Saint Elizabeth of Hungary is the Patron Saint of:
Bakers, Catholic Charities, Secular Franciscan Order

Almighty God,
by whose grace your servant Elizabeth of Hungary
recognized and honored Jesus in the poor of this world:
Grant that we, following her example,
may with love and gladness
serve those in any need or trouble.
In the name and for the sake of and
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen

Wood carved statue of Saint Elizabeth giving a coin with her right hand to the left hand of beggar as charity gesture

We praise you, God, for your great saint, Elizabeth of Hungary:

Feast of
Saint Elizabeth of Hungary
17-Nov-2017
Also called St. Elizabeth of Thuringia
born in 1207; died at Marburg, Hesse, 17 November, 1231

Teach us, dear God, deep gratitude for all the wealth you’ve given us.
Teach us to take the narrow way that leads us to be generous. Amen
St. Elizabeth of Hungary
(1207-1231)

In her short life Elizabeth manifested such great love for the poor and suffering that she has become the patroness of Catholic charities and of the Secular Franciscan Order. Elisabeth was born in 1207 to the king of Hungary. When a life of leisure and luxury could have been hers, Elisabeth chose rather a life of prayer, sacrifice and service to the poor and sick. This choice endeared her in the hearts of the common people throughout Europe. At age 14, she married a German prince, Louis of Thuringia. After 6 years of marriage her husband died. She worked to support her children as she was mistreated by her husband’s family. In 1228, Elisabeth joined the secular Franciscan order spending her remaining years caring for the poor in a hospital which she founded in honor of St Francis. She died before her 24th birthday in 1231. Her great popularity resulted in her canonization four years later.

Her feast day is November 17th

Miracle of the Roses

Elizabeth is perhaps best known for her miracle of the roses which says that whilst she was taking bread to the poor in secret, she met her husband Ludwig on a hunting party, who, in order to quell suspicions of the gentry that she was stealing treasure from the castle, asked her to reveal what was hidden under her cloak. In that moment, her cloak fell open and a vision of white and red roses could be seen, which proved to Ludwig that God’s protecting hand was at work.

Facts

Elizabeth's brother succeeded his father on the throne of Hungary as Bela IV; the sister of her mother, Gertrude, was St. Hedwig, wife of Duke Heinrich I, the Bearded, of Silesia, while another saint, St. Elizabeth (Isabel) of Portugal (d. 1336), was her great-niece.

**Depiction in art and music**

Saint Elizabeth is often depicted holding a basket of bread, or some other sort of food or beverage, characteristic of her devotion to the poor and hungry. Elizabeth of Hungary was almost certainly the inspiration for the character Elizabeth in Richard Wagner’s opera Tannhauser. Peter Janssens composed a musical play ("Musikspiel") Elisabeth von Thüringen in 1984 on a libretto by Hermann Schulze-Berndt.

**<> Paintings <>**

**St. Elizabeth of Hungary**

*The Charity of St. Elizabeth of Hungary*

Sandor Liezen-Mayer (1839 - 1898)

Edmund Blair Leighton:-1895

**Dear Saint Elizabeth,**

you were always poor in spirit, most generous toward the poor, faithful to your husband, and fully consecrated to your Divine Bridegroom. Grant your help to widows and keep them faithful to their heavenly Lord. Teach them how to cope with their loss and to make use of their time in the service of God. Amen.