

A mock-up of St. John's Church

At the Châtellerault boulevards on the Irena Sendler square (behind the Gromada Hotel) one can see a mock-up commemorating the fact that the Church of St. John the Baptist and Evangelist functioned in the city.

On the plaque next to the mock-up you can read:

On this site stood the church of St. John the Baptist and Evangelist, which for five centuries served the residents of Piła and the surrounding area. The wooden temple was built in the first half of the 15th century, and under 1451 the first Piła parson, Michael, was mentioned in written sources. In 1619, King Zygmunt III Vasa and his wife Konstancja gave permission for the construction of a brick church. In the 17th century the chancel and nave were erected, and in the 19th century two towers - bell towers - were added. The temple included a chapel of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, founded by the Katlewski family. The church burned down twice: in 1626 and 1742. In the temple on November 6, 1755, the most prominent of Piła residents Stanisław Staszic was baptized.

In the second half of the 19th and early 20th centuries the temple became an important center of Polish religious and cultural life. More than a dozen vicars - Poles - served in the parish. One of them, Rev. Zygmunt Dykiert, founded the "Halka" Singing Society in 1917 and became chairman of the Polish People's Council. During the battles for Piła in February 1945, the church was burned. On December 19-20, 1975, the ruins of the temple were blown up.