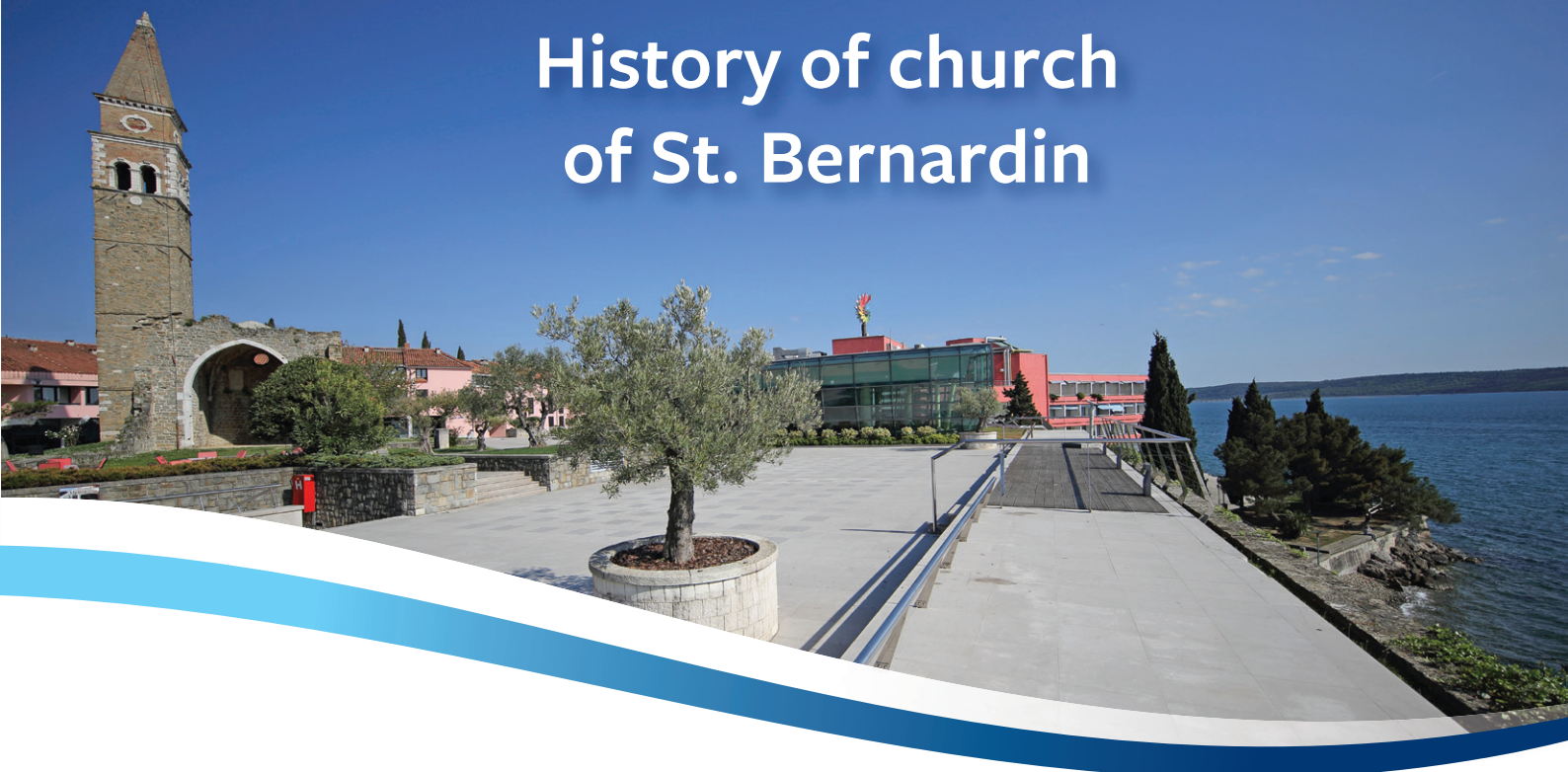


History of church of St. Bernardin



It is very difficult to write about the life of the friars of the monastery and the local inhabitants who used to visit the church in Bernardin, as there are very little sources available. What we do have are some dates of more important events:*

- 1452** construction of the church and monastery. Consecration of the church.
- 1453** Mr. Cristoforo, son of Jakobin Giacelini, leaves 20 ducats for the church of St. Bernardin in his will.
- 1489** the church receives the painting of Mary with the sleeping infant painted by Alise Vivarini.
- 1492** Antonia, widow of Jurij Canciani, leaves in her will funds for the construction of a chapel dedicated to Saint Mary next to the church of St. Bernardin.
- 1640** cca. Construction of the altar with the painting of St. Bartholomew and St. Peter, which was later moved to the church of St. Bartholomew.
- 1694** the priests of St. Bernardin bury in the church the late Jakob Bonifacij, who died in Salvore. The chapter of Piran protests to Koper's bishop Naldini, who invites the prior to discuss the matter. With a verdict issued on the 12.3.1695 the bishop orders the excavation of the body and prohibits future burials in the church.
- 1790** Peter Gvardijan builds the protective wall with arches. The funds invested come from his sermons.
- 1805** the monastery is dissolved. Many other monasteries in Istria meet the same faith in this period, especially those who weren't dissolved earlier with Joseph II.'s decree in 1783.

- 1806** after the dissolution of the monastery, the priests relocate to the monastery of St. Ann in Koper. They bring with them some artwork, whereas other pieces are taken to the monastery of St. Francis in Piran. Illuminated books are lost, but some find their way to the monastery in Gorica. The Austrian army turns the building of the former monastery into a fort for the defence of the bay, whereas later it is used for customs and tax administration.
- 1830** a wall is built around the monastery and the church. A systematic demolition of the monastery begins, leaving only the church and bell tower standing. The bell tower is then renovated in 1897. After the war, the church is taken over the assembly of Piran.
- 1968** with the construction of the tourist resort Hoteli Bernardin the church is demolished and the walls of the church's nave are restored half a meter above the ground. The remains of the monastery are removed with the safeguard regime of archival protection and are preserved as an artistic and architectural monument. The chancel and bell tower are renovated and the surroundings are neatly taken care of. There is a well-tended lawn in the church's nave and the magnificent gothic chancel is embraced by ivy. Between the nave and the chancel there is a pointy pear shaped arch with bud-adorned capitols and a cross-ribbed vault.
- 2002** in collaboration with the Intermunicipal institute for the protection of cultural and natural heritage Piran, the management of Hoteli Bernardin (owner of St. Bernardin's church), the municipality of Piran and the Ministry of culture, the Parish of Portorož renovates the chancel and the exterior of the bell tower.