

# Irene of Hungary

Saint **Irene of Hungary** (1088 – 13 August 1134), born **Piroska**, was a Byzantine empress by marriage to John II Komnenos. She is venerated as a saint.

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## Life

She was a daughter of Ladislaus I of Hungary and Adelaide of Swabia. Her maternal grandparents were Rudolf of Rheinfeld and his second wife Adelheid of Savoy. Adelheid was a daughter of Otto of Savoy and Adelaide of Turin. She was the mother of the future emperor Manuel I Komnenos.

She was born in Esztergom. Her mother died in 1090 when Piroska was about two years old. Her father died on 29 July 1095. Ladislaus was succeeded by his nephew Coloman of Hungary who apparently was the new guardian of orphaned Piroska.

In an effort to improve relations with Alexios I Komnenos of the Byzantine Empire, Coloman negotiated the marriage of Piroska to John II Komnenos. John II was the eldest son of Alexios I and Irene Doukaina. He was already co-ruler of his father since 1 September 1092 and was expected to succeed him. The negotiations were successful and Piroska married John in 1104. The marriage was recorded by Joannes Zonaras and John Kinnamos.

Following her conversion to the Eastern Orthodox Church and settlement in Constantinople, Piroska was renamed Irene.

Irene played little part in government, devoting herself to piety and her many children.

Irene died on 13 August 1134 and was later venerated as Saint Irene.

## Issue

She and John had eight children. The primary source about their order of births is the chronicle of Niketas Choniates:

- Alexios Komnenos (February 1106 – 1142), co-emperor from 1122 to 1142. His birth is recorded in the Alexiad by Anna Komnene.
- Maria Komnene (twin to Alexios), who married John Roger Dalassenos.
- Andronikos Komnenos (died 1142).
- Anna Komnene, married Stephen Kontostephanos.
- Isaac Komnenos (died 1154).
- Theodora Komnene (died 12 May 1157), who married Manuel Anemas.
- Eudokia Komnene, who married Theodore Vatatzes.
- Manuel I Komnenos (died 1180), emperor from 5 April 1143 – 24 September 1180.

**Irene of Hungary**



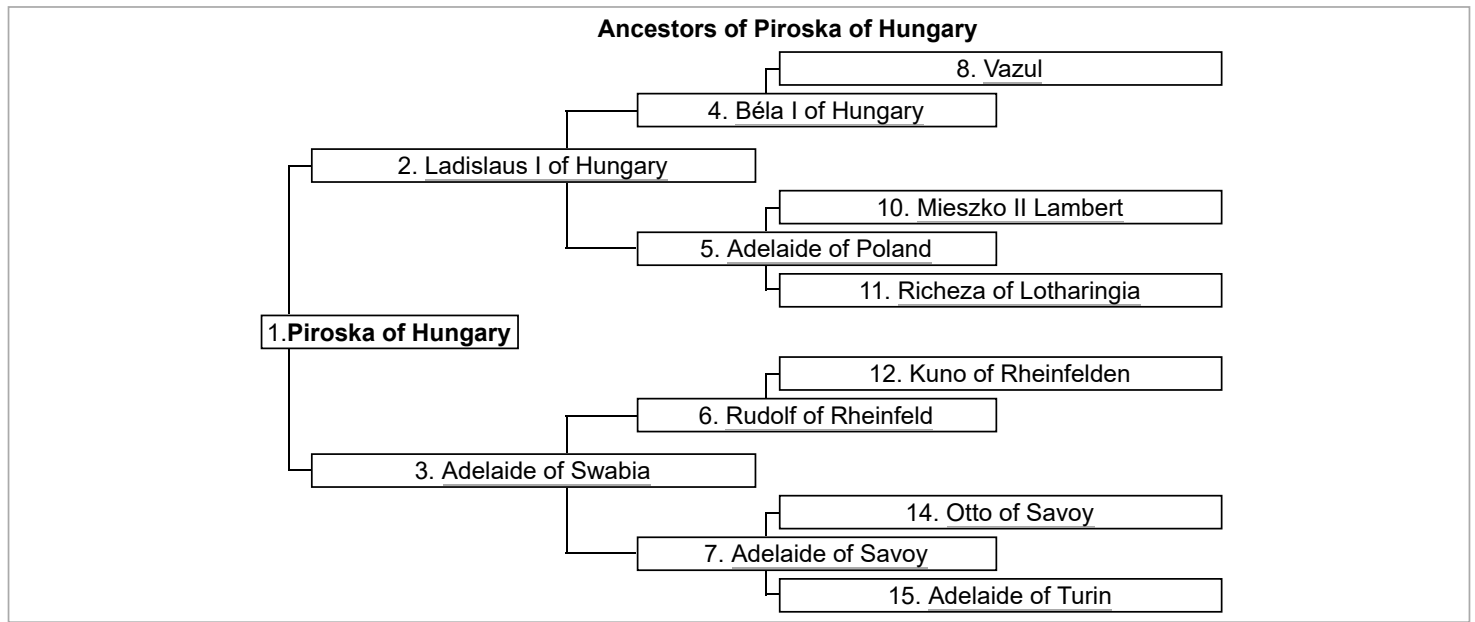
Mosaic portrait of Empress Irene on the Comnenos mosaic in the Hagia Sophia, Constantinople (now Istanbul)

<span>Empress consort of the Byzantine Empire</span>	
Tenure	1104 – 15 August 1118 (alongside Irene Doukaina)
<span>Empress consort of the Byzantine Empire</span>	
Reign	15 August 1118 – 13 August 1134
Born	1088 <div>Esztergom</div> <span></span>
Died	13 August 1134 (aged 46) <span></span>
Spouse	John II Komnenos
Issue	Alexios Komnenos <div>Maria Komnene</div> <div>Andronikos Komnenos, <i>Sebastokrator</i></div> <div>Anna Komnene</div> <div>Isaac Komnenos</div> <div>Theodora Komnene</div> <div>Eudokia Komnene</div> <div>Manuel I Komnenos, Byzantine Emperor</div>
House	House of Árpád

## Ancestry

**Father** Ladislaus I of Hungary

**Mother** Adelaide of Swabia



## Sources

- [Joannes Zonaras](#), *Extracts of History*.
- [John Kinnamos](#), *Chronicle*.
- [Anna Komnene](#), *Alexiad*
- [Niketas Choniates](#), *Chronicle*

## External links

- Her profile along with her husband in "Medieval Lands" by Charles Cawley ([http://fmg.ac/Projects/MedLands/BYZANTIUM%2010571204.htm#\\_Toc150921123](http://fmg.ac/Projects/MedLands/BYZANTIUM%2010571204.htm#_Toc150921123))

<b>Irene of Hungary</b> <b>Árpád dynasty</b> Born: 1088      Died: 1134		
<b>Royal titles</b>		
Preceded by <b>Irene Doukaina</b>	<b>Byzantine Empress consort</b> 1118–1134	Succeeded by <b>Bertha of Sulzbach</b>
	<b>Empress-Mother of the Byzantine Empire</b> 1122 – 13 August 1133 Shared title with <a href="#">Irene Doukaina</a> from 1122 until 1133.	Succeeded by <b>Maria of Antioch</b>

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