

Saint-Eustache, Paris

The **Church of St. Eustache, Paris** (French: *L'église Saint-Eustache*) is a church in the 1st arrondissement of Paris. The present building was built between 1532 and 1632.

Situated near the site of Paris' medieval marketplace (Les Halles) and rue Montorgueil, Saint-Eustache exemplifies a mixture of multiple architectural styles: its structure is Gothic while its interior decoration^[1] and other details are Renaissance and classical.

The 2019 Easter Mass at Notre-Dame cathedral in Paris was relocated to Saint-Eustache after the Notre-Dame de Paris fire.

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History

Situated in Les Halles, an area of Paris once home to the country's largest food market, the origins of Saint Eustache date back to the 13th century. A modest chapel was built in 1213, dedicated to Saint Agnes, a Roman martyr.^[2] The small chapel was funded by Jean Alais, a merchant at Les Halles who collected a tax on the sale of fish baskets as repayment of a loan to King Philippe-Auguste.^[3] The church became the parish church of the Les Halles area in

Saint-Eustache, Paris



Saint-Eustache from the south east

Religion

Affiliation Catholic Church

Province Archdiocese of Paris

Region *Île-de-France*

Rite Roman Rite

Status Active

Location

Location *2 Impasse Saint-Eustache, 1^{er} arr.*

State France

Geographic coordinates 48°51′48″N 2°20′42″E﻿ / ﻿48.86333°N 2.34500°E﻿ / 48.86333; 2.34500

Architecture

Type Church

Style French Gothic, French Renaissance, French classical

Groundbreaking 1532

Completed 1633

Direction of façade West

Website

www.saint-eustache.org (http://www.saint-eustache.org/)



Église Saint-Eustache, South Facade with the L'écoute sculpture by Henri de Miller.

1223 and was renamed Saint-Eustache in 1303.^[4] The name of the church refers to Saint Eustace, a Roman general of the second century AD who was burned, along with his family, for converting to Christianity. The church was renamed for Saint Eustache after receiving relics related to the Roman martyr as donations from the Abbey of Saint Denis.^[5]

Construction of the current church began in 1532 and continued until 1632, and in 1637, it was consecrated by Jean-François de Gondi, Archbishop of Paris.^[6] Some of the architects associated with the church's construction include Pierre Lemercier,^[7] his son Nicolas Lemercier,^[8] and Nicolas' son-in-law Charles David.^[9] The addition of two chapels in 1655 severely compromised the structural

integrity of the church, necessitating the demolition of the facade, which was rebuilt in 1754 under the direction of the architect Jean Mansart de Jouy.^[10]

During the French Revolution, the church was, like most churches in Paris, desecrated and looted. It was closed to Catholic worship in 1793 and used for a time as a barn; it was re-opened in 1795 with significant damage to the building and its furniture.^[11] The building was further damaged by a fire in 1844.^[12] Architect Victor Baltard directed a complete restoration of the building from 1846-1854, including the construction of the organ case, pulpit, and high altar and the repair of the church's paintings.^[13] The church was set afire during the rule of the Paris Commune in 1871, necessitating repairs to the attic, buttresses, and south facade.^{[14][15]} The facade was revised from 1928-1929.^[16]



Funeral of Mirabeau April 4, 1791, (Musée de la Révolution française).

In 1969, the Halles de Paris market was relocated to Rungis, considerably modifying the neighborhood of the Church of St. Eustache.^[17] Les Halles became a shopping center and hub for regional transportation, and the Church of St. Eustache remains a landmark of the area and a functioning church.^[18]

Many celebrated Parisians are connected with the Church of St. Eustache. Louis XIV made his First Communion there in 1649.^[19] Cardinal Richelieu, Jeanne-Antoinette Poisson (Madame de Pompadour), and Molière were all baptized there; Molière was also married there in 1662.^[20] Mozart held his mother's funeral there.^[21] Funerals were held at St. Eustache for Queen Anne of Austria, military hero Turenne, and French Revolution leader Mirabeau.^[22] Writer Marie de Gournay was buried there.^[23]

Architecture and Art

The church is an example of a Gothic structure clothed in Renaissance and classical detail.^[24] Although the architects are unknown, similarities to designs used in the extension of the church of Saint-Maclou in Pontoise (begun in 1525) point to Jean Delamarre and/or Pierre Lemercier, who collaborated in that work.^[25] The Italian-born architect Domenico da Cortona has also been suggested.^[26] The church is relatively short in length at 105m, but its interior is 33.45m high to the vaulting.^[27] At the main façade, the left tower has been completed in Renaissance style, while the right tower remains a stump. The front and rear aspects provide a remarkable contrast between the comparatively sober classical front and the exuberant rear, which integrates Gothic forms and organization with Classical details. The *L'écoute* sculpture by Henri de Miller appears outside the church, to the south. A Keith Haring sculpture stands in



The interior viewed from the western entrance

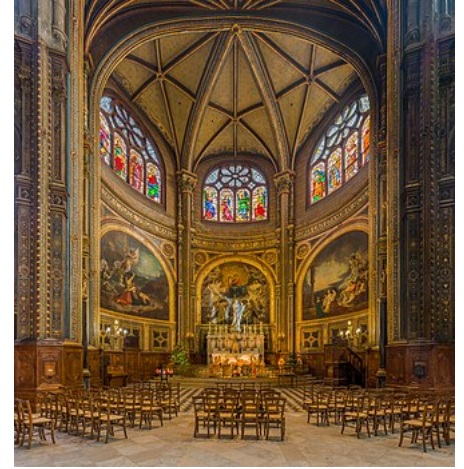
a chapel of the church.

The church contains a number of significant works of art in a variety of media and styles.

Chapel of the Virgin

The Chapel of the Virgin was built in 1640 and restored from 1801 to 1804. It was inaugurated by Pius VII on the 22nd of December, 1804 when he came to Paris for the coronation of Napoleon.^[28]

The apse chapel, with a ribbed cul-de-four vault, has at its centre a sculpture of the Virgin and Child of Jean-Baptiste Pigalle that the painter Thomas Couture highlighted by three large paintings on the themes:



The Chapel of the Virgin

Paintings of the Chapel of the Virgin



Left panel: "The Virgin of the star sailors"



Central panel: "The triumphant Virgin adored by angels"



Right panel: "The Virgin comforting the afflicted"

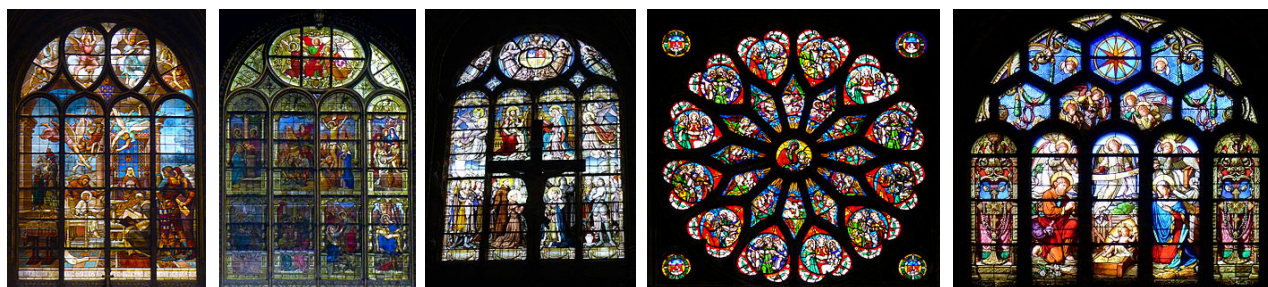
Chapel des Charcutiers (Chapel of the Butchers)

As a marketplace church, St. Eustache represented not only its individual parishioners but trade groups as well. The Corporation des Charcutiers, which acts as the pork butchers' professional body, has been a significant patron of the church since the 17th century, and the group's special relationship with the church is represented in the Chapel des Charcutiers.^[29] This chapel contains pork butchery depicted in stained glass as well as a contemporary work by John Armleder.^[30]

Other Art

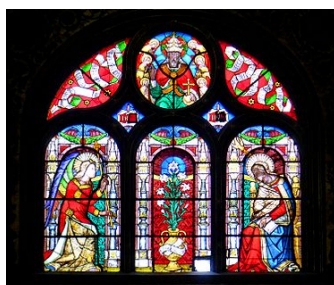
The Mausoleum of Colbert by Coysevox sits to the left of the Chapel of the Virgin. The best-known painting in St. Eustache is "The Disciples of Emmaus" by Rubens. The chapel of St. Madeleine holds "Ecstasy of the Madeleine" by Manetti. The chapel of St. Vincent de Paul contains "The Life of Christ" by Keith Haring. Another chapel contains "The Angel Leading Tobias" by Santi di Tito.^[31]

Stained glass



Education of
Louis IX (St.
Louis
Chapel)

Glass of the south
transept



Glass of the north
transept

Organ

With nearly 8,000 pipes, the great organ, with 101 stops and 147 ranks of pipes, is one of the largest organs in France, competing for first place with the great organ of Notre Dame de Paris, with 115 stops and 156 ranks of pipes, and that of Saint Sulpice, with 102 stops and 135 ranks of pipes.^[32] The organ, originally constructed by P.-A. Ducroquet, was powerful enough for the premiere of Hector Berlioz's



The organ at the west end of the church. On the left is the pulpit and woodwork by Pierre Lepautre depicting the triumph of St. Agnes.

titanic *Te Deum* to be performed at St-Eustache in 1855. It was later modified under the direction of Joseph Bonnet. The present organ of St. Eustache was designed by Jean-Louis Coignet under the direction of Titled Organist Jean Guillou and dates from 1989, when it was almost entirely rebuilt by Dutch firm van Den Heuvel, retaining a few ranks of pipes from the former organ and the wooden case, which is original. Each summer, organ concerts commemorate the premieres of Berlioz's *Te Deum* and Liszt's *Christus* here in 1886.

I Positif C-c⁴

Quintaton	16'
Montre	8'
Salicional	8'
Unda-Maris	8'
Bourdon	8'
Prestant	4'
Flûte à Fuseau	4'
Nasard	2 ² / ₃ '
Doublette	2'
Tierce	1 ³ / ₅ '
Larigot	1 ¹ / ₃ '
Septième	1 ¹ / ₇ '
Fourniture V	2'
Cymbale II	1 ¹ / ₃ '
Douçaine	16'
Trompette	8'
Cromorne	8'
Clairon	4'
<i>Trémolo</i>	

II Grand-Orgue C-c⁴

Montre	32'
Montre	16'
Principal	8'
Flûte à Cheminée	8'

III Récit Expressif C-c⁴

Flûte à Cheminée	16'
Principal	8'
Cor de Nuit	8'
Flûte Traversière	8'
Viole de Gambe	8'
Voix Céleste	8'
Octave	4'
Flûte Octavante	4'
Octavin	2'
Carillon III	2 ² / ₃ ' + 1 ³ / ₅ ' + 1'
Plein-Jeu VI	2 ² / ₃ '
Contrebasson	32'
Bombarde	16'
Trompette	8'
Harmonique	8'
Basson-Hautbois	8'
Voix Humaine	8'
Clairon	4'
Harmonique	4'
<i>Trémolo</i>	

IV Grand-Chœur C-c⁴

Violonbasse	16'
Bourdon	16'
Diapason	8'

V Solo C-c⁴

Flûte Harmonique	8'
Flûte Octavante	4'
Nasard Harmonique	2 ² / ₃ '
Octavin	2'
Tierce Harmonique	1 ³ / ₅ '
Piccolo Harmonique	1'
Harmoniques III	1 ¹ / ₃ ' + 1 ¹ / ₇ ' + 8 ⁸ / ₉ '
Ranquette	16'
Chalumeau	8'
Trompeteria II	
Trompette en Chamade I-III	8'
<i>Trémolo</i>	

Pédale C-g¹

Principale basse	32'
Flûte	16'
Contrebasse	16'
Soubasse	16'
Grande Quinte	10 ² / ₃ '
Flûte	8'
Violoncelle	8'
Grande Tierce	6 ² / ₅ '
Quinte	5 ¹ / ₃ '

Violoncelle	8'	Flûte Majeure	8'	Flûte	4'
Grosse Flûte I–II	8'	Violon	8'	Flûte	2'
Prestant	4'	Grande Quinte	5 ¹ / ₃ '	Théorbe II	4 ⁴ / ₇ ' + 3 ⁵ / ₉ '
Flûte	4'	Principal	4'	Mixture V	4'
Doublette	2'	Flûte Conique	4'	Contre-Bombarde	32'
Grande Fourniture IV–VIII	2 ² / ₃ '	Grande Tierce	3 ¹ / ₅ '	Contre-Trombone	32'
Plein-Jeu IV–V	1'	Quinte	2 ² / ₃ '	Bombarde	16'
Sesquialtera II	2 ² / ₃ '	Grande Septième	2 ² / ₇ '	Basson	16'
Grand Cornet III–V		Fifre	2'	Trompette	8'
Bombarde	16'	Grande Neuvième	1 ⁷ / ₉ '	Baryton	8'
Trompette	8'	Plein-Jeu Harmonique II–VIII	2'	Clairon	4'
Clairon	4'	Clarinet	16'		
		Cor de Basset	8'		
		Tuba Magna	16'		
		Tuba Mirabilis	8'		
		Cor Harmonique	4'		

Other burials

- Scaramouche (Tiberio Fiorelli), Italian comic actor
- Jean-Baptiste Colbert, Finance Minister
- Jean-Philippe Rameau, Composer
- Susan Feilding, Countess of Denbigh, English courtier
- Anna Maria Mozart, mother of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Access

Located near the Métro station: Les Halles.

See also

- Architecture of Paris

References

Notes

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The tomb of Colbert, by Antoine Coysevox and Jean-Baptiste Tuby

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External links

- Official homepage (<http://www.saint-eustache.org/>) (in French)
 - History and Picture in English Saint Eustache Church (https://web.archive.org/web/20080819193450/http://www.montjoye.net/saint_eustache_les_halles_english_text_)
 - Article about Saint Eustache Church featured on CNN Traveller (<http://www.cnn.com/2008/TRAVEL/07/17/paris.halles/index.html>)
 - Example of how the Saint Eustache Church pipe organ sounds: Guillou Toccata by Nariné Simonian (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J8R_ZYHgq2s)
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