



The Church of St. Anton and St. Pavol, hermits The Parish Banská Bystrica – Stará Sásová



The coat of arms of the parish

Silver and red shield originate in a coat of arms of Banská Bystrica town. Yellow letter „T“ – Tau is an attribute of St. Anton who wear a stick of this shape. A raven is an attribute of St. Pavol, who was fed by the raven according to a legend. A blue lily is a symbol of deanship of Banská Bystrica – the town where the parish belongs to.



The church

The building of the Sásová church was built in the first half of the 13th century in the area of a village existing before arrival of German population. Inhabitants of the village lived mainly from agriculture. The church was in the first half of the 14th century (1330) rebuilt into early gothic form from the initiative of Mikuláš Sasa. The church was consecrated to the Virgin Mary and St. Anton, the patron of the agriculturists. The decisive rebuilding was finished at the beginning of the 16th century. The church composition has the parameters of older chapels and was built in old gothic architectural style. It is a single-nave building with a rectangle presbytery and a sacristy. On the west side there is an inbuilt tower.



The indulgence scriptum

Given in Avignone on February 13th, 1350 on request of Vavrinec, the son of the Sásová yeoman Mikuláš Sasa.



The late gothic arch

The work of Anton Pilgram creates an extraordinary design of a presbytery with overhanging intersecting ribblings in a shape of rhomb. In the middle of arch is situated a relief with figures of St. Anton and St. Pavol. Towards them there is the raven bringing bread in its beak. On connecting bolts and ribblings there are polychrome signs of the master stone cutters and donators.



Anton Pilgram (1460 – 1516)

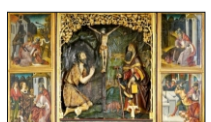
The architect as well as sculptor – the stone cutter from Brno. He studied in Vienna and worked in west part of Germany. Main part of his life he lived in Brno, where he came back approximately in 1495. From 1511 to 1515 he worked as a chief master of the Dóm of St. Štefan in Vienna. He was also co-builder of the Dóm of St. Martin in Bratislava as well as the Church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary in Banská Bystrica.



Michal Königsberger (+ 1505)

The burges and the town mayor of Banská Bystrica, the owner of mines and the sponsor of art.

His coat of arms is situated in an emblem of the rib of the right arch. On the right back wing of an altar he is illustrated wearing a red coat, kneeling in honor of saintly relics of St. Anton. This is his only proven portrait.



The main old gothic altar of St. Anton and St. Pavol (1500)

It is an oblong cabinet in the upper

part, rimmed with wine-grapes. The cabinet is symmetrically divided by the cross with a corpus. From the dusk there are the saints coming: on the left side there is St. Pavol kneeling in front of a cave and from the right side there is St. Anton coming with a hole (in 2020 the scene was completed according to an archive photo). The two sided painted wings illustrate eight scenes from St. Anton's life: the four scenes of temptation, the apparition of Jesus in his dream, the saint with a carravan, the saint in a coffin and the saint with an angel. These scenes were created in a workshop of the master painter Mikuláš from Levoča and were completed in 1515.



The attachment with filials

Creates a baldachin for five sculptures: in the middle is situated Madonna with Jesus.

By sides there are patrons of Ugrria: St. Imrich (1007 – 1031) – the son of the king of Ugrria; St. Štefan; St. Štefan (969/975 – 1038) – the king of Ugrria; St. Vojtech (956 – 997) – the bishop of Prague and martyr; St. Ladislav (1040 – 1095) – the king of Ugrria.



The swine

At the butt of an arch in presbytery as well as above the entrance of the sacristy there is a picture of a swine. According to the legend written in chronicle of Sásová village, the swine digged a pot full of money in a field of a farmer and they were used to build a stone church on the place of a wooden hermitage.



The side altar of St. Helena and St. Egídius (1510)

A wooden altar with a central scene of St. Helena and St. Egídia with a hind.

At the back there is a hilly area with fortifications. Up in the middle there is Madonna with Jesus and two adorning angels. On the wings of the altar there are pictures illustrating stories from lives of St. Egídia and St. Helena. On the dividing line there is Veronica's veil. The authorship of the altar is ascribed to a master from Hrabušice, who presumably co-worked with the Majster Pavol from Levoča.



St. Sebastián (256 – 288) – Roman soldier and martyr

At the attachment of the side altar there is a plastic of St. Sebastián. Its author is the Majster Pavol from Levoča. This work is characterized by its ideological disunity, which is characteristic for the beginning of the Renaissance era.



The minig stonemasonry sign

Situated behind the side altar. Symbolizes past period of medieval mine areal in Sásová.



The inlaid bench front

The bench with mining symbolism placed in front was moved from the Church of St. Jakub from a former village Svätý Jakub.



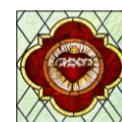
The church nave and the wooden choir

The nave of the church is vaulted by two fields of a star arch. The windows with a gothic tracery are situated on the south side of the church. The wooden choir is located at the back of the church. It is supported by wooden columns with carvings.



The stained glass – St. Žofia (+ 304) – Roman martyr

It is located in the presbytery. The lower painting is a reminder of an original gothic altar of St. Žofia from 1440 located in the church and in 1919 it was donated to the Central Slovak Museum in Banská Bystrica. The saint is there with the three daughters: Faith, Hope and Love.



The stained glass – The Sacred Heart of Jesus

It depicts Jesus as the Good Shepherd. In the upper part of the aperture is preserved a part of a stained glass from the 19th century and the writing: ANNO DOMINI 1919. This is the year the stained glass was made. The author of the proposal as well as the implementer is Mgr. art. Ladislav Cserba.



The stained glass – St. Katarína Sienská (1347 – 1380) – virgin and the teacher of the church, mystic

The stained glass window is located on the choir and is a reminder of St. Katarína Sienská, whose relics are located on the main altar in heart-shaped reliquaries.



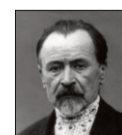
The relic of St. Anton, hermit (251 – 356)

He is considered to be a founder of monacal life. He spent most of his life alone in Lower Egypt, where he devoted himself to prayers, study and physical work. He survived many temptations. Some of them are illustrated on the wings of the main altar. At the end of his long life, he visited dying Pavol in a cave in Thebes. His attributes are: the cross in the shape of „Tau“ letter, a bell and a swine at his feet. The relic is made of bone.



The relic of St. Katarína Sienská (1347 – 1380)

She was born as the 25th child in a wool coloring family. When she was sixteen, she became a dominican tertiary. She had mystical experiences and visions of Jesus Christ, Virgin Mary and the saints. Although uneducated, she was one of the greatest theologians of the Church. She made great efforts to end a great western schism of the Church. In 1375 she was given stigmata. Her letter and her work „Dialogues“ are considered to be some of the clearest theological writings. The relic is made of bone.



Painting of the church from the 20th century (1940)

The walls and vaults of the church were painted in 1940 by the distinguished Slovak painter Jozef Hanula (1863-1944). In 1990 the paintings were repainted.