

March 24

# St. Catherine of Sweden

c. 1332–1381 • Sweden

St. Catherine of Sweden was the daughter of a holy woman named Bridget, who also became a saint. Ever since she was young, she wanted to follow her mother's holy example and dedicate her life to God. When she was given in marriage at the young age of twelve, she convinced her young, noble husband to live celibate lives for God together.

Bridget went on pilgrimage to Rome, and Catherine accompanied her. While they were away, Catherine's husband died. Catherine vowed never to remarry. She remained with her mother in Rome and dedicated her life to prayer and sacrifice.

Many men wanted to marry Catherine because she was young and rich. But she refused all their offers. There is a legend that a deer would come to Catherine's defense whenever an unchaste man tried to convince her to marry him. With horn and hoof, the deer would chase the man away.

When the saintly Bridget died, Catherine took her body home to Sweden to be buried. There she became head of the religious order her mother had founded, the Brigidines. She governed the nuns with great wisdom and skill, and returned to Rome to gain papal approval for her mother's order. She returned to Sweden with a letter of approval from the pope and soon died a holy death.

St. Catherine of Sweden, help me to dedicate my life to God!



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