



ANNE & JOACHIM HERITAGE PRESS · A CATHOLIC FAMILY HISTORY STUDIO

Your Ancestral Parish

A one-page guide to the church books your family is written in

Why one village church holds your story

For centuries, nearly every Czech, Moravian, and German Catholic family passed through a single parish church. The priest wrote each baptism, marriage, and burial into the register by hand, and in most places those books survive from the 1600s and 1700s. They were kept through wars, fires, and empires, and today the originals sit in state archives, photographed page by page and free to read online. Your family's line is not lost. It is on a shelf, waiting to be read.

The four doors to the records

Acta Publica · mza.cz/actapublica

Moravia and Czech Silesia. Registers of the Moravian Land Archive in Brno, many from the 1600s.

Trebon Digital Archive · digi.ceskearchivy.cz

South Bohemia: Tabor, Pisek, Ceske Budejovice, and neighboring districts.

Porta fontium · portafontium.eu

West Bohemia: Klatovy, Domazlice, Plzen, and the Bavarian border country.

Matricula Online · data.matricula-online.eu

German and Austrian parishes, for the German-Catholic side of many Nebraska families.

Also useful: the FamilySearch Czechia Town and Parish Finder connects a village to its parish, and kdejsme.cz shows where a Czech surname clusters today.

How to search well

- **Search the parish, not just the village.** Small villages were served by a church in the next town; the register lives under the parish name.
- **Try the German name.** Many families remembered Budweis, Znaim, or Taus rather than Ceske Budejovice, Znojmo, or Domazlice.
- **Expect spelling drift.** Dobes becomes Dobesh, Hotovy becomes Hottovy. Vowels wander; the name is still yours.
- **Open books by year, not by name.** Most registers are not indexed. Find the parish, pick the years, and read. That is the craft.

When you are ready to go deeper

Reading an 18th-century priest's Latin script, proving that a line is truly yours, and binding it into a book your grandchildren will open is the work we do. Every engagement starts with a free conversation about what the records can hold for your family.



Start with the free finder

Search 1,619 churches across 24 districts, and see where about 100 common Czech family names cluster:

ajhpress.com/parish.html

Or write to us: hello@ajhpress.com. We read every note and reply personally.

“One generation shall praise thy works to another.” Psalm 145:4

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Parish suggestions are a research starting point, not a verified genealogical conclusion. Archive access is free at the portals named above; they are independent public institutions with no connection to the press.