

St. Lucy: Donated “in memory of Rebell Stollo by Dolores and her children,” this window depicts a young woman who died in the fourth century. Tradition holds that when she refused marriage during the Emperor Diocletian’s persecution of Christians, Lucy’s suitor exposed her Christian identity, and she was condemned to death.

Her name, from the Latin *lux, lucis*, means “light” and probably for that reason she is the patron saint of those with eye problems. One tradition says that her eyes were torn out by her judge, and our Lucy does seem to be holding a plate containing her eyeballs. It’s difficult to see, because of the bar across the window, but since St. Lucy is often depicted this way, we may safely assume that our saint is doing the same. She holds the palm of martyrdom in her right hand.

Her feast day is December 13, a day of rejoicing for the people of Sweden, who light candles in honor of Saint Lucy during the darkness of the Scandinavian winter. The Swedes also sing the Italian song “Santa Lucia” (with Swedish lyrics) to honor the saint.

