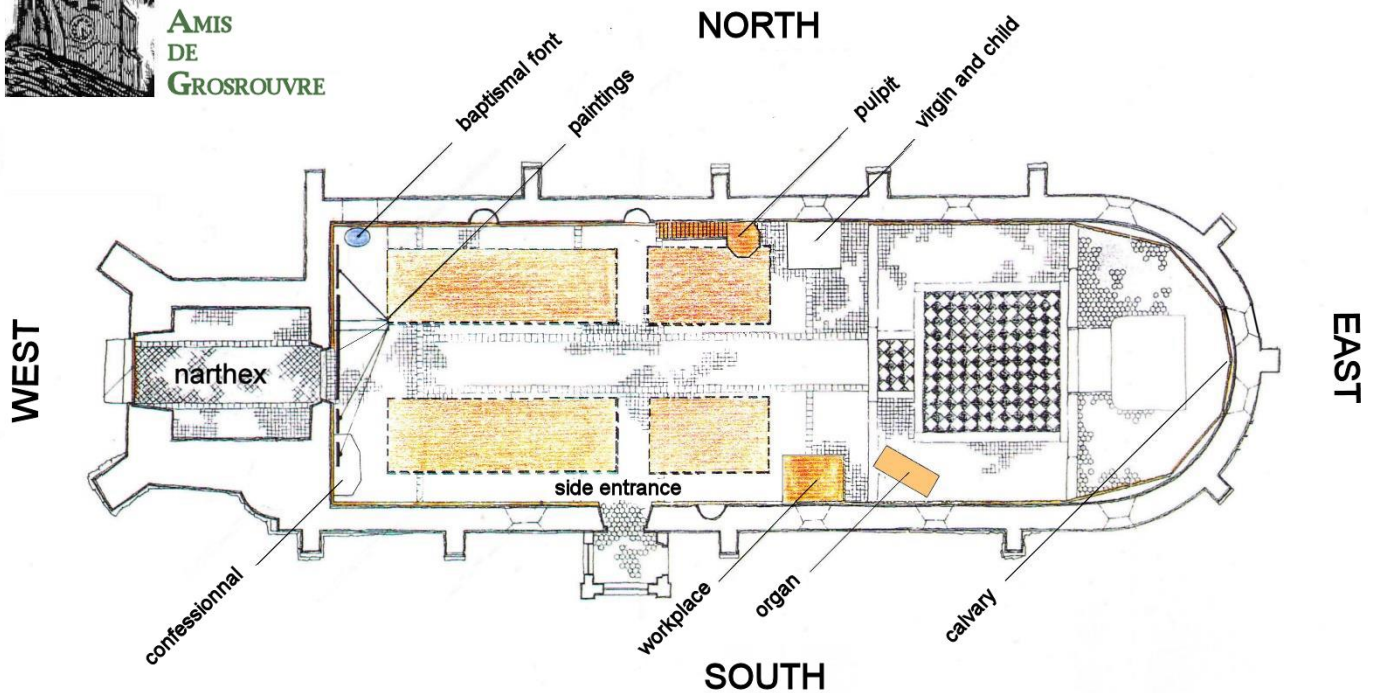




AMIS
DE
GROSROUVRE

VISIT TO THE CHURCH OF SAINT-MARTIN

Attested in the 12th century, the church was largely rebuilt in the 16th century.



[comments in square brackets : to find your way, situation in the building]

[on the western wall] **Large painting of Saint Martin** painted by Angélique Mongez (pupil of David) in 1841. Three paintings surround him: **Saint Roch** painted by Smith in 1746 - The **Virgin and Child** is a quality copy from the start of the 18th century of a work by Pierre Mignard (1612-1695)-the **sacrifice in Vesta**, beginning of the 18th century, is a copy of a work by Sebastiano Ricci (1659–1734).

[west wall, on each side of the porch] **Epitaphs of two priests of Grosrouvre** who made donations to the church: Claude Marin, parish priest who died in 1671 and Jacques de la Motte, parish priest from 1703 to 1740.

[east wall] **Installation of the woodwork of the choir and the chair**, donation of the priest Claude Marin in 1671 (cf. epitaph). Of **the carpentry of the 17th and 18th centuries**, there remains only the priest pulpit, an element of the old stalls and the doors of the sacristy. The choir's woodwork was remade identical to the 19th century.

- **FATHER PASCAL** (1867-1932)

Of peasant origin of Haute-Loire, scholar and painter, Father Pascal was **appointed to Grosrouvre in 1909. He remained there until his death in 1932.**

Finding the church dark and sad he decided to light it and embellish it:

[east wall] **The calvary** of Camille Debert's choir (1866-1935) is the model of the monumental sculpture, made in painted plaster, produced in 1910 for the St-Maurice church in Bécon-les-Bruyères.

The chandeliers were made by Father Pascal, from circles of barrels.

He notes that the Grosrouvrois come only to the Church for family events and religious festivals, but he is enthusiastic about the artistic context: painters, engravers, writers, publishers, with whom he has many exchanges. So, to create a link between the parishioners and their church, after the disaster of 1914-1918 war, he has the idea of **decorating the walls with painted tapestries** that would represent them.

He entrusted the realization of the scenes to a famous Versailles painter, **Pierre-Léon Dusouchet** (1876-1936), while the decorative borders were made by a group of painters, including Father Pascal. See the signature and the date 1926 on the first "tapestry".

These murals are part of the renewal of **Sacred Art** of the beginning of the 20th century conducted by Maurice Denis and Georges Desvallières. Each painting is treated like a tapestry whose subject takes up a precise theme, executed in the **neo-nabis** style and surrounded by an illustrated border of **Art Deco** plants and flowers, whose symbolism matches the theme of each scene.

Paintings of the nave [departure angle of the west and north walls]: 1.Baptism (valley) - 2.Catechism (marguerites, roses and blueberries) - 3.communion (lily) - 4.Colombe of the Holy Spirit (flowers of the fields) - 5.Marriage (roses) - 6.Maternity (blue pervenches, loyalty) - 7.Adoration (vine and grapes) - Calvary (wheat ears) - Lamentations (vine and grapes) - 8.Extreme unction (blue pervenches, souvenir) - 9.Vision of Saint Hubert / Bucherons (oak leaves and pine cones) - 10.Wotking in the field (leaves and holly berries) - 11.Pascal Lamb (ketch with fishes) - 12.Confession (decor not made).

Paintings of the narthex: [above the porch] Painting representing the ascent of Christ into the arms of the Father by Dusouchet -[at the top of each side] processions with a text-[above the gate, behind the ordeal In plaster] the tympanum represents Paradise, above which God the Father, associated with the dove of the Holy Spirit and surrounded by musicians, blesses the faithful who enters the Church - [below] we recognize the four Evangelists and four Saints (Georges, Louis, Jeanne d'Arc and Martin), as well as the names of the dead for the Motherland.

[to the right of the workplace] **A plate in memory of Father Pascal**, with a profile sculpted by Noël Tinayre (1896-1995) traces his commitment to Grosrouvre.

- **FATHER BAGNOL** (1922-2004)

When he arrived in Grosrouvre in 1947, the church had been damaged by a bomb in August 1944. It was necessary to restore and give back light to the church. The bays of the choir are reopened and Father Bagnol asks Georges Devêche (1903-1974) to design the 9 **stained glass windows** of the church which were finished in 1955.

[north side] Blue stained glass (altar of the Virgin) - *Saint Martin Bishop of Tours*.

[choir] In the center 2 stained glass windows with censer "*The earth sings the glory of the Lord*", "*the Lord renews the face of the earth*", framed by 2 abstract stained glass, predominantly blue in the north and colorful in the south.

[south side] *Saint Martin converts the chief of the brigands* and *Saint Martin shares his coat* frame the word PAX.

- **LES AMIS DE GROSROUVRE** (Creation: 1989)

Aim: Development of Grosrouvre, building and landscape heritage (restoration, creation, concerts, exhibitions, etc.).

Restoration of church paintings and woodwork from 1995 to 2008.

Realization of the **Way of the Cross** by Elisabeth Oulès in 1996 (donation of a patron) [departure at the foot of the pulpit, on the left]: 1.Jesus is sentenced to death - 2.Jesus is responsible for his cross - 3.Jesus falls for the 1st time - 4.Jesus meets Mary, his mother - 5. Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus to carry his cross - 6.Veronic wipes the face of Jesus - 7.Jesus falls for the 2nd time - 8.Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem - 9.Jesus falls for the 3rd time - 10.Jesus is stripped of his clothes - 11.Jesus is nailed to the cross - 12.Jesus dies on the cross - 13.Jesus is taken down from the cross and given to his mother - 14.Jesus is put in the tomb.

Preservation of the **cast-iron** crosses in the cemetery (see dedicated guide).

[More information on our site → www.amisdegrosrouvre.fr
You can make a virtual visit of the church.]