

OUR LADY OF ANNUNCIATION CHURCH

Vevey



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English

ÉGLISE CATHOLIQUE
VAUD

Pastorale du Tourisme, des
Loisirs et des Pèlerinages

Nearby

- Neo-Gothic architecture in Vevey: **the rectory building** built in 1872, and the Château de l'Aile on the Place du Marché.
- The Compagnie Générale de Navigation (CGN)'s Vevey-La Tour landing stage is just 400m away from the Church. From here, it's possible to travel by boat to visit the churches of Notre-Dame in Vevey, Sainte Thérèse of the Child Jesus in Clarens, Sacred Heart of Jesus in Montreux and Sacred Heart of Jesus in Villeneuve (CGN Vevey *circuit*). Clarens-Montreux-Territet-Chillon-Villeneuve-Bouveret-Vevey from April to October.
- The church is located halfway between the Alimentarium museum in Vevey, and the Swiss Museum of Games in La Tour-de-Peilz.
- Heading East: a 60-minute stroll along the lake will take you to Clarens Church.



Did you know?

- The parishes of the Pastoral Group (*Notre-Dame with the community of Blonay, and Saint-Jean with the communities of Mont-Pèlerin and Chexbres*) give the option of leaving basic necessities in a basket in their churches to support those in need in the region.
- Many visitors, people of faith and pilgrims visit the church daily to pray, as evidenced by the more than 3,000 candles lit each year in front of Notre Dame!
- Henryk Sienkiewicz, Nobel Prize winner for literature and author of the novel *Quo Vadis?* which inspired the film of the same name, stayed at the nearby Grand Hôtel du Lac between 1914 and 1916. This visit from the illustrious guest, whose funeral Mass was delivered at Notre-Dame in 1916, is remembered by a commemorative plaque in the church (*at the back on the west wall*).
- The church celebrated the 150th anniversary of its consecration in 2022.
- Masses are delivered in French, Italian, Portuguese and Spanish!

History of the church

After the abolition of Catholic worship in 1536, Vevey's first chapel was only opened in 1834. The rectory's address was 22 Rue d'Italie, and that building led to the chapel beyond an interior courtyard. In view of the restrictions imposed on Catholics, it was not permitted for their place of worship to be visible.

The establishment of the parish and the construction of its buildings were possible as a result of generous donations, many local and international collections, as well as the enthusiasm of the first priests and support from the bishop.

The church that stands today is one of the most important neo-Gothic buildings in French-speaking Switzerland, consecrated in 1872, and classified as a (grade II listed) historic monument since 1976 (its most recent restoration 2009-2011).



Under the porch, you are welcomed by the Evangelists and Christ on the Mount of Olives, depicted on the entrance tympanum.

In the nave, you can admire the exceptional set of stained glass windows by Franz Xaver Zettler's Munich manufacture (choir - transept - nave), installed in 1872.

The splendid preaching pulpit was commissioned in 1888 from Joseph Théophile Klem's workshop in Colmar. On the body of the pulpit, the Four Evangelists can be admired, and on the canopy is the Blessing Christ, carrying a book with the alpha and omega.

In 1897, to celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the building's consecration, the choir was enriched with paintings by Otto Haberer. The Four Evangelists and numerous angels complete the decoration dedicated to the Virgin (*litanies*). In the centre, the main altar rests on columns made of Cipolin marble from Sailon chiselled by Charles Reymond. The whole is surmounted by a ciborium (*canopy*) in painted oak, topped with five angels carrying the *arma christi* that were made in Franz August Müller's workshop.

The French Romantic pneumatic organ dates from 1901, and was constructed by organ builder Vincenzo Mascioni of Como (restored in 1958 and 1994).



Franciscan spirituality



Why are there statues of Saint Elizabeth of Hungary, Saint Colette and Saint Clare? All three, endowed with beautiful, deeply prayerful personalities, are connected by their attachment to Franciscan spirituality and the example set by Mary.

Saint Elizabeth of Hungary (1207-1231)

Widow, renounced a life of splendour at the court of Thuringia. She lived the rest of her life in austere poverty and dedicated her fortune to the needy.

«I do not wish to frighten God with a dreary demeanour. Does he not prefer to see me happy, since I love him and he loves me»
Elizabeth of Hungary

Saint Colette (1381-1447)

Co-founded the Convent of Poor Clares in Vevey at the beginning of the 15th century and became its first abbess. Only the church remains of this establishment, today used by our Reformed brothers. Saint Colette went on to found another convent in Orbe.

«Serving God and singing his praises is the most important action that we must do since that is why we left the world»
Prayer by Saint Colette

Saint Clare (1194-1253)

She was a disciple of Saint Francis of Assisi. Wishing to dedicate her life to God, she founded the Order of Poor Ladies.

«Start by chasing from your heart everything that stirs it, and you will be able to enter into the depths of God alone»
Clare d'Assise 22, via Celano

In line with Franciscan spirituality, support for the poorest remains dear to the parishioners of today. There is a great tradition of this in the parish, thanks to the century-old support for the St Vincent de Paul Conference and tireless work of the Solidarity team at the canton of Vaud's Catholic Church, as well as help from many volunteers.