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500 anniversary of the Holly Mary appearance in Strunjan

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The most important date in the history of the church in Strunjan is 1512, when in the night between 14 and 15 August the Holly Mary appeared at the door of the old church to two vineyard watchmen, to Giovanni Grandi and to Pietro di Zagabria. After this event, the church was renamed into Church of the Vision of S. Mary" (it. Santa Maria della Visione).

Strunjan church soon became the most important Istrian pilgrimage and become popular also among distant pilgrims and visitors. The appearance of S. Mary was immortalized on a wooden canvas by the painter Francesco Valerio (around 1520), which adorns the main altar still today.

The original church stood on the site of today's church already around 1200. It belonged to the Benedictine nuns, who had their monastery next to the church of St. Bas (where today Villa Tartini is located). After their departure from this area (around 1221) it was managed by the Benedictines, who lived in a monastery beyond the pans. When they worked in the surrounding vineyards, they gathered in the Strunjan church for the daily prayer. When the Benedictines left Strunjan (it is not known exactly when it happened), the church was took over by the priests of Piran, which managed it until the 16 century.

Since the 16 century Strunjan church has had its own priest, who has lived next to the church. As the church lost its splendor in time, a rich widow from Piran, Osvalda Petronio Barcazza, decided to restore it in 1463.



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