

Saint Anne's

Saint Anne's Church was built by the Crusaders, the Roman Catholic Christian Europeans who came to deliver Jerusalem from the hands of the Muslims. The church of St. Anne was built between 1131 and 1138 over the traditional site of the home of Jesus' grandparents (Anne and Joachim, Mary's parents). According to Roman Catholic tradition, Mary was born on this site. Tradition also says that Anne and her



husband had no children until Anne turned to God in prayer. Mary, Jesus' mother, was then conceived and came into existence without any stain of human sin. This is known as the Immaculate Conception. The reason this church is particularly noteworthy does not have anything to do with the legends of Anne or Mary, but that it is one of the few remaining Crusader buildings still retaining the original construction. The main reason this church exists yet today and was not destroyed when Muslims recaptured Jerusalem in 1189, is because in 1192 Saladin converted it into a Muslim theological school. The church, or school, continued to be used until about 1500 before it was abandoned. By 1856 it was falling apart. The Ottomans gave the church to France as a token of appreciation for the help the Ottoman Turks received during the Crimean War, and the church was restored to its original condition. What we see today is basically what the Crusaders built. This fact is even more amazing when one compares it to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, which is also a Crusader church but cluttered with 800 years worth of tradition, relics and paraphernalia. The Crusaders designed the church's acoustics to complement the singing of Gregorian chants, so that even today the sound of a group singing the simplest hymn is enchanting. This church is right beside the Pool of Bethesda, just inside the Lions Gate in the Muslim Quarter. Today, St. Anne's is a Greek Catholic Church.



This church dedicated to St. Anne preserves the original design and construction of a Crusader church built in 1138 AD. On the right corner of the church is the Bell tower.



The facade of the Crusader church dedicated to St. Anne. In front of the church is a plant setting on the opening of a cistern to access to water below.