orthodoxchildrensword (at) gmail.com. Find it each week at myocn.net.

The Children's Word

"Let the little children come to me, and do not forbid them, for to such is the Kingdom of Heaven." Mark 10:14

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Joined together in Christ

Have you ever watched your priest or deacon use his censer? Do you watch where he censens? He censens the altar, and he blesses the holy things. He censens the icons, and we remember the saints in the pictures. He censens the people, and we remember that we want to be like the saints too.



When the priest or deacon censens the whole church, we remember that we are all one body, one church. We have differences, but we are all one church.

We hear the same thing in the epistle reading today. Our Lord, Jesus Christ came to bring us together, to bring us to Him in heaven! Saint Paul writes in the epistle today, "You are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God." In Jesus, we are all "joined together and grow into a holy temple in the Lord." The church is one body together.

The saints who have already died are together with us as a church. We are all one body together. We are all joined together and we grow into a holy temple in the Lord.

So, the next time you see your priest or deacon censening, watch! You'll remember that he is censening one church body. You'll remember that we are all joined together to grow into a holy temple in the Lord.

WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

- Body
- Censer
- Church
- Citizens
- Epistle
- Italy
- Light
- Lucia
- Martyr
- Prayers
- Together

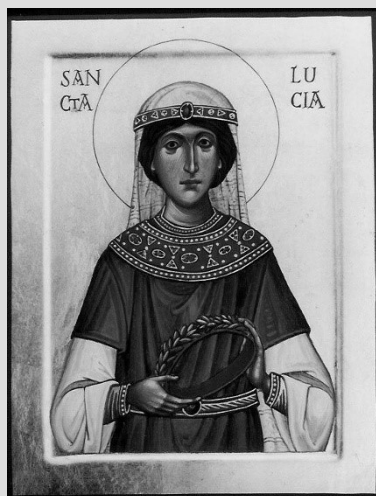
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WHAT'S IN THE ICON?

In this icon, you can see Saint Lucia (or Lucy) again. But what is she holding?

It's a crown. When Saint Lucia lived, in Italy, a crown was a reward for winning something.

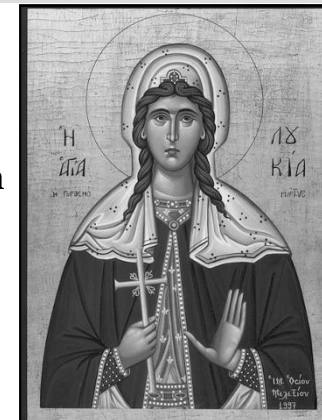
What did Saint Lucia win?



SAINT LUCIA

A SAINT WITH THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

In just a couple weeks, we will have the darkest day of the year. The days grow shorter and shorter and the nights grow longer and longer, all until December 21st, the day with the shortest daylight hours. Sometimes people start to feel sad during these long, dark winter days. Most people like being in the light. Do you?



We have another kind of light too, of course. It's the light of Christ, and when we grow close to Christ, we can start to see real happiness and joy.

On Friday, we celebrate the feastday of Saint Lucia (or Lucy). Her name even means "light," and she really was a saint who was close to Christ. Lucia lived in Italy, and she came from a wealthy family. She was supposed to marry a rich man, who happened to be a pagan (he worshipped idols). Lucia didn't want to marry him, because she was a Christian and they didn't have much in common. She wanted to spend her life growing close to the light, to Christ!

Lucia was punished for refusing to marry this man. She was even killed because she wouldn't change her mind. But now, she lives in the light of heaven, with Christ Himself!

Christians all over the world love Saint Lucia, especially people in the country of Sweden. Winters are very long and dark there, and people celebrate with beautiful Saint Lucia parties and processions.

We celebrate St. Lucia on Friday, December 13th (OC: December 28th).