

BOOKLET TO PRINT

Saint Stanislaus Kazimierczyk

Life, prayer and novena

Feast day: May 3

Saintspedia · saintspedia.com

IN BRIEF

Saint Stanislaus Kazimierczyk

Polish priest, Canon Regular of the Lateran in Kazimierz (Krakow), preacher and confessor.

Feast day	May 3
Born	September 27, 1433, Kazimierz, near Krakow, Poland
Died	May 3, 1489, Kazimierz, near Krakow, Poland
Canonized	October 17, 2010, by Pope Benedict XVI
Era	15th century
Patron saint of	Kazimierz (Krakow)

In this booklet

Life

Prayer to Saint Stanislaus Kazimierczyk for Priests

Novena to Saint Stanislaus Kazimierczyk

Credits and sources

Booklet offered by Saintspedia, the directory of Catholic saints: lives of the saints, prayers, novenas and places of pilgrimage, at saintspedia.com. Texts written by Saintspedia, except traditional prayers marked as such. Original prayers and novenas are not official liturgical texts. Free booklet, to print and share for personal, family or parish use; please do not sell it.

LIFE

Saint Stanislaus Kazimierczyk

Saint Stanislaus Kazimierczyk was a fifteenth-century Polish priest, a Canon Regular of the Lateran in Kazimierz, the old town next to Krakow that is now one of its districts. A beloved preacher, a sought-after confessor and a friend of the poor and the sick, he spent his whole religious life serving at the Basilica of Corpus Christi, where he is buried. He died in 1489, was beatified by John Paul II in 1993 and canonized by Benedict XVI in 2010. His feast day is May 3.

Who was Saint Stanislaus Kazimierczyk?

Stanislaus (in Polish, *Stanisław*), whom Poles also call Stanisław Sołtys after his father's nickname, is a saint of ordinary life. He founded no order, never traveled far and wrote no great work. For more than thirty years, he was simply a faithful priest in the same community and the same church: preaching, hearing confessions, training novices and visiting the unfortunate. It is precisely this everyday faithfulness that the Church wished to honor.

He belongs to the golden age of the University of Krakow, the fifteenth century in which several saints flourished in the city: Saint John Cantius, a professor at the Academy and his friend, as well as other religious and priests known for their holiness. People spoke then of *felix saeculum Cracoviae*, "the happy century of Krakow."

Key dates

- **September 27, 1433**: Born in Kazimierz, near Krakow, to Maciej, a town councilor, and his wife Jadwiga.
- **1440s**: Studies at the parish school of Corpus Christi.
- **c. 1450**: Studies at the Krakow Academy, today's Jagiellonian University.

- **c. 1456**: Enters the Canons Regular of the Lateran in Kazimierz and receives minor orders.
- **1462**: Ordained a priest.
- **1466-1467**: Master's degree in philosophy, then in theology.
- **September 8, 1487**: King John I Albert attributes a victory over the Tatars to his blessing.
- **May 3, 1489**: Dies in Kazimierz and is buried at the entrance of Corpus Christi church.
- **1632**: His remains are placed in a sarcophagus inside the church.
- **April 18, 1993**: Beatified by John Paul II in Rome.
- **October 17, 2010**: Canonized by Benedict XVI in Saint Peter's Square.

A child of Kazimierz

In the fifteenth century, Kazimierz was a town in its own right, founded the previous century by King Casimir the Great on an island in the Vistula, south of Krakow. The king had the great church of Corpus Christi, the Body of Christ, built there; it was later entrusted to the Canons Regular of the Lateran. Stanislaus was born in this prosperous town of merchants and craftsmen on September 27, 1433.

His father, Maciej, sat on the town council and was nicknamed Sołtys (in Latin, *Scoltetus*), a term for a local magistrate. His mother was named Jadwiga. The boy attended the parish school run by the canons of Corpus Christi, where he discovered the solemn liturgy and the community life of the religious. He then continued his studies at the Krakow Academy, one of the oldest universities in Central Europe.

A Canon Regular of the Lateran

At about twenty-three, Stanislaus entered the canons regular of Kazimierz. These religious live by the Rule of Saint Augustine: they share a common life, sing the Divine Office in choir and provide pastoral care for a parish. He received minor orders around 1456 and was ordained a priest in 1462. He continued his studies and earned a master's degree in philosophy in 1466, then in theology the following year.

In his community he held many offices in turn: preacher, novice master, subprior or prior, and confessor. He was known for his sermons, which he gave in Polish and in German, since part of the middle class of Krakow and Kazimierz was then German-speaking. He wanted everyone to be able to hear the Word of God in their own language.



The Basilica of Corpus Christi in Kazimierz, where Stanislaus served all his life.

A priest of the confessional and of the poor

What struck his contemporaries was the trust he inspired. Many came to him for confession or advice. An early life describes him this way: his humility and gentleness were well known, yet he awakened the fear of God; he did not always praise, and did not hesitate to show sinners their stubbornness. In him, gentleness and firmness went together.

He was especially attentive to the poor and the sick, whom he helped and visited. His reputation spread beyond the walls of the friary, and graces were attributed to him even during his lifetime. King John I Albert himself credited his blessing for the victory won over the Tatars on September 8, 1487.

Eucharist, Passion and the Virgin Mary

The spirituality of Stanislaus was rooted in the very mystery his church celebrates: the Body of Christ. He had a great devotion to the Eucharist and meditated constantly on the Passion of Christ. The Virgin Mary also held an important place in his prayer. According to tradition, he died on May 3, 1489, kneeling in prayer in the cloister of his friary, after thirty-three years of religious life.

He asked to be buried at the entrance of the church, under the feet of the faithful. He wanted, it is said, all who entered to walk over him: a last gesture of humility.

Five centuries of devotion

His grave immediately became a place of prayer. Shortly after his death, a list of 176 graces obtained through his intercession was already drawn up. In 1632, his remains were moved to a sarcophagus inside the church. Sixteenth- and seventeenth-century artists painted him in pictures and votive images, including an image by Łukasz Porębski dated 1619.

The first steps toward his beatification date from 1767, but the cause gained momentum after the Second World War. In 1969, Cardinal Karol Wojtyła, archbishop of Krakow, celebrated Mass at his altar; in 1972 he set up a commission to gather the documents of the cause. As Pope John Paul II, he beatified him on April 18, 1993, saying that for many he had been a guide on the path of spiritual life. Benedict XVI canonized him on October 17, 2010.

Why is Saint Stanislaus the patron saint of Kazimierz?

Stanislaus was born, lived, served and died in Kazimierz, and his tomb there drew the faithful from the moment of his death. The district honors him as its patron. More broadly, he is a model for priests and confessors, for preachers, and for all who seek a spiritual guide.

Symbols and how to recognize Saint Stanislaus Kazimierczyk in art

- **The habit of a Canon Regular of the Lateran**.
- **Hands joined in prayer**, or in prayer before a heavenly vision, as in old votive images.

Where to pray to Saint Stanislaus Kazimierczyk

- **Krakow, Kazimierz district** (Poland): the Basilica of Corpus Christi, served by the Canons Regular of the Lateran, which keeps his relics.
- **Krakow**: the university church of Saint Anne, where his friend Saint John Cantius rests, for a pilgrimage in the footsteps of the fifteenth-century saints.

To pray with him, use the prayer to Saint Stanislaus Kazimierczyk or the novena to Saint Stanislaus, which ends on May 3.

PRAYER

Prayer to Saint Stanislaus Kazimierczyk for Priests

Saint Stanislaus Kazimierczyk left no known prayer, and as far as we know there is no widely used traditional prayer to him in English. This page therefore offers two original prayers by Saintspedia, inspired by his life as a priest, a confessor and a lover of the Eucharist.

Prayer to Saint Stanislaus Kazimierczyk

Saint Stanislaus, faithful priest of Kazimierz, you served for more than thirty years in the church of the Body of Christ: teach me faithfulness in small things and perseverance in the duties of each day.

You welcomed sinners and troubled souls in the confessional, with gentleness and with truth: help me to recognize my faults without losing heart, and to receive God's forgiveness with trust.

You loved the Eucharist and meditated on the Passion of the Lord: give me a heart attentive to the presence of Christ and grateful for his love.

You visited the poor and the sick: watch over those who suffer, and obtain for me the grace I entrust to you today (name it in silence).

Saint Stanislaus, friend of Mary, pray for us. Amen.

This prayer is an original text by Saintspedia, free to use for personal and community prayer.

Prayer for priests and confessors

> *Lord Jesus, through the intercession of Saint Stanislaus Kazimierczyk, give your Church priests after your own heart: preachers who proclaim your Word in each person's language, patient and merciful confessors, shepherds close to the poor. Keep them in the joy of their vocation, support them in weariness, and make each of their Masses a source of life for your people. Amen.*

This prayer is an original text by Saintspedia.

Intentions to entrust to Saint Stanislaus

- For priests, religious and seminarians.
- For those who hesitate to go to confession or who are looking for spiritual direction.
- For the sick and the poor in our neighborhoods.
- For the city of Krakow and for Poland, and for Polish communities around the world.
- To grow in love for the Eucharist.

When to pray this prayer

His feast day is May 3, the anniversary of his death in 1489. You can also pray to him before going to confession, during Eucharistic adoration, or for a priest you know. Discover the life of Saint Stanislaus Kazimierczyk, or pray the novena to Saint Stanislaus Kazimierczyk.

NOVENA

Novena to Saint Stanislaus Kazimierczyk

This novena to Saint Stanislaus Kazimierczyk is an original composition by Saintspedia. For nine days, it follows the priest of Kazimierz who served in the same church for more than thirty years: a preacher, a confessor, a friend of the poor and a lover of the Eucharist. To end on his feast day, May 3, begin on April 25. You can also pray it at any time, for a priest, before a return to confession, or to grow in faithfulness to everyday duties.

How to pray this novena

Each day, begin with the Sign of the Cross and read the short meditation. Say the prayer of the day, followed by an Our Father, a Hail Mary and a Glory Be, and end with the invocation "Saint Stanislaus Kazimierczyk, pray for us." Keep one intention throughout the nine days and try to carry out the small act suggested. If you can, spend a few minutes before the Blessed Sacrament on one or more of these days, as Stanislaus loved to do. If you miss a day, simply continue the next day.

Day 1: Holiness at home

Stanislaus was born, lived and died in Kazimierz. He never traveled far, yet he became a saint. Holiness is not elsewhere: it is found where God has placed us.

Prayer: Saint Stanislaus, help me to seek God in my own home, my work and my parish, without dreaming of being somewhere else. Amen.

Today: Do your ordinary duties with love, offering them to God.

Day 2: Rooted in the parish

As a boy, Stanislaus attended the parish school of Corpus Christi. There he discovered the liturgy and community life that would shape his whole life.

Prayer: Lord, bless my parish and all who serve it. Through Saint Stanislaus, help me to love and support my parish community. Amen.

Today: Offer your help to your parish in some small way.

Day 3: Study for the sake of souls

Stanislaus studied at the Krakow Academy and earned degrees in philosophy and theology. He studied not for prestige but to preach and guide others well.

Prayer: Saint Stanislaus, help me to know my faith better so that I may live it and share it. Amen.

Today: Read a page of Scripture or of the Catechism with attention.

Day 4: The Word in every language

He preached in Polish and in German so that everyone in his town could understand. He wanted no one to be left out of the Gospel.

Prayer: Lord, give your Church preachers who speak to every heart. Through Saint Stanislaus, help me to speak of you in words others can understand. Amen.

Today: Welcome someone in your parish who speaks another language or comes from another culture.

Day 5: Gentle and firm

In the confessional, Stanislaus was known for his gentleness, yet he did not flatter sinners. He spoke the truth with love.

Prayer: Saint Stanislaus, help me to accept the truth about myself, and to speak the truth to others with charity. Amen.

Today: Make a careful examination of conscience this evening.

Day 6: The gift of forgiveness

Many came to Stanislaus to confess their sins. Through him, they encountered the mercy of God, which never tires of forgiving.

Prayer: Lord, give me the courage to come back to you in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Bless all confessors, and make them instruments of your mercy. Amen.

Today: Find out when confessions are heard near you, and plan to go.

Day 7: Friend of the poor and the sick

Stanislaus visited and helped the poor and the sick of his town. His love for Christ in the Eucharist became love for Christ in the suffering.

Prayer: Saint Stanislaus, open my eyes to those who suffer near me, and give me a heart ready to help. Amen.

Today: Visit or call someone who is sick or alone.

Day 8: The Body of Christ

His whole life was spent in the church of Corpus Christi, the Body of Christ. The Eucharist and the Passion of Christ were at the heart of his prayer.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, present in the Eucharist, increase my faith and my love. Through Saint Stanislaus, make me a true adorer. Amen.

Today: Spend time in Eucharistic adoration, or make a spiritual communion.

Day 9: Humble to the end

Stanislaus asked to be buried at the entrance of the church, where everyone would walk over him. He died kneeling in prayer, with Mary in his heart.

Prayer: Saint Stanislaus, teach me true humility, and obtain for me the grace of a holy death, entrusted to Christ and to his Mother. Amen.

Today: Pray the Hail Mary slowly, asking Mary to be with you at the hour of your death.

Closing prayer

On the last day, if possible, go to Mass or to confession, and thank God for the priests who have helped you on your way. You may also pray for the priest who baptized you or who first heard your confession.

> *Saint Stanislaus Kazimierczyk, faithful priest and humble servant of the Body of Christ, you preached the Word, welcomed sinners and cared for the poor in the same town all your life. During these nine days I have entrusted to you (name your intention). Present it to the Lord, if it is his will. Pray for our priests and confessors, for the sick and the poor, and obtain for me the grace of faithfulness in everyday life and a deep love for the Eucharist. Amen.*

On his feast day, May 3, you can also say the prayer to Saint Stanislaus Kazimierczyk.

CREDITS

Credits and sources

Texts: Saintspedia (saintspedia.com). The sources cited in each part are those of the corresponding page of the website. Biographical data partly from Wikidata (CC0). Font: EB Garamond (SIL Open Font License).

Images

- Cover: Unknown author, public domain, via Wikimedia Commons. Source · License
- The Basilica of Corpus Christi in Kazimierz, where Stanislaus served all his life.: Image: Bjoertvedt, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons. Source · License



More free booklets

Lives of the saints, prayers, novenas and places of pilgrimage: find all the booklets to print at

saintspedia.com