

Saint Elizabeth of Portugal

She was born into the royal family of Aragon, Spain. She was one of three daughters of King Peter III of Aragon and Queen Constance of Sicily. Elizabeth's older brothers would become successive kings of Aragon, Alfonso III and James II. Her namesake was her great-aunt, Saint Elizabeth of Hungary.

As a young princess, Elizabeth enjoyed all the privileges of a royal upbringing, yet her stature did not distract her from her faith. She was deeply devout from a young age, spending hours in the castle chapel engaged in prayer. By age eight, she regularly fasted, attended Mass, and prayed the entire Divine Office daily. Unlike

other girls her age, she sought virtue and glory for God rather than indulging in frivolous activities. She consistently demonstrated a loving concern for the poor, sick, and suffering.

She offered the resulting ridicule she suffered to God with humility and love. As queen, she sustained her prayerful life, attending daily Mass, engaging in penance, and continuing to pray the entire Divine Office. Her deep love for the poor and sick remained steadfast, and she sought daily opportunities to aid them. Elizabeth would personally distribute food and money to those in need at the palace door, and despite the king's anger at her generosity, she found ways to continue her charitable work secretly. Using her royal position, she also improved others' lives by constructing monasteries, churches, and hospitals. Though Saint Elizabeth of Portugal was born into royalty, she encountered many challenges. Her arranged marriage, her husband's infidelity, family division, and an immoral royal court were burdens she bore with dignity, peace, and strength. Her faith and virtues, fueled by deep prayer and charitable acts, guided her through these difficulties.



The miracles of St Elizabeth

1. The Miracle of the Roses testifies her kindness towards the poor to whom she took bread and money on the sly of the king. One day, the suspicious husband asks her what she was carrying in her lap. Elizabeth opened her apron and answered – Roses, my Lord, Bread had turned into roses.

2. The Miracle of Arrifana. In 1325, Queen Isabel on her way to Santiago de Compostela healed a blind child in the village of Arrifana, Santa Maria da Feira

3 The Miracle of the transformation of wine into water