Born in Krakow, Casimir was the son of Casimir IV, king of Poland and grand duke of Lithuania, and Elizabeth of Austria.

From a young age, he was concerned with the integrity and justice of his father’s rule. He worked to ensure the fair treatment and aid of the poor and less fortunate. He was called the Patron of the Poor because of his love for others and charitable works. Casimir was known to be a humble and approachable man, traits that were not always synonymous with rulers at the time.

Known for his refusal to take up arms, personal piety, generosity to the poor and devotion to the Blessed Mother, he rejected the idea of marrying in favor of voluntary chastity. During a visit to Lithuania, he fell ill, died from tuberculosis at the age of 25 and was buried in the cathedral in Vilnius. Canonized in 1521, he is the patron of Poland and Lithuania.