

## Hungarian Saints

### Saint Elisabeth of the Árpád Dynasty (1207–1231)



She was the daughter of Andrew II (1205–1235 AD) and Gertrude of Andechs-Meran. She was raised in the castle of Wartburg, as the wife-to-be of Hermann, Landgrave of Thuringia. However, after the sudden death of her fiancé, she married his younger brother, Ludwig. From her early age, she conducted a repentant life, and her husband, as opposed to his family, endured well her fasting and self-repressing lifestyle and “wasteful behavior”. Ludwig died in the fifth crusade, and Elisabeth, widowed at the age of 20, secluded. She entered the Third Order of Saint Francis of Assisi, and later founded an asylum in Marburg, where she nursed sick and poor people until her death.

Most works of art depict Elisabeth with roses. Legend has it that she was smuggling bread for the poor and when she was caught red-handed by her brother-in-law, who asked her what she was carrying in her apron. Afraid that the family would forbid her charitable work, she said she was carrying roses. When forced to show them, she really had roses in her apron, instead of loaves of bread.

She was canonized in 1235 and her feast celebrated on November 19.