



# Tyniec nad Ślężą

Tinchia (1189), Gross Tinz (1845), Gross Tinz an der Lohe (1938), Tyniec Duży (1945), Tyniec nad Ślężą (1947)



Postcard

1. Tripke's store
2. Church of St. Michael the Archangel with a quadrilateral tower on the west side, rebuilt several times after damages caused during, among others, the Thirty Years' War
3. Classicist palace, view from the French garden (does not exist)
4. The Paschwitz Villa (now 10 Wrocławska Street)





5. School building (now 23 Szkolna Street)

6. The Statue of St. John of Nepomuk in front of the parish church of St. Michael the Archangel (former church of the Knights of St. John)

7. The pedestal of the statue of St. John of Nepomuk features a bas-relief with the scene of the saint being thrown into the Vltava River, the founder's coat of arms, and a foundation inscription with a chronotype (the hidden date of the statue's creation)

8. The interior of the Tyniec church impresses with its rich furnishings; we can see here several Baroque altars, exquisite paintings by Johann Jacob Eybelwieser and an 18th century copy of the statue of Our Lady of Bardo to which the pre-war inhabitants of Tyniec made annual pilgrimages

9. In the church cemetery, there is a chapel of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, formerly serving as a monument to the inhabitants of Tyniec who died during World War I

10. The cross of the Knights of St John laid out with paving stones in the main square of Tyniec; the white cross (also called the Maltese cross) can also be seen on the flag on the church tower and in the coat of arms of Kobierzyce commune

The cultural name from the word "tyn", meaning "fence", "defensive settlement surrounded by a wooden enclosure". In Kobierzyce Commune two villages are called Tyniec; in order to distinguish Tyniec from Klein Tinz (Tyniec Mały) Tyniec on Ślęza used to have the adjective gross (great), today's name emphasizes its location on the river Ślęza.

From the 12th century until the secularization of monastic property in 1810 the history of Tyniec was connected with the Order of St. John of Jerusalem. Already in 1189 there was a church here consecrated by bishop Żyrosław, who confirmed that the order was granted tithes from three localities.

The single-nave early Gothic church of St. Michael the Archangel has a 12th-century nave and a chancel built in the following century, to which a sacristy and a patron's lounge for the patrons of the church were added in the 16th century. The church's furnishings originate mainly from the 18th century, a depiction of the Virgin Mary of Passau from 1726, and a picture of St. Anne above can be seen in a Baroque main altar dating from 1699. At the top of the altar, the patron of the church, St. Michael the Archangel, defeats Satan; two other archangels, Gabriel and Raphael, stand below him.

A series of large paintings hanging in the main nave depict the Evangelists (the painting with St. Matthew was lost after the war). These are the works of a well-known Silesian Baroque painter Johann Jacob Eybelwieser (the date 1721 is placed on the canvas with the image of Luke, which is a cryptoportrait of the artist himself).

On the square in front of the church there is a monument of St. John of Nepomuk, attributed to Johann

Georg Urbanski. The founder of the monument (inscription on the pedestal) was the commandant of the Order of Knights of Breslau - Johann Joseph von Goetzen. By the road to the church there are stone pedestals that today serve as the bases of flowerbeds, in the past, with statues of Greek deities standing on them, they decorated the palace park. Only the buildings of the former farm and the house of the Knights of Malta have remained from the palace-park complex.

In the square in the center of the village there is a brick pillory with still preserved metal rims, in the pre-war period it was turned into an advertisement post.

The village has a population of 526 (as of 15.08.2021), there is a parish church, a community room and a library.

## **Tyniec nad Ślężą**

About the Maltese Cross, the black coats of the Knights of St. John, the fighting Archangel and a Baroque riddle

The decor of the small church in Tyniec nad Ślężą may surprise you with its richness and artistic quality of the works gathered there. It is not surprising since the village was connected with the very rich Order of St. John of Jerusalem, also known as the Order of the Knights of Malta, the Hospitallers, or the Order of the Hospitallers of St. John the Baptist, from the 12th to the beginning of the 19th century.

One of the three most important military orders (next to the Templars and the Teutonic Knights, that is the Knights of the German House of the Blessed Virgin Mary) was brought to Poland by Prince Henry of Sandomierz in 1166 and settled in Zagość. Shortly afterwards, the Knights of Malta (this name came into use in 1530) appeared in Silesia, in 1180 in Strzegom and Klodzko, and a few years later, in 1189, they took over Tyniec nad Ślężą, collecting tithes from the property, which was confirmed by Bishop Żyrosław of Wrocław on the occasion of consecrating a temple in Tyniec.

The Maltese Cross, the symbol of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, whose eight horns symbolically signify the eight virtues of chivalry, can be seen in several places in the temple, including on a metal flag on the church tower, in the chancel it is clearly visible on the black cloaks of the monks in the painting depicting the death of a chieftain, and it is also placed on the finial of the Baroque side altar, which was dedicated today to Our Lady of Czestochowa.

The main altar of 1699 has an architectural form. In the center, there is an image of Our Lady of Passau from 1726, a copy of the famous Madonna from the church in Passau painted in 1622. Crowned by angels, the Madonna supports baby Jesus on her lap, while the naked child cuddles up to his mother, caressing her face. Mary, however, is sad, foreboding about her son's future. The representation from Passau was called Mary Hilf - Our Lady Help of Christians, turning to her in times of plagues, floods and other disasters. The confraternity of „Maria Hilf” was founded in the parish of Tyniec in 1739.

In the upper part of the altar, we can see St. Anne, mother of Mary, teaching her daughter to read. The scene depicted in the painting is watched by two archangels, Gabriel and Raphael. At the top of the altar, the third of those revered by the Catholic Church, the archangel Michael, patron of the temple in Tyniec, battles the rebellious angel Satan, with the biblical words on his lips: „Who like God” (the words in Hebrew sounding like the archangel's name: Mi kha el).

Opposite the pulpit with Baroque statues of the four evangelists and God the Father in the canopy finial, there is a baptismal font made of marble from Przeworno. The wooden cover depicts the scene of Christ's baptism in the Jordan.

Johann Jacob Eybewieser, a painter eagerly employed by the Lower Silesian monasteries, painted four huge paintings with depictions of the evangelists for the church in Tyniec (three of them have survived to this day). They are after renovation, so it is a pleasure to decipher the

evangelical stories and figures that fill the space around St. Mark, St. John and St. Luke. It is worth looking at the face of St. Luke, because the painter gave him his own features, thanks to which he immortalized his image for the admirers of his talent.

It is also worth stopping at the square in front of the church, where there is a statue of John of Nepomuk, a work attributed to another great Baroque artist - Johann Georg Urbanski. The date of the statue's creation, the so-called chronogram, is hidden on the pedestal in the inscription informing about the statue's founder. It is enough to add all the capital letters of the inscription, which stand for Roman numerals, and we will read the date. We encourage you to decipher the charade; Baroque artists liked to engage their audiences in various charades and games.