



#### Altars:

1. Main altar of the Virgin Mary
2. St. Ignatius of Loyola
3. Annunciation of the Virgin Mary
4. St. Francis Xavier
5. St. John of Nepomuk
6. St. Joseph
7. St. Barbara
8. St. Anna
9. Virgin Mary – Lady of Sorrows
10. St. Florian
11. St. Anthony of Padua



**Klatovské katakomby, z.s.**  
 Denisova 148/II, Klatovy, tel.: 376 320 160  
 rezervace pro organizované skupiny:  
 rezervace@katakomby.cz  
[www.katakomby.cz](http://www.katakomby.cz)





# THE JESUIT CHURCH IN KLATOVY



***The Church of the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary and St. Ignatius, together with the Black Tower, form the dominating features of the Klatovy Square. For the purpose of its construction and decoration, the Jesuits invited a number of important artists of their time to Klatovy.***

The construction of the church began in 1656 under the leadership of the Italian architect Carlo Lurago. He laid the foundations of the church on the site of demolished buildings of the original Jesuit residences and schools in the corner of the Square. After that, however, he mainly focused on the construction of the secondary college building. In just ten years, the management of the construction work was taken over by another Italian builder, Giovanni Domenico Orsi, and the work

on the church was put into motion. Before his death, Orsi managed to build the front half of the church, the two-tower frontage and the nave including underground crypts. The church was solemnly consecrated in 1677. This beautiful work of art was damaged by a fire in 1689, but the Jesuits quickly started with its reconstruction. The final appearance of the church was created by the prominent Czech Baroque builder Kryštof Dientzenhofer. The first Solemn Mass in the new church was held on July 31, 1717 on the holy day of St. Ignatius. The last modifications of the church were made in 1736 by his son Kilián Ignác Dientzenhofer, who added three stone portals to the frontage.

When looking into the interior, the size of the church might surprise you. The size could appear even bigger thanks to the Baroque frescoes, creating the illusion of additional space. Thanks to the deception

of the human eye, it seems there is a prolongation of the church behind the painting of the main altar or the elevation of the ceiling of the dome, which is only a masterful illusion. The frescoes were created by the Swabian painter Johannes Hiebel, best known for his later work in Prague's Klementinum. The rich decoration of the church is complemented by its spectacular organ.

The organ is the work of organ builder Adam Kannhäuser and dates back to 1714. Just ten years later, there was a radical reconstruction of the instrument. This was the work of the young and later very famous organ builder Tomáš Schwarz, who joined the Jesuit Order in Klatovy. An intriguing feature of this organ is the lateral illusory field of non-playing wooden pipes, which gives the impression that it is much larger and occupies the entire width of the loft.

In the years 2018 – 2021, the church underwent significant reconstruction, including the repair of the exterior facade and sculptural decoration of its frontage. A sculptural copy of Immaculata (Immaculate Virgin Mary) was placed at the top of the gable between the towers. The ceiling frescoes, interior stucco decorations, front altars, and pulpit underwent restoration as well as a general repair of the organ. The investor of the event was the Bishopric of Pilsen with the financial assistance of IROP, MMR, Pilsen Region, the town of Klatovy and other donors.

