from Trnava is located. After tragic events in the town, sweat and blood tears appeared on the face of Virgin Mary. The Archbishop of Estergom and Cardinal Kristian August affirmed public worship of this miraculous painting. Thanks to this painting the church became a place of pilgrimage.

The main altar in the sanctuary was built in 1815. The walls of the sanctuary are wainscot with wood and decorated with vases and busts of saints. The gothic windows are decorated with stone traceries and vitrines.

The oldest altar in the church is the renaissance all Saints altar built in 1630.

In 2008 the church was acclaimed as the Marian place of pilgrimage in the Trnava archdiocese.

In consequence, in 2009, Pope Benedikt XVI. Granted to it the title Basilica Minor. In 2010 they made available to the public a charnel house „catacomb“, the greatest archeological discovery from the 11th Century, that was found next to the Basilica.

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St. Nicholas square

St. Nicholas square is situated in the eastern part of the historical center. The oldest human settlement, established prior to municipality, was located there. The first written reference about Trnava dates from 1211 and it is related to the church, which was the center of marketplace. It was consecrated to St. Nicolas, the patron saint of merchants. In the location of the original Romanesque church, a new church was built during the reign of Louis I. and Sigismund in 1380, yet again consecrated to St. Nicolas. Originally the graveyard was next to the church till 1747.

St. Nicholas square served as the town center and as the marketplace until the 15th century, when a new town center was formed – the Trinity Square. St. Nicolas square and the adjacent Capitol Street came back to life after 1543, when the Archbishop moved from Esztergom to Trnava together with his chapter. Opposite the church, there is a vicarage building, to the north there is Oláh’s Seminary, to the south there is the palace of the Archbishop, the west side of the square is occupied by canonic houses and in the middle, there is the sculpture of St. Joseph. The stagnant life in the eastern part of the town received a new impulse. The original marketplace of the town became an important religious center. St. Nicholas Basilica was, until 1820, the main cathedral of the archbishop of Esztergom and the place where the diocesan and national meetings took place. St. Nicholas square is the only square in the town that has preserved its historic look to present days and except the busy town center, it is the only place where we can feel the spiritual heritage of our ancestors.

St. Nicholas basilica

The façade of the church consists of two towers, divided by gothic supporting pillars. Over the baroque entry portal with the statue of St. Nicholas (patron saint of merchants), there is the largest gothic window of the church, whose vitrage depicts St. Cecilia. On the sides, there are statues of St. Nicholas and St. Adalbert. On the southern tower of the church, which is older, you can see the well preserved gargoyles and other gothical decorations. Next to the gotique portal, on the southern side of the church, there is the coat of arm of Pavol Holly who was the town captain. It is from 1498.

The church is 60 m long, 31 m wide and the main nave is 18 m high. In the entrance hall of the church, you can see the original gothic wall paintings. The arch is decorated with the attributes of evangelists and the coat of arms of Trnava. The original gothic portal of the chapel of God’s Heart on the southern side is decorated with a rich stone tracery. The chapel of Archangel Michael on the northern side is richly rendered with the motives of plants and figures. From the original gothic decoration of the church only a few parts remained: the in-tacts on the arches of the rib groined vaulted ceiling in the main nave with the coat of arms of King Sigismund, Albrecht Habsburg and of the town of Trnava, and the windows, that are decorated with stone traceries and vitrages.

In 1619 – 1629, the gothic character of the church was violated with the erection of chapels in the northern and southern side of the church. In the side chapels, the unique renaissance and baroque tomb stones of the archbishops from Esztergom are located. Very valuable are the two gothic epitaphs from the second half of the 14th century on the western wall of the northern side of the side nave. They originate from the cemetery near the church. In the first half of the 18th century, Imre Eszterházy built an octagonal baroque chapel on the northern side, in which the painting of Virgin Mary...