



# Introducing Shōmyō-ji

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The Shōmyō-ji temple is the family temple of the Kanazawa branch of the Hōjō clan during the Kamakura period. It is said to have been established by Hōjō Sanetoki.

The temple's roots date back to around 1258, with the enshrinement of the Amida Trinity in the Jibutsudo hall at Mitsuura Manor, the residence of Hōjō Sanetoki. Actual temple construction began a year later. However, no official founding year has been handed down.

Sanetoki belonged to the Nembutsu sect of Buddhism, but later converted to Eisō of the Saidai-ji temple in Nara. In 1267, Shōmyō-ji became a Shingon Ritsu sect temple with Shinkai Shōnin as the founding priest. It is said that Shōmyō-ji is one of the best-preserved remains of the Ritsu sect in Japan.

With the relocation of his collection of Chinese and Japanese books to Mitsuura Manor, Sanetoki laid the foundation for the Kanazawa Bunko Museum, which today preserves the cultural heritage of the Hōjō family.

**① Hōjō Sanetoki**  
(Kanazawa Sanetoki)  
1224 - 1276

He was the grandson of Hōjō Yoshitoki, the second regent of the Kamakura Shogunate.