

Markt - birthplace of Pope Benedict XVI

The village of Markt (population 2,700), on the Inn River in Bavaria, is the birthplace of Pope Benedict XVI. Below is a picture of the house he was born in, as well as a couple products honoring the Holy Father: papal beer and Vatican bread. Sepp and Nandi Aichinger, friends of Monsignor Michael, are standing in front of the door to the pope's Bavarian home.



St. Radegund - Home of Blessed Franz Jägerstätter

In 1938, Hitler's army occupied Austria. All men were ordered to enlist in the military. Franz Jägerstätter, a farmer and father of four, went into military training but refused to fight in Hitler's army, knowing that he would face execution. His neighbors, pastor and even the bishop tried to convince Franz to enlist for the sake of his family and his country. But Franz felt his faith and conscience compelled him to follow the teachings of God and not the decrees of the Third Reich. He was imprisoned, then executed on August 9, 1943, at the age of 36. He was beatified in 2007.

Pictures include the Jägerstätter Family home in the village of St. Radegund (population 580), the parish church of St. Radegund and the grave of Blessed Franz Jägerstätter.



Oberndorf - Silent Night Chapel

Oberndorf, Austria, is the birthplace of the carol *Silent Night*, which was first performed at the former St. Nicholas Church on Christmas Eve in 1818. In the 1890's, the floods of the Salzach River destroyed large parts of Oberndorf, including the parish church. A memorial chapel was built on its site in 1937.



The stained glass windows depict Fr. Josef Mohr, who wrote the text of the hymn, and Franz Gruber, who composed the melody and accompanied it on guitar.



Altötting - The Chapel of Mercy

Altötting's chapel of the Black Madonna is the oldest Christian site in Bavaria. It dates back to 680 when St. Rupert baptized the first Christian duke of Bavaria on this site. In commemoration of his baptism, the duke built an octagonal chapel and placed an image of the Madonna in it. The original chapel was destroyed, but rebuilt around the year 1000.

According to a local legend, in 1489, a 3-year-old boy who had drowned in the river was revived when his grieving mother placed him in front of the statue of Mary. Since then, hundreds of thousands of pilgrims come to honor Mary and request her intercession. In the late 15th century, a gallery was added to the church in the form of a porch that wraps around the building. The gallery houses hundreds of illustrations of miracles attributed to the Blessed Mother.



Altötting - parish church of Saints Philip and James

The Gothic church of Saints Philip and James with its twin steeples stands just to the south of the Chapel of Mercy. The church was built in the early 16th century to accommodate the large number of pilgrims to Altötting



Altötting - St. Mary Magdalena

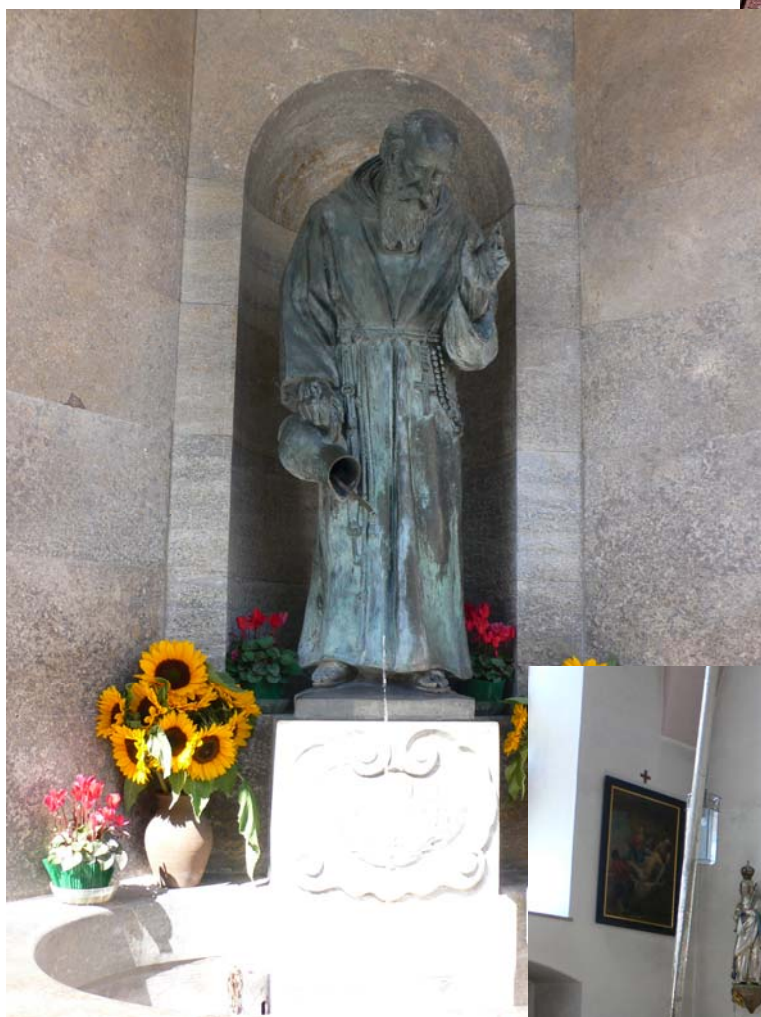
To the east of the Chapel of Mercy is the baroque church of St. Mary Magdalena. The church was built between 1697-1700 to care for the increasing number of pilgrims.



Altötting - Basilica of St. Anne and Tomb of St. Konrad

The Franciscans and Capuchins came to Altötting to care for the pilgrims. They built a church and monastery here with St. Anne as their patron. One of the Capuchin brothers, Conrad of Parzham, was canonized in 1934 and buried in a chapel nearby.

Saint Conrad held the office of porter at Altötting for over thirty years. He ate little, slept even less and worked hard. He was known for his devotion to Mary. He had the gift of prophecy and of reading people's hearts. To the young and old alike, the saint was always kind and gentle. He died in Altötting on April 21, 1894.





Organ clock in the church of SS. Philip and James

City Hall



At the basilica of St. Anne