

The Church of Saint Francis Xavier

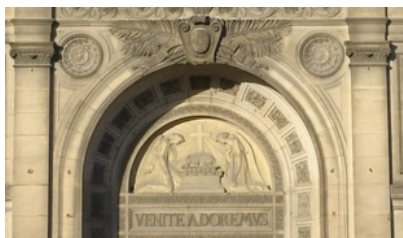
The consecration of the church and the main altar took place in 1894. The year 2024 marked the 150th anniversary of our church. A plaque placed near the statue of Saint Francis Xavier in the church commemorates the grace granted by Pope Leo XIII for a special novena prayed from March 4 to 16.

The two successive architects of the building, **Louis-Adrien Lusson** (1790-1864) and **Joseph Uchard** (1809-1892), were inspired by the styles of 17th and 18th-century churches, freely interpreting the decorative motifs and their arrangement to imagine a more "contemporary" style of the era.



THE PEDIMENT

The work of **Gabriel-Jules Thomas** (1824-1905) depicts Saint Francis Xavier baptizing and evangelizing. On either side of the rose window, two statues of Saint Peter and Saint Paul.



THE TYMPANUM

The work of **Hélène Bertaux** (1825-1909), represents in bas-relief the Lamb on the Book of the Apocalypse with its seven seals and two adoring angels, with the inscription *Venite Adoremus*, "Come, let us adore Him."

SAINT **SFX** FRANCIS-XAVIER CHURCH

History, Mission, Heritage



In this church,
the Catholic community gathers
to celebrate the risen Christ, who is
*"with us always,
until the end of the world."*

We are happy to welcome you here.

Perhaps you share the Christian faith,
perhaps not?

Take time to pause for a few moments
in this church, a place for contemplation,
and ask God to help you perceive
His presence in your life.



PARISH SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER

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The church you have just entered was built between 1861 and 1874 by two successive architects, **Louis-Adrien Lusson** and **Toussaint François Joseph Uchard**. The parish, recognized as a parish of Foreign Missions since 1802, was placed under the patronage of Saint Francis Xavier in 1842.

The building was dedicated to Saint Francis Xavier in 1894, who was a disciple of Saint Ignatius of Loyola, the founder of the Jesuits. Francis Xavier lived in the 16th century and spread the Christian faith in India, Indonesia, and Japan. He died at the gates of China abandoned on the desolate island of Sancian with only one companion, without a Christian burial. His body reached Goa in India in 1554, where it is currently venerated; he was canonized in 1622.

On either side of the church choir, the painter **Charles Crauk** (1819-1905) depicted the stages of his life, his preaching, his death, and Saint Francis Xavier ascending to heaven supported by Charity and two angels.



As always happens with friends of God, this life sown with trials has borne extraordinary fruit.

This is what another artist, **Romain Cazes**, sought to evoke. Above the main altar at the back of the choir, he painted Francis Xavier before Christ in majesty, presenting to Him the nations he won to the Christian faith.



Francis Xavier, like many others, thus fulfilled the command of the risen Jesus to his apostles:

"Go, make disciples of all nations, baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the world."

Matthew 28:19-20

These words are the last of the Gospel of Saint Matthew. The evangelist Mark condenses them into a phrase reproduced in Latin on the two angels sculpted by **Jean Alexandre Falguière** (1831-1900):

"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation."
« Euntes praedicate Evangelium omni creaturae »

Mark 16:15

Above the crossing of the transepts, the painter **Charles Lameire** has represented the twelve apostles. At the back of the church, you can also visit the **Chapel of the Virgin** designed in a style inspired by the Italian Renaissance (statue by **Jean Marie Bonnassieux**).

Among the works offered to the parish, the Crucifixion of Saint Peter, by **Luca Giordano** (Chapel of saint Louis); a Deposition of the Cross, by **Jose de Ribera** (Chapel Our Lady of Lourdes), and a Last Supper by **Tintoretto**, preserved in the marriage vestry.

In the priest's vestry, there are two paintings attributed to **Luca Giordano** (1634-1705)



Job comforted by his family

The Blessing of Jacob by his father Isaac



Virgin and Child with John the Baptist by **Lubin Baugin** (1610-1663) currently being returned to Notre-Dame de Paris