

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS CHRIST IN KHERSON

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The first Roman Catholic Church was built in Kherson in 1787. The permission for its construction was given by Prince Grigory Potemkin, with the aim of attracting foreigners to the city.

In the place of the first church a new building was built in 1792 and was consecrated in the name of the Savior. It was a stone church, the builder of which was the priest Elimus Shatz. This church temple was destroyed and in its place another church was built in 1820. The new building was consecrated in the name of the Saints Pius and Nicholas.

In 1887, Kherson's Roman Catholics appealed to the government with a request to occupy the entire territory belonging to the church in order to plant a public garden. The authorities allowed them to landscape the area. In a house nearby that belonged to the Catholic Church, there was a church school and a society that helped the poor.

On March 18, 1917, a Polish meeting took place here, because at that time there was a revolution in the country. On February 12, 1923, an agreement was concluded by the Kherson Council of Workers and Peasants, according to which the church's premises were transferred to the city's community. In the 1930s, the church was closed and its premises began to be used under Derzhkinoprokat (a cinematographic organization responsible for showing films to the public). The temple building was subjected to various reconstructions. In 1947 the building of the church was substantially altered. In one part of it workshops were housed for repairing cinema equipment, and in the other part a cinema hall was equipped. In 1958, in the building of the former church the Pavlik Morozov cinema was opened, specializing in showing films for children.

The process of returning church buildings to religious communities began only in 1994. At first, the catholic community got a small room in the cinema where the priest was able to conduct religious services. But by 2000, the church building was leased to the catholic community completely. In 2005, thanks to the efforts of Father-Superior Arthur, the city authorities gave permission to reconstruct the church. In June 2005 its renovation began. The state of the building could not be called satisfactory: the walls were destroyed, the roof leaked. Religious services were held inside the buildings with no windows, and there was no fence to surround it. Catholics from Germany, Poland, the United States and other countries actively took part in the reconstruction of the temple. The cinema hall was transformed: a ceiling with built-in windows was put up; a tower was constructed, which in December 2005 was surmounted with a bell and a cross. Instead of the former movie theater there is the beautiful Costel once again.

People, who want to confess their sins, to bring their prayers to God, can come to the Catholic Church of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Christ in Kherson. Every 6 years, a new priest or nun is invited to the temple from Poland or Germany. It helps the church to keep touch with temples in other countries.

Based on:

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