



# Charles Bridge

## PRAGUE

photos: Milan Tvrđý

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Pilsener Urquell





## *St. Ivo*

**Matyáš Bernard Braun  
(1711)**

**The statue portrays St. Ivo  
as the patron saint of lawyers,  
accompanied by an allegorical  
depiction of Justice.**



# *Madonna and St. Bernard*

**Matěj Václav  
Jäckel  
(1709)**

**Donated by the abbot of the  
Cistercian monastery in Osek,  
Benedikt Littwerig.**



*St. Barbora,  
St. Margaret  
and St. Elizabeth*

**Jan Brokoff  
(1707)**

**Although there is an inscription saying IOANN BROKOFF FECIT (made by Jan Brokoff), their style is evidence that his son Ferdinand is their true author.**



*Madonna, St. Dominik aand St. Thomas Aquinas*  
Matěj Václav Jäckel (1708)

**The statue portrays the Madonna giving the Rosary to St. Dominic on the left, with St. Thomas Aquinas standing to the right.**

**Sponsored by the Dominicans Convent of St. Giles in the Old Town of Prague.**



# *Lamentation of the Christ*

**Emanuel Max (1859)**

**The statue depicts Mary Magdalene and the Virgin Mary mourning the dead Christ. At this position on the bridge, there was originally a wooden crucifix, which was destroyed by a flood in 1496. In 1695, a statue depicting the lamentation of Christ by Jan Brokoff was installed here. This was removed to the Monastery of Gracious Nurses under Petřín hill in Prague in 1859 and replaced by the current statue.**



*The Crucifix and Calvary*  
Emanuel Max (1861)

The original wooden crucifix was installed at this place soon after 1361 and probably destroyed by the Hussites in 1419. A new crucifix with a wooden corpus was erected in 1629 but was severely damaged by the Swedes towards the end of the Thirty Years' War. This was replaced by another wooden Calvary which, in turn, was replaced with a metal version in 1657. In 1666, two lead figures were added, but these were replaced in 1861 by the present sandstone statues by Emanuel Max, portraying the Virgin Mary and John the Evangelist.





*St. Joseph  
with Jesus*  
**Josef Max (1854)**

**This statue depicts St. Joseph leading a small Christ, and is situated on a pseudo-Gothic base. It replaced a statue with the same motif by Jan Brokoff, designed in 1706. This was damaged by cannon fire during the 1848 revolution and was replaced by the current statue in 1854.**



## *St. Anne*

**Matěj Václav Jäckel  
(1707)**

**This statue represents St. Anne, mother of the Virgin Mary, who is portrayed here as a young girl.**

**Designed at the expense of count Rudolf of Lisov, the hetman of the New Town of Prague.**



# *St. Francis Xavier*

**Ferdinand Maxmilián Brokoff  
(1711)**

**(Replica by Čeněk Vosmík from 1913).**

**The original was commissioned of the Faculty of Theology and Philosophy of Charles University, but fell into the river during the floods of 1890. The statue depicts a group of Indian and Japanese princes being baptized by the saint.**



# *St. Cyril and St. Methodius*

**Karel Dvořák**

**(1928 – 1938)**

The statue portrays the missionaries who introduced Christianity to the Slavs. The original statue of St. Ignatius which stood here, designed by Ferdinand Brokoff in 1711, was displaced by the floods of 1890 and can now be found in the Prague lapidarium.



## *St. Christopher*

**Emanuel Max  
(1857)**

**This statue depicts the saint holding Christ as a boy on his shoulder. The statue was originally conceived by Count Antonín Sporck, who wanted to build a marble statue as tribute to Charles VI in 1720. A plan of this was created by Matthias Braun, which was not executed.**



## *St. John the Baptist*

**Josef Max**  
(1857)

**The statue depicts a standing St. John. It replaced a statue by Jan Brokoff, portraying the Baptism of Jesus by St. John, which stood in this position between 1706 and 1848.**



*St. Francis Borgia*  
Ferdinand Maxmilián Brokoff  
(1710)

**The sculpture portrays  
St. Borgia, a Jesuit priest,  
with two angels.**

It was commissioned from Ferdinand  
Brokoff by the imperial Burgrave  
František z Colletů in 1710.



*St. Norbert of Xanten, St. Wenceslaus and St. Sigismund*  
**Josef Max** (1853)

**This statue was designed under the patronage of the abbot  
of Strahov Monastery, Dr. Jeroným Zeidler**





# *St. Ludmila*

**Matyáš Bernard Braun  
(1730)**

**The statue depicts  
St. Ludmila teaching her  
grandson, St. Wenceslas,  
and the base contains  
a relief sculpture showing  
the murder of St. Wenceslas.**

**The sculpture was erected on  
the bridge in 1784 to replace  
the statue of St. Wenceslas damaged  
in the floods in that year. The exact  
date and sculptor responsible for this  
statue are not known, although it is  
believed that it was created by  
Matthias Braun around 1730.**



## *St. John Of Nepomuk*

**Jan Brokoff (1683)**

The oldest statue on the bridge. The original clay design, based upon a wood model by Jan Brokoff, was made by Matthias Rauchmüller. The statue was then cast in bronze by Wolfgang Jeroným Heroldt in Nuremberg. The saint is presented in a traditional way, as a bearded capitulary with a five-star glory, standing on a tripartite base. The base portrays scenes from the life of St. John of Nepomuk, including the confession of Queen Johanna and the saint's death. In 1393 St. John of Nepomuk was thrown from the bridge into the river where he drowned. In modern times it has become traditional to touch the bridge here. This is held to bring good fortune and to ensure that the visitor will return to the city of Prague.



## *St. Francis of Assisi*

**Emanuel Max (1855)**

The statue portrays St. Francis standing with two neoclassic angels, on a pseudo-baroque base. The sculpture replaced a similar statue designed in 1708 by František Preis.



# *St. Anthony of Padua*

**Jan Oldřich Mayer  
(1707)**

The statue represents  
St. Anthony of Padua  
standing between two  
Vases and holding Jesus.

**Sponsored by  
Krištof Mořice Withauer,  
councilor of the Prague Castle  
burgraviate.**



## *St. Vincent Ferrer and St. Procopius*

**Ferdinand Maxmilián Brokoff  
(1712)**

One of the artistically most important pieces on the bridge, sculpted by Ferdinand Brokoff in **1712**, paid for by Romedius Josef František, the count Thun and lord of Choltice. St. Vincent is on the left of the group, with a coffin and a kneeling penitent sinner by his legs. Saint Procopius of Sázava stands on a devil to the right.



# *St. Jude Thaddeus*

**Jan Oldřich Mayer**

**(1708)**

**This sculpture portrays St. Jude holding a rod. It was sculpted by Jan Oldřich Mayer in 1708 and paid for by František Sezima, the knight Mitrovský from Nemyšle and Jeřichovice.**



# *St. Nicholas of Tolentino*

**Jan Bedřich Kohl  
(1708)**

The saint is portrayed standing on a simple base, Together with an angel holding a basket of bread.

The statue was paid for by the Augustinian order convent of St. Thomas In Prague.



# *St. Augustine*

**Jeroným Kohl**

**(1708)**

**The statue portrays the philosopher holding a book and a burning heart. He is followed by an angel attempting to pour the sea out of a sea-shell.**

**Paid for by the Augustinian convent of St. Thomas in Prague.**



*St. Luthgard*

**Matyáš Bernard  
Braun  
(1710)**

**Possibly the most valuable  
piece of art on the bridge  
was sculpted as a commission  
from Evžen Tyttl, the abbot  
of the Cistercian monastery  
in Plasy.**



# ***St. Cajetan***

**Ferdinand Maxmilián  
Brokoff  
(1709)**

St. Cajetan, the founder of the religious order of Theatines, is portrayed holding a book and standing before an obelisk representing the Trinity.

**The statue was sponsored by the convent of Theatines in Prague.**



# *St. Adalbert*

**Michal Jan Josef  
Brokoff  
(1709)**

**Designed by Michael and Ferdinand Brokoff in 1709, this statue was sponsored by Markus Bernard Joanelli, the councilor of the Old Town of Prague. The saint is represented with a prelate stick developing into a sea paddle and is standing on a base decorated with angels and the emblem of the donor.**



# *St. Phillip Benitius*

**Michal Bernard Mandel**

**(1714)**

**Designed by Michal Bernard Mandl in 1714, this statue was made from Salzburg marble and donated by the Servites convent in Prague. The statue portrays St. Philip Benitius, fifth general of the Servites, holding a cross, a book and a spray. By his legs there is the crown of the Pope. A clay model of this statue can be found in the Salzburg museum.**



# *St. John of Matha, St. Felix of Valois and St. Ivan*

**Ferdinand Maxmilián  
Brokoff  
(1714)**

The most spacious and expensive sculpture on the bridge. It was sponsored by František Josef Thun, the lord of Klášterec nad Ohří. The sculpture was intended to honour the two founders of the Trinitarians, the order that supervised buying back and redeeming of Christians in captivity under Turks. St. Ivan, the saint patron of Slavs was added to the group for unknown reasons. The base depicts a cave in which three chained Christians are praying to the Lord for salvation.



## *St. Vitus*

**Ferdinand Maxmilián  
Brokoff  
(1714)**

**St. Vitus is portrayed standing on a base in the shape of cave, from which lions crawl up. The Saint is depicted as a Roman aristocrat, martyred for his faith. Duke Wenceslas acquired a number of his relics to honor the founding of St. Vitus Cathedral at Prague Castle. These relics, together with others acquired by Charles IV in 1355, are embedded in the cathedral building.**

**This statue was donated by Matěj Vojtěch Macht of Löwenmacht, the dean of the Vyšehrad canonry.**



# *St. Wenceslas*

**Josef Kamil Böhm  
(1858)**

Design by Josef Führung.

The statue was paid for by the Institute of the Blind at Klárov, Prague.

Until 1822, various little shops stood on this part of the bridge.



***Holy Savior with St. Cosmas and St. Damian***  
**Jan Oldřich Mayer**  
**(1709)**

The statue portrays Jesus with the patron saints of medicine placed on either side. Paid for by the faculty of medicine, University of Prague.



# *Bruncvik*

## Ludvík Šimek (1884)

Bruncvik, a mythical knight, is portrayed helping a lion fight a seven-head dragon. The knight Bruncvik is holding a golden sword, with a lion lying by his legs. This replaced a statue of Roland, erected in 1502, and was intended to remind passers-by of the Old Town's privileges, in particular the right to charge tolls and duty. This statue was damaged by cannon fire when the city was attacked by Swedish forces in 1648.



