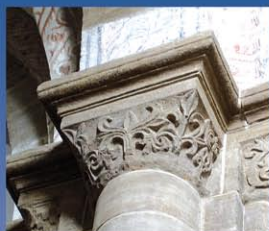


# On the Route of the Cistercian



## Jędrzejów



A Cistercian abbey in Jędrzejów was established in 1140, by Gniezno archbishop Janik Gryfita and a Cracow bishop Gedeon, as the first in Poland. The original 13th century late Romanesque abbey building was preserved and in the 18th century the following were added: a new vestry from the north, two chapels and a two-tower Baroque east exterior. Wincenty Kadłubek, Cracow bishop and the Polish history chronicler, spent the last years of his life and died in 1223 in the abbey. There are wall paintings showing scenes from his life made in the 18th century by Andrzej Radwański. It is worth seeing a grave chapel in the altar with Kadłubek's relics. In one of the chapels there is an interesting tombstone of a knight Pakosław from Mstyczów, Władysław Łokietek's comrade-in-arms, who died in 1319. There are well known, not only in Poland, 54-phonetic organ from the same times. Every year there is an International Organ Music Festival in Jędrzejów. The originally Romanesque monastery complex has been often reconstructed. The oldest are parts of the wall of the great room for the abbots in the old east wing.

### Sanctuary of the Blessed Wincenty Kadłubek

ul. Klasztorna, 28-300 Jędrzejów

Phone (+48 41) 386 23 08

## Wąchock

A Cistercian abbey in Wąchock was founded by Cracow bishop Gedka in 1179. It was one of 26 abbeys which were created in the 12th and 13th centuries on the Polish land. The Cisters kept varied businesses, among others, establishing ironworks using local iron ore and sandstone. In the 17th and 18th centuries the Polish Cisters run organ plants. The organs in Wąchock, Jędrzejów, Sulejów and the most known in Oliwa come from their plants. The abbey built in the 13th century is one of the beautiful examples of Romanesque architecture in Poland.

In the first half of the 17th century most of the abbey was reconstructed into Renaissance in style. The late Renaissance church is a three-aisle basilica with a transversal nave. Its walls are made of grey and brown-red hewed stones. There is ambulatory around a patio from the 17th century adjoining the church, which leads to Romanesque rooms in the lower level from the 13th century which were used as abbots' assembly rooms.





One of the rooms has a ceiling supported on four columns. All details of this room are decorated with different plants ornaments. In front of the church there is an Underground Poland Commemoration Pantheon. On the wall there are many plaques devoted to partisan troops. Inside the abbey there is a vault with ashes of a legendary AK leader – major Jan Piwnik “Ponury”. In the rooms of the abbey there is a museum with collections of priest Walenty Ślusarczyk, Nowa Słupia parson. Among the exhibitions there are souvenirs from the times of freedom wars.

### **Cistercian Fathers' Museum - Monastery in Wąchock**

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## **Koprzywnica**

A Cistercian abbey in Koprzywnica was founded in 1185. The first abbots came here from Morimond in France. The newly created church and the monastery were consecrated in 1207 and were named under the invocation of Holy Virgin Mary and St. Florian. For centuries the abbey was expanded and developed. The most important reconstruction, Gothic in style, was in the 14th century. Then, north and west wings were built and the abbey was surrounded by a stone wall.

The Cisters finished their activity in Koprzywnica in 1819 with the closing of the abbey. The lack of a host caused a destruction of the monastery buildings and the walls were taken apart for building material. A lot of disrepair was brought about by fire in 1915 as a result of the war, which burnt down the roof of the abbey and the little tower on top. After the II WW the church underwent thorough inspection and conservation when, among others, Gothic wall paintings were discovered. A new tower on top of the roof was built, designed by Adolf Szyszko-Bohusz and modelled on the old one from 1678. The tower was called “hobble” because of its similarity with a shot glass without a base for drinking its contents at once. The inspection and conservation works has lasted till now.

The walls of the church, which nowadays is used as a parish temple, were built of hewed stones. The exterior of the church is relatively new, from the 18th century. In the three-aisle basilica there are preserved late Romanesque ceilings and Gothic tops from the early 16th century. There are numerous wall paintings with the most interesting on the southern wall of the chancel dated back to the 14th century. It is also worth seeing an early Baroque high-altar with a painting by Bartłomiej Strobek, Władysław IV Waza's court painter. Of all the monastery buildings the most presentable is the former abbots' assebley room. There are shown numerous stone details which came from the taken apart monastery wings and the ambulatory.

### **St. Florian Roman - Catholic Parish**

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