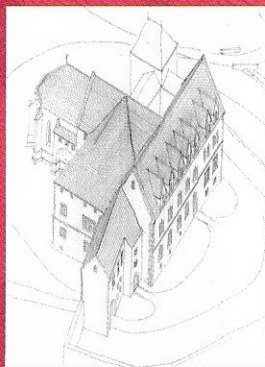


■ **Reconstruction of the Chomutov Teutonic Order monastery in the 14th century**

Drawing Jaroslav Pachner 2014
(© Regionalmuseum in Chomutov)



■ **Reconstruction of the Veitmle family castle in Chomutov around 1520**

Drawing Jaroslav Pachner 2014
(© Regionalmuseum in Chomutov)



■ **Carl Würbs, Chomutov Town Hall, 1840–1850, engraving**

(© Regionalmuseum in Chomutov)

■ **Church of St. Catherine and the former castle of the Veitmle family (today's town hall) in Chomutov, view from the May 1st Square**



OBLASTNÍ MUZEUM V CHOMUTOVĚ

Opening hours:

Monday → closed
Tuesday – Friday → 9 am – 5 pm
Saturday → 1 pm – 5 pm
Sunday → closed

For opening hours during special events, holidays and the Christmas exhibition see www.muzeumchomutov.cz

Heritage buildings:

- Main Museum Building, Palackého 86
- Astronomical Tower, Palackého 86
- Town Hall, nám. 1. máje 1
- Church of St. Catherine, nám. 1. máje 1

The church and the tower can only be visited with a guide. Both these spaces are also accessible as part of the city guided tours.

Entrance fee:

basic → 30 CZK
reduced (children 6–15 of age, students, seniors) → 15 CZK
family pass (2 adults and max. 3 children 6–15 of age) → 60 CZK

➤ **The ticket to the church is also valid for the exhibitions in the museum in the town hall.**

Admission to all heritage buildings:

basic → 45 CZK | reduced → 25 CZK | family pass → 90 CZK

Guided tours of the historical city centre:

- Short tour – historical centre only → 60 min. (adults 40 CZK; children, students, seniors 20 CZK)
- Medium tour – historical centre and the Astronomical Tower → 80 min. (adults 80 CZK; children, students, seniors 40 CZK)
- Long tour – historical centre, Astronomical Tower, and the town hall museum including the church → 120 min. (adults 120 CZK; children, students, seniors 60 CZK)

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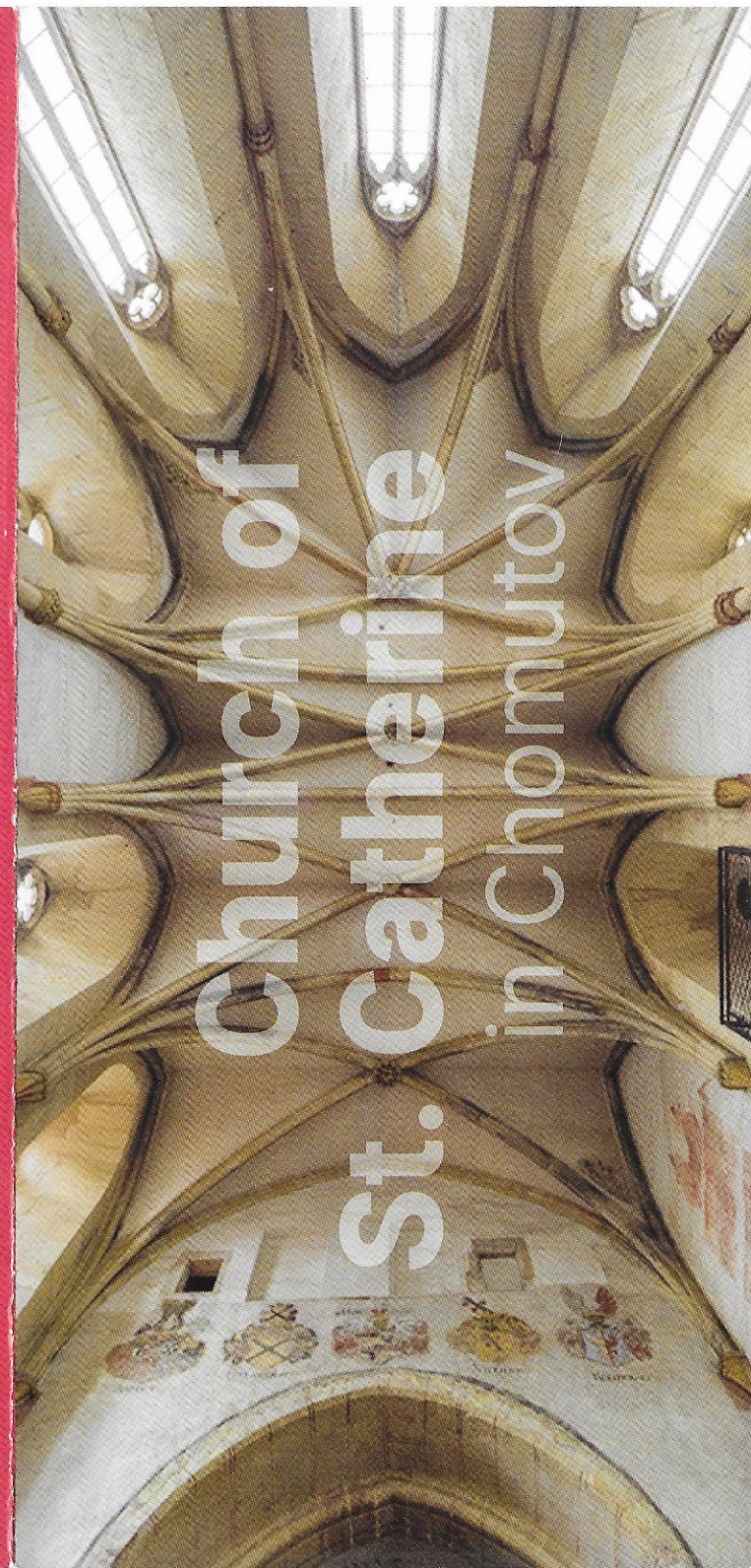


Realized with financial support of the statutory city of Chomutov.



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Church of St. Catherine in Chomutov

Church of St. Catherine in Chomutov

Dating to the second quarter of the 13th century, this is the oldest church in Chomutov. It was likely a part of the homestead owned by Frederic of Chomutov, the son of Nacherat (*Fridericus de Chomutov, filius Nacherati*). The remnants of the earliest, Romanesque-Gothic building phase include the church's transept and the fragments of vault springers in the former nave and the square-shaped western tower.

In 1252, Frederic gave the town to the Order of Teutonic Knights. Over the following decades, the Knights turned the existing buildings into a monastery and replaced the original small church chancel with a larger one featuring a pentagonal apse.

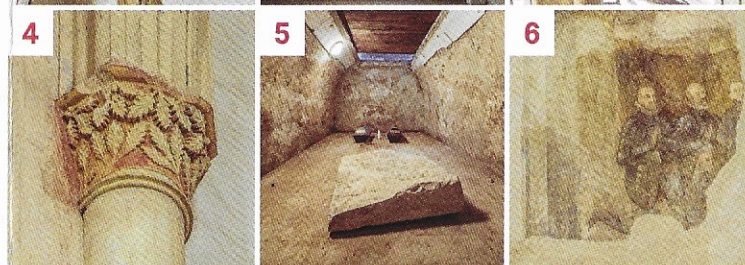
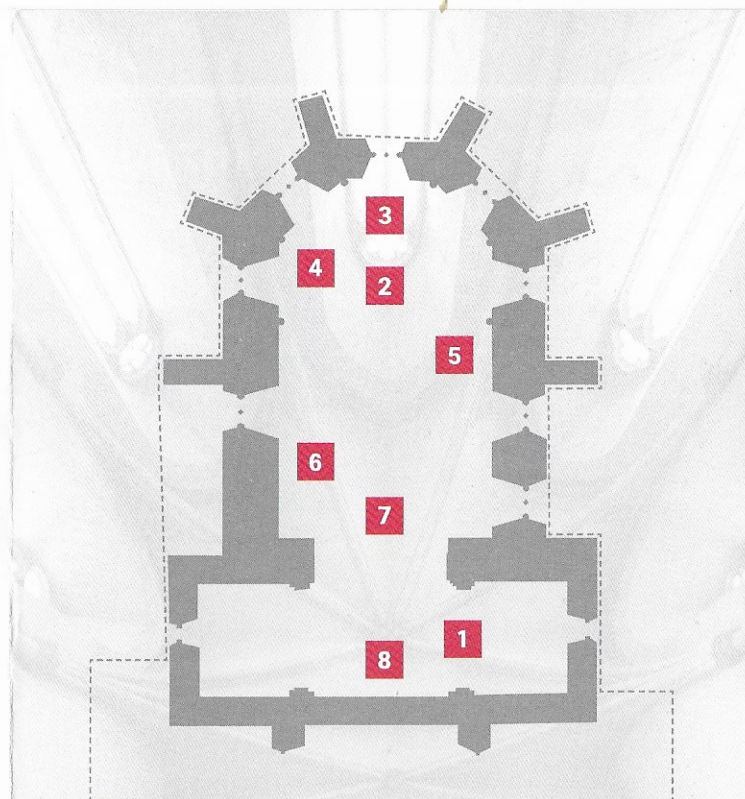
The Teutonic Order left the town after 1411. The monastery building and the church were damaged by a fire in 1408 and in 1421, the town was sacked by the Hussites. In the 1480s, an ambitious politician, Beneš of Veitmile, began reconstruction with the intention to create a luxury residential castle modelled on the Albrechtsburg in Meissen. This building phase produced the famous diamond vault and several architectural details on the second floor of the former castle (today's Regional Museum in Chomutov). During the renovations, the defunct church nave and western tower were incorporated into the castle's architectural organism and the rest of the church began to serve as a castle chapel. Following Beneš's death in 1496, his son Sebastian took up the renovations, finishing them in 1520 in what was already the Early-Renaissance style.

Further renovations date to the period between 1571 and 1588 when the Lutheran-oriented Lobkowitz family established their necropolis in the church. The construction began during the reign of Bohuslav Felix of Lobkowitz and Hassenstein († 1583) and was later taken over by his son, Bohuslav Joachim. The fragments of wall paintings in the chancel and transept and the remnants of a crypt near the southern chancel wall signal that this used to be a burial ground.

In 1588, Bohuslav Joachim surrendered the Chomutov manor to the strongly pro-Catholic Georg Popel of Lobkowitz who entrusted the church's administration to the Jesuits. However, both the castle and the church burnt down in 1598 and by 1627, the whole compound was converted into the town hall.

The church was desecrated following the abolition of the Jesuit order in 1773, and in 1790, it was sold in an auction to councillor Klinger, who used it for the purposes of the municipality. The interior furnishings were gradually sold, destroyed or transferred elsewhere. The church then served as a storage, granary and coach shed and gradually fell into disrepair. At the end of the 19th century, plans began to form for the church's renovations, but it was not until 1937 that the most damaged parts of the church were secured.

The overall renovation did not take place until the end of the 20th century and the church was finally opened in 2000. Today, it serves the Regional Museum in Chomutov as a space for exhibitions and cultural events. The Gothic and Renaissance underground spaces are also partly accessible and can be entered from the anteroom in the former nave of the church.



1 Transept

This is a remnant of the original church from the second quarter of the 13th century. Gothic elements are applied to what is still an essentially Romanesque space. The masons may have found inspiration in the Romanesque churches in Potvorov and Vroutek or, outside Bohemia, in Bamberg and Eberach.

2 Chancel

The chancel was likely built between the 1260s and 1280s in the Classical Gothic style. The architecture draws on Saxon-Thuringian examples (Naumburg, Meissen) and also local structures (Osek, Cheb). Even though the year 1281 is often considered the date when the chancel was finished, it in fact just marks the first mention of the church's existence in written documents.

3 Gothic windows

The most interesting of the church's windows is the eastern axial window with mullions featuring small foliated capitals on both the interior and exterior. The interior side also contains delicate corbels, functioning as the mullions' bases, adorned with blind tracery. This suggests the window belongs to the post-classical phase of Bohemian Gothic architecture which began in the 1270s.

4 Capitals and keystones

These architectural elements bear either foliate (maple, oak) or zoomorphic (two lions) decoration. The foliage is ornamental and rigid, corresponding with the post-classical Gothic style in architecture of the 1270s and 80s. However, the vault itself likely dates to the end of the 13th century.

5 Crypt

The crypt is a remnant of the Lobkowitz necropolis from the 1580s, which also included the adjacent niche and the wall paintings on the opposite, northern wall. The high-quality sculptural depictions of Bohuslav Felix and his two wives beneath a Crucifixion by the Lorentz family workshop from Freiberg have unfortunately not been preserved and the only information about them comes from older literature. Following the church's desecration, the tin and copper coffins were transferred to Nové Sedlo nad Bílínou where they were demolished along with the village in 1975.

6 Wall paintings from the 1580s

The fragment of the painted epitaph of Bohuslav Felix of Lobkowitz and Hassenstein († 1583). On its left is the coat of arms of his first wife, Margaret of Plauen († 1555) and on the right that of his second wife, Anne of Vitzthum († 1587). These are then complemented with coats of arms of their maternal lineage.

7 Five painted coats of arms above the chancel arch

The coat of arms in the middle belongs to Bohuslav Felix of Lobkowitz and Hassenstein († 1583). On its left is the coat of arms of his first wife, Margaret of Plauen († 1555) and on the right that of his second wife, Anne of Vitzthum († 1587). These are then complemented with coats of arms of their maternal lineage.

8 Oratory of Bohuslav Joachim of Lobkowitz and Anne of Redern

The oratory was built between 1583 and 1588. A naked Adam is depicted between the painted coats of arms of the patron and his wife. This is likely an allusion to Christ as the "new Adam" who redeemed the sins of mankind through his death on the cross.