

BASILICA OF ESZTERGOM

The Basilica of Esztergom is the mother church of the Archdiocese of Esztergom-Budapest, and the seat of Catholic Church in Hungary. It is the largest church and the tallest building in Hungary.

Its inner area is 5,600 m². It is 118 m long and 49 m wide. Its dome, forming a semi-sphere, is situated in the middle, and it has 12 windows. The altarpiece is the largest painting in the world painted on a single piece of canvas. The basilica is also known for Bakócz Chapel built by Italian masters out of red marble of Süttő. It is the most precious remaining example of Renaissance art in Hungary.



The history of Basilica of Esztergom

The first cathedral in Hungary, which was burned down at the end of the 12th century. It was rebuilt, and even survived during the Mongol invasion of Hungary. In the 14th and 15th century the church added a huge library, the second most significant one in the country. It was ruined again under Turkish rule, in 1543. In 1820, the Archdiocese was restored and archbishop Sándor Rudnay decided to restore Esztergom's status as mother church of the country.

The organ

The renovation and enlargement of the organ started in the 1980s, after extensive preparations, and it is currently in progress. It is supervised by István Baróti, the basilica's organist and choirmaster since 1975. As of 2008, the project is still not fully funded. The organ has five manuals and by 2006 had 85 stops working out of the planned 146. The organ contains the largest organ pipes in Hungary.

