

Church of Saint John the Baptist

Object no. 28 | Zámecké náměstí (Chateaux Square), Teplice

In Catholic tradition, Saint John the Baptist is the patron of Malta, Burgundy, Provence and a long series of professions and also waters and healing springs. This is why he is the patron of Teplice and the early Baroque Dean Church in the Chateaux square is dedicated to him.

Its history goes back to the very beginning of Teplice. The church itself is probably built on Renaissance foundations. Its present design of a three-aisled basilica comes from the year of 1700 - 1703. The tower was added four years later. The tower also contains the flat of a caretaker and three bells – the newest one was casted in 1659, the middle one, a Renaissance bell, was casted in 1540. The oldest bell with a pieta is dated 1482.

The link to the Teplice's history does not finish only with the place. The members of noble family of Vchynský who ruled Teplice till the end of the 16th century are buried in the right side aisle of the church. The left side aisle contains the crypt of the family which has the strongest link to Teplice, the noble family of Clary-Aldringen. They were buried here until 1751 when the family crypt was moved to the Chateaux Chapel and later to the newly opened Church of the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary in Dubí.

The interior of the church is of Baroque and Rococo styles. The most valuable pieces of art located here come from the workshop of Petra Brandl, such as the painting of Christ Baptised on the main altar, the painting of John of Nepomuk on the left side altar and the painting of St. Christopher carrying the Christ Child on the right side altar.

The church was completely reconstructed at the beginning of the 1990s and still serves to the Catholic Church. The church tower is opened for tourists in summer season and it offers magnificent views of the town historic centre.