

Saint Wenceslaus



Date of birth: 907
Birthplace: Stochov, Bohemia
Date of death: September 28, 935
Canonization: Shortly after death
Feast Day: September 28

**Patron Saint of: Czech Republic, Bohemia, Slovakia,
and brewers**

About Wenceslaus:

Wenceslaus was born into a royal family in Bohemia. His father was Christian, but his mother, Drahomira, did not practice the faith. After Wenceslaus' father died, his grandmother, Ludmila, became queen regent and educated him in Christianity, hoping he would one day be a Christian ruler.

Drahomira, jealous of Ludmila's influence, plotted her mother-in-law's death. In 921, Ludmila was killed, and Drahomira became regent, starting a persecution of Christians. She ruled until 925, when nobles overthrew her and sent her into exile, installing Wenceslaus in her place.

As Duke of Bohemia, Wenceslaus ended the persecution of Christians and became known as "the Good King." He welcomed back exiled priests, rebuilt churches, and promoted justice, charity, and education. Wenceslaus was especially known for his care for the poor, his visits to prisoners, and his fair treatment of people regardless of social class. The Christmas carol "Good King Wenceslas" is based on his life.

In 929, Wenceslaus was invited to a feast by his brother, Boleslaus. Unaware of his brother's treachery, Wenceslaus attended. The next day, Boleslaus and his followers ambushed him at the church. Wenceslaus, even in his final moments, prayed for God's mercy on his brother before he died.

After his death, many miracles were attributed to Wenceslaus, and the Church quickly declared him a saint.

Last words from St. Wenceslaus:
"Brother, may God forgive you."

Find out more:

Books: *St. Wenceslaus: Also Known as Good King Wenceslas* by Jan Rejzl
Saint Wenceslaus: Saintly King and Patron of the Czech People by Kytka Hilmarova