

Conduct

We ask you to be mindful of the dignity of this place. Please enter the Cathedral with respect for God, people of faith, and the Christian faith.

- You are welcome to take **photos** for private use only without flash or tripod. However, group photos or selfies are considered disrespectful.
- **Clothing** should be appropriate. Sleeveless shirts and crop tops, as well as very short skirts and shorts, are considered disrespectful.
- **Men should remove their headwear** as a sign of respect. Women may keep their heads covered.
- **Phone calls, smoking, eating, and drinking** are not allowed.
- **Animals** are not allowed in the Cathedral, with the exception of guide dogs.

Information

Postcards, CDs, and further information about the Cathedral, tours, and religious services may be found at the **i Information and Visitor Centre DOMPLATZ 5**.

Imprint

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Welcome
to St Peter's
Cathedral

SITE AND INFORMATION

Dear Visitor,

We welcome you to St Peter's Cathedral, the principal church of the diocese of Regensburg, seat of the Bishop of Regensburg.

The Cathedral has been a World Heritage Site since 2006, as part of the ensemble "The Old City of Regensburg and Stadtamhof". That same year, the Cathedral was honoured with its first papal visit, when Pope Benedict XVI celebrated an ecumenical service. Benedict returned once more as Pope emeritus on June 21, 2020.

For nearly 750 years, people have been coming together in Regensburg's Cathedral to pray, to attend services, and to find comfort and solace in the presence of God. On their path of faith, they are accompanied by St Peter, the main patron saint of the Cathedral, Mary the Mother of Jesus (second patron saint), and other saints.

Those who believe are never alone – this is the vital message that St Peter's Cathedral has conveyed to us down through the centuries. Everyone visiting this church can find a welcome and a haven under the mighty vaulting: **The Gates of Heaven stand open for everyone here.**

Please take time and let the spaciousness and very special, mystical light of the Cathedral work its effect on you. Perhaps you will find a moment of quiet to light a candle at the **A Altar of Our Lady or say a prayer before the tabernacle with the Blessed Sacrament in the **B** Sailer Chapel.**

May the suggestions for a walk around the Cathedral help you get to know and appreciate this building as a witness to the Christian faith.



Opening Times

November to March 6:30 am to 5 pm

April, May and October 6:30 am to 6 pm

June to September 6:30 am to 7 pm

Religious Services

Sundays and Catholic holidays

10 am Holy Mass

12 noon Holy Mass



Monday to Saturday

7 am Holy Mass

Monday to Friday (May to the end of October)

12 noon Midday Meditation: 15 minutes of contemplation and organ music

Information about music in the Cathedral can be found on the notice board or in the Information and Visitor Centre DOMPLATZ 5.

Visiting

Visits by individuals are allowed during opening hours; on Sundays and holidays from 1 pm.

Walking around and photography are not permitted during services.

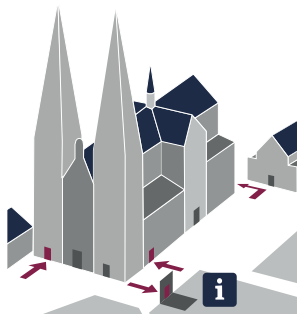
Cathedral Guided Tours

Information on Cathedral Tours may be obtained at the

i Information and Visitor Centre

DOMPLATZ 5, located across the street.

www.domplatz-5.de



History

St Boniface founded the diocese of Regensburg in 739; the first bishop was the blessed Gaubald. The first church, dedicated to St Peter, was replaced by a much larger Cathedral in the 10th and 11th centuries. In 1273, a fire in this romanesque cathedral led to the decision to build a new one.

Construction began in 1275/76 on a cathedral in French Gothic style, with the typical three-part structure of the walls (arcade, triforium and clerestory). Work continued over the next 250 years, coming to a standstill around 1520, with the building almost complete, but the towers only three storeys high. So it remained for more than 350 years.

In 1810, the Cathedral became the property of the Kingdom of Bavaria. Renewed interest in the Gothic style led King Ludwig I to “free” the Cathedral of all non-Gothic elements, with the exception of the **14 Baroque Silver Altar**. Later, the two spires (1859–69) and the transept gable (1872) were completed and **the Cathedral finally finished after 600 years of construction**.


A new iconographical programme was conceived for the Side Altars in the 1930s. After World War II, Josef Oberberger created new stained-glass windows for the North Choir and the Nave (1967–1989). The **12 Main Altar** and **Ambo** dates from 1976. An extensive renovation of the interior took place from 1984 to 1989; over the next 20 years, the exterior was cleaned.

In 2005, the South Choir was converted into the **B Sailer Chapel**. The installation of the **18 Rieger Organ** in 2009 finally provided the Cathedral with a full-scale instrument befitting its status and 750-year history.

Altars

- A Altar of Our Lady**
Here you can light a candle.
- B Sailer Chapel**
Reserved for private prayer
Altar of the Nativity and tomb monument of
Bishop Johann Michael von Sailer (1751–1832)
- C Main Altar and Ambo**
- D Altar of St Ursula**
In front: Tomb of the Honourable Servant of God
Bishop Georg Michael Wittman (1760–1833)
- E Altar of St Albertus Magnus**
- F Altar of St Rupert**
with the Ambry for the Holy Oils

Entrances and Exits

- 1 Portal of Moses**
- 2 Main Portal of Our Lady**
with porch
- 3 Portal of St Peter**
- 4 Portal of the Apostles**
- 5 Portal of the Crucifixion**
-  **Accessible Entrance**
Tactile model of the ground
plans of the Cathedral
- 7 Portal of St Christopher**
Access to the Cathedral Treasury

Other Places of Interest

- G Cathedral Treasury**

These places are not open to the public:

- A Chapel of the Cathedral Chapter**
- B Cathedral Workshop** run by the State of Bavaria
- C Romanesque “Eselsturm”** (Donkey Tower)
- D Cathedral Sacristy**



The **Information and Visitor Centre DOMPLATZ 5** is located across the street from the Cathedral.

Tour of the Cathedral

1 Monument to Cardinal Philipp Wilhelm of Bavaria (1576–1598) by Hans Krumper. The crucifix is based on a bronze sculpture by Giovanni da Bologna.

Equestrian statues of **2 St Martin** and **3 St George**. Both saints represent charity and courage in faith. In the small niches are two **4 demonic creatures**, commonly known as the “Devil and his Grandmother.”

5 Stained glass windows were donated by King Ludwig I of Bavaria (between 1829–57).

6 Statue of St Peter. His attribute, a large key, is also the symbol of the Cathedral. The **bronze plaque** on the wall commemorates the visit of **Pope Benedict XVI** in 2006.

7 Burial vault of the bishops of Regensburg (1984) and tomb of **Father Johann Maier**, who was executed by the Nazis shortly before the end of World War II. The **crucifix** by Rudolf Koller (1988) stands on the base of a pillar of the Romanesque Cathedral.

8 The figures on the **Cathedral Well** depict the meeting of Jesus and the Samaritan woman at Jacob’s Well. The wooden figure of the **9 “Horsehair Jesus”** (1465–70) is suspended above the portal.

10 Stone statue of St Paul. The sword refers to the martyrdom of the apostle. On the other side of the main altar is a **11 statue of St Peter**. The robes were originally painted blue, with a red-gold tiara, the papal crown.

12 The **Main Altar** and **Ambo** by Richard Triebe were erected in 1976, 700 years after the dedication of the first altar. **13** The **Cathedra** (bishop’s throne) stands between 19th century choir stalls. This is the origin of the word **cathedral**.

14 Baroque Silver Altar. The crucifix and other pieces were donated between 1695 and 1785. During liturgical services, the choir of the **“Regensburger Domspatzen”** sings in front of this altar.

15 The **39 medieval stained-glass windows**, with over 1100 panes, date from the years 1310–1450. Unlike in most other cathedrals, they are nearly completely preserved, and bathe the interior in a “holy light.”

Annunciation Group (ca. 1280) with the **16 “Smiling Angel”** and **17 Mary**. These statues were carved by Master Ludwig (the Erminold Master) and are among the great masterpieces of European sculpture.

18 The **Organ** (2009), with 5871 pipes and 80 stops, is suspended on four cables from a steel framework in the roof structure.

19 The **Pentecost Window** (left of the Organ) was created in 1989 by Josef Oberberger. It portrays the Descent of the Holy Spirit. Oberberger also designed the eight high windows of the Nave.

20 Monument to Carl Theodor of Dalberg by Luigi Zandomenighi (1824). Dalberg was Bishop of Regensburg (1803–1817) and last Chancellor of the Holy Roman Empire, which was dissolved in 1806.

21 Over a simple altar is a graceful figure of **St Margaret**.

22 Altar of St Michael and **23 Altar of the Diocesan Patrons Wolfgang, Emmeram and Erhard**. Karl Roth created new retables (altar screens) for both altars in 1940 and 1941.

24 Weathered statue of the two expectant mothers **Mary** and **Elizabeth** (originally by the Main Portal). The meeting of the two women is the origin of the Magnificat.

Cathedral Treasury

The **G Cathedral Treasury** is located in the former bishop's residence. It contains precious crucifixes and monstrances (vessels used to display an object of piety), chalices, and crosiers, as well as goldsmiths' work of high quality. Magnificently embroidered robes are displayed on the second floor.

The life-sized **"Butterfly Reliquary"** contains a tiny relic of the True Cross — a symbol of hope.



Opening Hours

Monday to Saturday 11 am to 5 pm
Sundays and holidays 12 noon to 5 pm

The Cathedral Treasury is located opposite the **D Cathedral Sacristy**.

www.domschatz-regensburg.de

Cathedral Music

Church music as an expression of faith plays an important role in the Cathedral. The thousand-year-old tradition of the Cathedral Choir — the **Regensburg Domspatzen** — goes back to Bishop Wolfgang's founding of a choir school in 975. The Cathedral Choir and Organist support and enhance the liturgy, particularly during celebrations of Holy Mass on Sundays and Catholic holidays. You can hear the **18 Cathedral organ** during the Midday Meditation. Concerts take place every Wednesday in June and July.

www.domspatzen.de
www.domorgel-regensburg.de

What Makes a Church?

The Cathedral is the church of the bishop and a place of the presence of God. This is made clear by

- the **Altar**. This is where the faithful gather to celebrate the remembrance of the Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- the **Ambo**. The lectern from which the Word of God is proclaimed.
- the **Tabernacle**. For Catholics, Jesus Christ is enduringly present in the consecrated symbols of bread and wine. The communion hosts consecrated during mass are kept in the tabernacle in the **B Sailer Chapel**. The Red Light hanging from the ceiling signifies the presence of Christ.

Christian Features

The furnishings of every Catholic church include

- **Crucifixes**. The depiction of Jesus' broken body on the cross is associated with the belief in victory over death. The crucifix expresses the hope of resurrection.
- **Depictions of Saints**. Statues and images of saints are not worshipped. Their representations stand for the community and the paths that these people have walked, witnessing God in and with their lives.
- **Holy Water Stoups (basins)**. Catholics cross themselves with holy water on entering and leaving the church. This is in remembrance of the baptism through which they have become Christian.