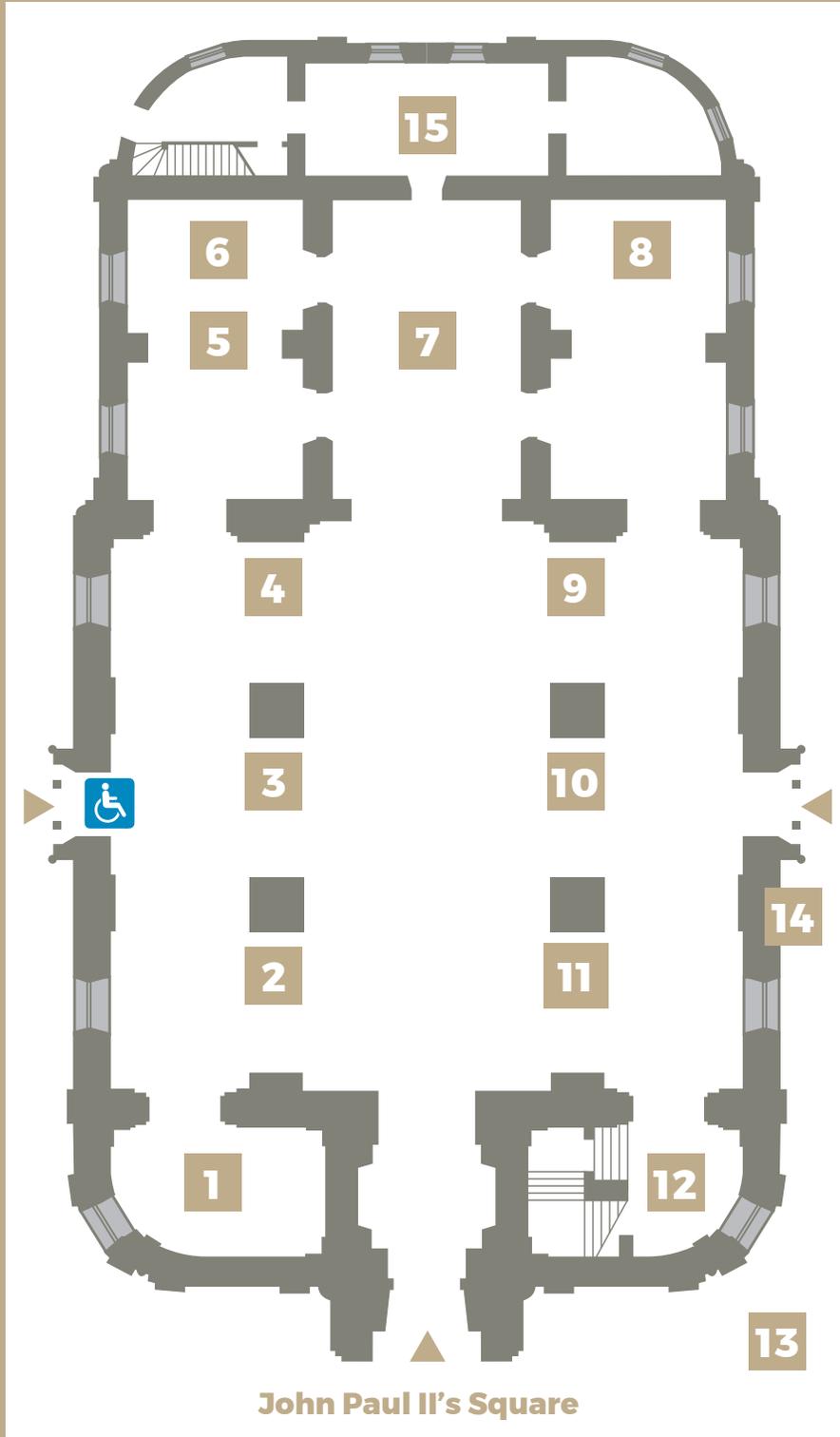


Basilica of Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Wadowice



John Paul II's Square

- 1** Chapel of Our Lady of Perpetual Help
- 2** Altar of Crucifixion
- 3** Altar of St. Anthony
- 4** Altar 'Jesus I Trust in You'
- 5** Baptismal font

- 6** Chapel of the Holy Family
- 7** Main altar
- 8** Chapel of Crucifixion
- 9** Altar of St. Joseph
- 10** Altar of the Heart of Jesus

- 11** Altar of St. Zita
- 12** Chapel of St. John Paul II
- 13** Monument of St. John Paul II
- 14** Sundial 'Time flies, eternity is waiting'
- 15** Sacristy



Holy Masses on Sundays and holidays:
6:00a.m., 7:30a.m., 9:00a.m., 10:30a.m.,
12:00p.m., 6:00p.m.
During the vacation period - weekdays:
6:00a.m., 8:00a.m., 12:00p.m., 6:00p.m.

Holy Masses - weekdays:
6:00a.m., 7:00a.m., 8:00a.m., 12:00p.m.,
4:30p.m. (1st Friday of the month),
6:00p.m. (on Saturdays, the Sunday
Mass liturgy).

The history of the church and the parish

First mention of the church in Wadowice dates back to 1325. Until 1836, it was dedicated to All Saints. After a fire in the 18th Century, the church was further extended, and consequently, its contemporary, three-nave body came into being. In the early 19th century, side chapels and a sacristy were added. Towards the end of the 19th century, Tomasz Pryliński, a renowned architect from Kraków, carried out a general alteration and restoration of the front facade of the church in the Neo-Baroque style. The facade was beautified with rich ornamentation and stone sculptures, which present the Blessed Virgin Mary surrounded by two patrons of the universal church, St. Peter and St. Paul. The alcoves below became a place for statues of the patrons of Poland, St. Stanislaus and St. Adalbert. The portico of the main entrance with a balcony and a modification of the tower helmet, which gives it a unique, characteristic shape have also been created within the period mentioned above. On the exterior wall of the church from the south, a sundial was created with a motto 'Time flies, eternity is waiting'. **14**

In the entrance hall on the left side, there is a plaque which commemorates the event of the church being given the rank of a Minor Basilica by the Pope John Paul II in 1992. The vaults of the church naves are decorated with polychrome which draws on the teaching of the Pope John Paul II. It was created in 2002-2003 as an expression of homage on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the pontificate of John Paul II. The initiator of the renovation of the interior of the temple was Priest Prelate Jakub Gil. The polychromes were painted by artists from Kraków, A. Grochal and K. Dobrzyńska, under the supervision of the conservator Priest Dr. Józef Nowobilski. This unique polychrome illustrates the papal teachings contained in encyclicals (the main nave, side naves and the papal chapel), exhortations (chapel of the Holy Family) and apostolic letters of John Paul II (chapel of the Crucifixion), which were illustrated with biblical or allegorical scenes referring to the times of Jesus Christ's life. It includes illustrations of encyclicals, pastoral letters and apostolic exhortations. In the chancel there are eight portraits of the Polish saints who were canonized by John Paul II. Around the walls, 19th century Stations of the Cross are located and numerous plaques commemorate deceased parish priests from Wadowice.

The Chapel of Our Lady of Perpetual Help (of the Holy Cross)

1 The main element of the chapel is the altar with a miracle-working image of Our Lady of Perpetual Help (ca. 1896), crowned by John Paul II at the Wadowice market square on 16th June 1999. Next to the painting there are three votive offerings: a rosary - a gift from John Paul II on the day of the coronation of the image of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, a Swiss alarm clock - a gift from the mayor of Lourds to the Holy Father during His last pilgrimage to this town (August 2004) and a commemorative heart 'On the twentieth anniversary of the coronation of the image - grateful parishioners, 16/06/2019'. The chapel is separated from the church with a black grille, which contains papal coats of arms and an inscription 'Totus Tuus' as well as numerous votive offerings made by the faithful as a token of gratitude for received graces. At the bottom part of the painting there is an inscription in Latin 'S. Maria de Perpetuo Succursu' - Our Lady of Perpetual Help. For more than one hundred years, the image has been highly worshipped in Wadowice and the vicinity. Karol Wojtyła used to pray in front of it each day before he went to school.

The Holy Family Chapel with a baptismal font

6 The main wall is occupied by the altar of the Holy Family. The statues on the altar include Mary with Joseph and the infant Jesus, whereas below - St. Anna and St. John Cantius instead of St. Joachim. A polychrome behind the altar presents Nazareth. In the central point of the chapel there is a baptismal font **5**. The Holy Family chapel holds a stone Baroque baptismal font with a golden cover, topped with a cross. It was right there that on 20 June 1920 Karol Wojtyła - later pope John Paul II - became baptized by rev. Franciszek Żak, the military chaplain and the assistant curate at the parish in Wadowice. His photo, along with

a copy of the page from the parish books with Karol Wojtyła's baptismal certificate, is located at the entrance to the chapel, on the left.

The main altar - the chancel

7 The central point of the church is occupied by a Gothic chancel, which contains a gold-plated Baroque main altar with images of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Transfiguration of Jesus. At the sides of the altar statues of saints Peter and Paul have been placed. The most recent element of the decor are frescos presenting eight Polish saints whose storied are related to southern Poland, which allude to the Beatitudes. Among the saints are: St. Fr. Raphael Kalinowski, St. Stanislaus, St. Jadwiga, St. Kinga, St. Sr Faustina Kowalska, St. Fr Maksymilian Kolbe, St. Fr Albert Chmielowski, St. Stanislaus Kostka. In front of the entrance to the presbytery, on the right side, there is an image of Blessed Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński with a reliquary below. Correspondingly, on the left side, in front of the entrance to the presbytery, there is an image of St. John Paul II with a reliquary below.

The Chapel of Crucifixion

8 The main wall is occupied by an altar with a figure of Christ on the cross, Mary, Mary Magdalene and John against the background of a fresco depicting Golgotha and Jerusalem. In the first pew on the left side there is a reliquary of St. Padre Pio - an Italian mystic, whose image is on the right side of the altar. Below the image of the Saint there are five portables (portable altars) containing relics, including those of St. Stanislaus and St. Florian. Relics of saints and blessed are also in the tabernacle and on the altar of the Crucifixion. These include the relics of Padre Pio, Simon of Lipnica, Maximilian Kolbe and Francis of Assisi. In the entrance to the chapel, on the right side there is a kneeler with a reliquary of St. Rita of Cascia and her image above on the wall.

The Chapel of St. John Paul II

12 In the central point, there is an altar with an image of the patron of the chapel. Four corners of the altar contain four images of churches: the Basilica in Wadowice, the Sanctuary in Kalwaria Zebrzydowska, the Wawel Cathedral and the Jasna Góra monastery, places to which St. John Paul II was particularly attached. The altar's predella holds a copy of a fresco from the Sistine Chapel 'The Delivery of the Keys to St. Peter by Christ'. Under the image of St. John Paul II, a reliquary with a drop of His blood and the inscription 'Totus Tuus' was placed. On the right side, there is a figure of Our Lady of Fatima brought by Wadowice pilgrims from Fatima. On the right side of the altar, there is a white candle with the papal coat of arms signed as 'Gift of the Holy Father John Paul II, 7/06/1979'. Under it, there is a copy of the image of Our Lady of Grace - Patroness of Warszawa (Mater Gratiarum Varsaviensis) 'Gift of the President of the Republic of Poland Andrzej Duda for the Basilica of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Wadowice, Wadowice, 18 May 2020' during His visit to Wadowice on the hundredth anniversary of the birth of Karol Wojtyła - St. John Paul II. In the chapel, on the right, there is a figure of St. John Paul made from a linden tree trunk by highlanders from Czarny Dunajec. On the left, in the niche, next to the throne from the visit of Pope Benedict XVI in Wadowice (2006), there is the chalice linen and chasuble that John Paul II wore during the celebration of Holy Mass in France. In the same display case, there is the skullcap of Cardinal Stanisław Dziwisz.

Monument to John Paul II

13 The monument presents the Pope as a successor of St. Peter, standing on a rock. He holds a crozier in his left hand. With his right hand the Pope blesses the pilgrims. The monument by Maksymilian Biskupski - graduate of the Academy of Fine Arts in Warszawa - is made of bronze. It was unveiled and consecrated by rev. cardinal Stanisław Dziwisz on 30 June 2006.

