

## 7 THE CHOIR

The main area of the church where you will find:

- The **altar**
- The **tabernacle** where the Eucharistic reserve is kept. It manifests the truth of Christ's real presence in the holy Sacrament.
- The **stalls**, seating for clerics and servers during services
- The **high altar**, an ancient altar with a bas-relief depicting the death of Saint Francis Xavier.

## The Dome

The well-known decorator of the 19th century, **Alexandre Denuelle**, created this décor in a neo-Byzantine style. The paintings by **Charles Lameire** depict the twelve apostles around the Lamb. On the pendentives, the four prophets (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel) were painted by Jules Delaunay.



## The Tympanum of the Archway

It shows Christ welcoming the peoples evangelized by Saint Francis Xavier (two Indians, a Japanese, a Chinese). Below, Moses with the tablets of the law and Aaron. These paintings are by **Cazes** (1808-1881), a student of Ingres.



## 8 LIFE OF SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER

On either side of the choir, four frescoes illustrate the saint's life, painted by **Charles Crauk** (1819-1905), who contributed to the 1889 World's Fair.

## 9 CHAPEL OF SAINT THÉRÈSE OF THE CHILD JESUS

*The Kiss of Judas, Anonymous Venetian* (c. 1600)

The painting depicts the scene described in the Gospel of Saint Luke (Lk, 22, 48) with Simon Peter's gesture preparing to cut off the high priest's ear.



## 10 SACRED HEART CHAPEL

The devotion to the Sacred Heart became public in the 17th century and was very strong in the 19th century during the war of 1870.

*The Communion of the Apostles, Henri Lerolle* (1848-1929)

Christ is exceptionally placed standing in front of the table of the Last Supper. Three apostles are kneeling; all are turned towards him. This monumental work (4.20 x 2.75 m), created for the Dominican convent in Paris, was presented at the Salon of 1878. The painting was offered to the church by the painter's wife in 1935.



## Reliquary of Saint Madeleine Sophie Barat

Founder of the Society of the Sacred Heart, an institution dedicated to the education of young girls, of which she became mother superior. She was canonized by Pope Pius XI in 1925. This institution is present in 45 countries.

In 2009, Archbishop Vingt-Trois installed the reliquary in the church, near the historical buildings where the nun lived (now the Rodin Museum and Duruy High School).



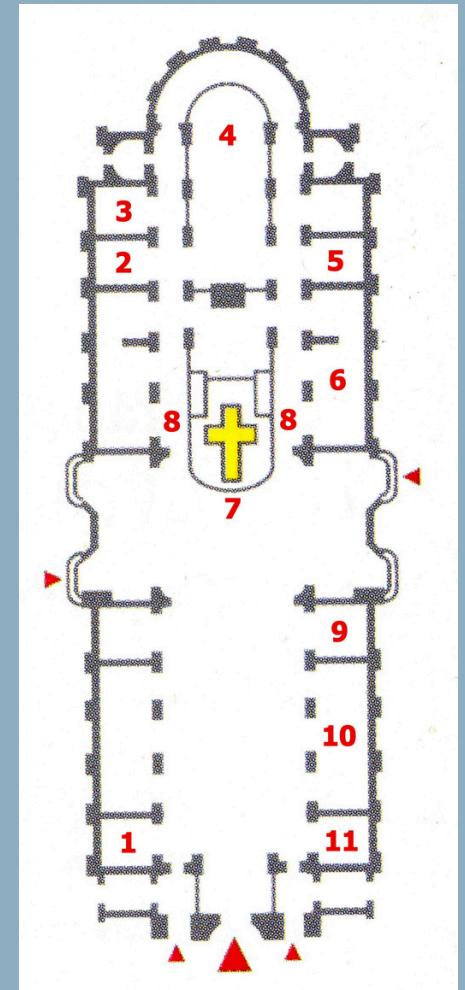
## 11 CHAPEL OF THE DEAD

The chapel was dedicated to the parish's dead from the First World War, on 11 November 1927. **Henri Pinta** (1856-1944), known for his mosaic cartoons (Basilica of the Sacred Heart), is the author of the two paintings as well as that of the chapel dedicated to Saint Joseph on the left in the church. In the first painting, the angels represent the four years of war. The second depicts the resurrection of a soldier, carried by angels, "expression of our faith in the Resurrection."

The church's furniture was made by great artists, craftsmen, and goldsmiths of the time, such as the Italian Renaissance-style high altar, by **Poussielgue-Rusand**, who collaborated with the architect Viollet-Le-Duc in important churches and cathedrals, including Notre-Dame de Paris.

# SAINT FRANCIS-XAVIER CHURCH

## Visit of the church



Come on a tour of our church in an 11-step journey, as numbered above. Follow the guide!

### 1 BAPTISMAL FONTS CHAPEL

Children are baptized here: the first sacrament that introduces them into Christian life.

*The Apotheosis of Saint Gaetan of Thiene*, Claude II Audran (1639-1684).



### 2 SAINTE ANNE CHAPEL

*Saint Francis Xavier and the Miracle of the Crab*, Benedetto II Gennari (1633-1715).

The painting depicts a famous episode from the saint's life. As he was crossing the Molucca Sea, Saint Francis Xavier lost his crucifix while leaning to calm the waves. The next day, walking on the coast of the island of Baranura, he saw a crab come out of the water to return his crucifix. The ship in the painting (a galleon) and the cloak (travelers' clothing) worn by the priests and monks, recall the mission's context. The painter, an admirer of Louis XIV, stayed in Paris and then in London where he was promoted to First Painter at the English court. Upon his return to Italy, he was one of the founding members of the Clementine Academy (Bologna) or Pontifical Academy after its recognition in 1711 by Pope Clement XI.



### 3 OUR LADY OF LOURDES CHAPEL



*The Last Mass of the Martyr*, Charles-Louis de Frédy de Coubertin (1822-1908).

**Father of baron Pierre de Coubertin**, who initiated the restoration of the Olympic Games. This painting represents the death of the priest Lucianus, a Christian martyr.



*The Deposition from the Cross*, Jose de Ribera (1591-1652). Spanish painter and engraver of the Baroque era, he worked mainly in Naples, drawing inspiration from Caravaggio's painting.

### 4 THE VIRGIN CHAPEL

**The Statue of the Virgin and Child**

In the center of a Baroque-inspired composition, it is the work of the sculptor **Jean-Marie Bonnassieux** (1810-1892), a resident of the Villa Medici and winner of the Grand Prix de Rome.



**The Half-Dome**

Adorned with three medallions: the Annunciation, the Assumption, the Visitation, it is the work of **Charles Lameire** (1832-1910), painter of the church's dome and the large drapery on the walls surrounding the high altar.



**The Vaults**

Work of **Alexandre Denuelle** (1818-1879), adorned with twelve representations of the Virgin's litanies, illustrating since the 12th century the Virgin's privileged place in the divine plan: "Mother of the Savior, Mirror of Justice, Seat of Wisdom, Vessel filled with the Holy Spirit, Mystic Rose, Queen of Angels, Tower of David, Ivory Tower, Golden House, Ark of the Covenant, Gate of Heaven, Morning Star."



### 5 SAINT LOUIS CHAPEL

**The Crucifixion of Peter**, Luca Giordano (1634-1705).

Influenced by Titian and Veronese, he executed numerous frescoes in southern Italy's churches, then in Florentine palaces. He created frescoes at the Escorial and Buen Retiro and worked for the Toledo Cathedral in Spain.



### 6 THE MARRIAGE VESTRY

*The Last Supper*, Jacopo Robusti known as Tintoretto (1518-1594)

This depiction of the Last Supper is similar to 3 of the 8 others painted by Tintoretto for the churches San Trovaso, San Marcuola, San Simeon Grande in Venice. Christ is haloed with a cruciferous nimbus, Peter on his right and John on his left. Judas is represented in the foreground hiding a purse; John seems to be sleeping among the apostles, who are engaged in a discussion. Painted in 1559, for the church San Felice in Venice, it remained there until 1818. Later acquired by the Duchess of Berry, it was then donated to the to the Saint Francis Xavier church by Baroness du Teil.



*The Communion*, Henry Lerolle (1848-1929).

An art collector, very close to the painters and sculptors of his time such as Manet, Degas, Renoir, he created this monumental painting in 1888. His works are exhibited in several museums (Orsay or Metropolitan of New York). The painting is divided into two parts and shows a religious service at the moment of communion. The scene is depicted from the right-hand transept, emphasizing in the foreground the parishioners waiting their turn to approach the communion table.

