



Located on the east coast of Italy, Loreto was for centuries one of Europe's most important Marian pilgrimage sites. In honor of „Our Lady of Loreto,“ the noble de Lannoy family of Clervaux had a first chapel built on this spot around 1680.

The current chapel was constructed in 1761/62 by the Count of Clervaux, Adrien Jean-Baptiste de Lannoy, and his wife, Constance de Wignacourt. Along with the adjoining hermitage, the chapel was part of an extensive hunting reserve. This became a regional pilgrimage destination where Mary has been invoked for centuries as the „Health of the Sick.“

The building is a masterpiece of Baroque architecture in the area. Its light-filled, oval interior features a harmonious design with rich furnishings.



Tombstones

To the left and right of the high altar are two funerary monuments made of black and white marble. The epitaphs come from the church of Ulflingen and commemorate various counts and their wives who are buried there.



Altar

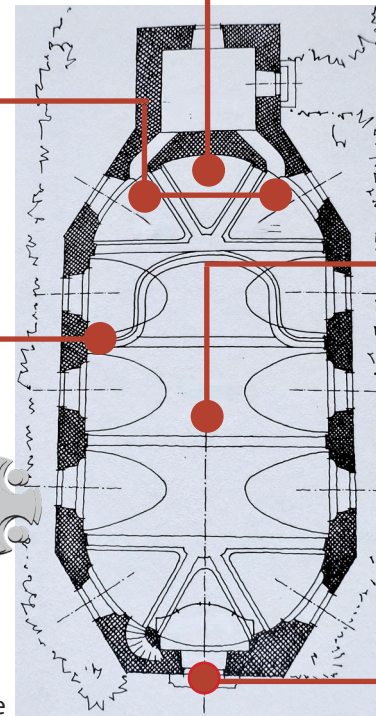
The intricately carved high altar features a portrait of the Madonna of Loreto, painted on silk. Count Charles de Lannoy is said to have brought it from Italy in the 16th century.

Pulpit
The pulpit displays portraits of the Four Evangelists. The dorsal panel shows an image of the Good Shepherd, intended to be a role model for the preacher.



Hermitage

Opposite the chapel lies the hermitage. The hermit's duty was to welcome pilgrims and care for the chapel, where services were held regularly, especially on Marian feast days.



Ceiling

The ceiling (barrel vault) features numerous lively Rocaille decorations. In the center, you can see the triangle with the „Eye of God,“ which symbolizes



the eternal presence of God.



Portal

The Baroque portal, featuring the family coats of arms of the builders (J.-B. de Lannoy and C. de Wignacourt) and the Madonna with the Christ Child bearing the inscription „salus infirmorum“ (Health of the Sick), is a work by the sculptor Stark, crafted from the „blue stone“ of Recht (B).



Source: Alex Langini, Die Loretokapelle, DCK 3/2013
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