

Saint Casimir

4 March



### About Saint Casimir (1458 – 1484)

Saint Casimir was the second son of King Casimir IV of Poland. With great care and perseverance, he cultivated Christian virtues, in particular chastity and kindness to the poor. On fire with the Catholic faith, he was devoted to the Eucharist and to the Blessed Virgin Mary. While his father was away in Lithuania serving that country's needs (since at this time the Kings of Poland were also Grand Dukes of Lithuania), Saint Casimir ruled Poland with humility and justice. Saint Casimir was known for his piety and devotion. He undertook a great deal of fasting in his life and weakened by this practice he died of tuberculosis on 4 March 1484.

### What can we learn from Saint Casimir's life?

Many people can use positions of leadership or authority to lord it over people. Saint Casimir was the complete opposite. He used his titled position to serve the people under his care.

He was never too busy to pray or attend to someone's needs. We must remember that all the good we have received including a job promotion is a gift from the Lord. We should always turn to Him in thanksgiving with prayer.

In our workplaces we must always look to the needs of others just as Saint Casimir did.

### Collect

Almighty God, to serve you is to reign;  
**grant that, with the help of Saint Casimir's intercession,**  
we may constantly serve you in holiness and justice.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever. Amen.

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Gospel

Luke 16:19-31

### Dives and Lazarus

Jesus said to the Pharisees:

**'There was a rich man who used to dress in purple and fine linen and feast magnificently every day.**

And at his gate there lay a poor man called Lazarus, covered with sores,

**who longed to fill himself with the scraps that fell from the rich man's table.**

Dogs even came and licked his sores.

Now the poor man died and was carried away by the angels to the bosom of Abraham.

The rich man also died and was buried.

**'In his torment in Hades**

he looked up and saw Abraham a long way off with Lazarus in his bosom.

So he cried out,

**"Father Abraham,**

**pity me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in agony in these flames."**

**"My son," Abraham replied**

**"remember that during your life good things came your way, just as bad things came the way of Lazarus.**

Now he is being comforted here while you are in agony.

But that is not all: between us and you a great gulf has been fixed, to stop anyone, if he wanted to, crossing from our side to yours,

**and to stop any crossing from your side to ours."**

**'The rich man replied,**

**"Father, I beg you then to send Lazarus to my father's house, since I have five brothers,**

**to give them warning so that they do not come to this place of torment too."**

**"They have Moses and the prophets," said Abraham, "Let them listen to them."**

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## Antiphon

Blessed are those whose way is blameless,  
who walk in the law of the Lord.

## Hymn for the Memorial of Saint Casimir

1. Saint Casimir, you show us how  
to rule with humility:  
always praying with devotion,  
serving the poor constantly.
2. As a ruler of your country,  
power you would not abuse;  
living with humility and  
telling to the world Good News.
3. To serve you, O God, is to reign  
and your justice must be seen  
in the service of our neighbour  
with hearts holy, pure and clean.

Text: 87.87 Chris deSilva and Alessio Loiacono

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