



GASSIN

la plus belle vue du Golfe

DISCOVERING THE CHURCH
NOTRE-DAME-DE-L'ASSOMPTION

Historical overview

Initially, the worship's place of the inhabitants of Gassin was located in the plain, in the chapel Saint- Lawrence. Saint-Lawrence have been martyred by being put on a gridiron in 258 in Rome. Unfortunately, no vestige of this chapel remains today.

In the XIth century, the Chapel of Notre-Dame de la Consolation, situated downwards the village, served as the parochial church. In the XIVth and XVth centuries, the mass was celebrated in a church behind the ramparts.

The church Notre-Dame-de-l'Assomption of Gassin is a building of the XVIth century. Finished in 1557 or 1558, the church was dedicated to Notre-Dame-de-l'Assomption in 1582.

Sometimes, this church is falsely called "Church Saint-Laurent", Saint-Laurent being the Patron saint of the village (who is celebrated every August, 10th). Several times restored (on 1624, 1758) this church was in 1793 the place of meeting of "Sans-culottes" (The revolutionaries) of Gassin.

In 1965, its decoration was stripped to make it soberer.

In 1981, a major repair was undertaken. This "new" church was dedicated to the Virgin Mary, the patron saint of France. Her assumption is celebrated On August 15th. (in Catholic Church, the assumption represents the bodily taking up the Virgin Mary into Heaven at the end of her earthly life).

The bell «Saint-Laurent», one of the few that survived the Revolution in the Var ↓

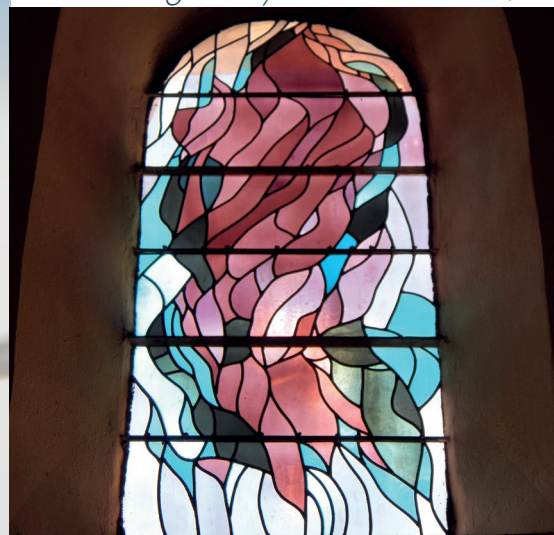


↑ St Lawrence reliquary bust



↑ Gonfalon of St Lawrence

Stained glass by Claude Baillon ↓



Architecture

The church is situated near the north entrance of the village. It is built on rocks, massive buttresses support walls, and the base of the building. The main entrance's door, made out of basalt, is surmounted by a triangular front wall and by a cross in gypsum, which were added in XVIIIth century. It opens to the "Rue Centrale" (Main street).



↑ *The church, once, with its battlements*

The building has a simple architecture with a chorus, a single rectangular nave with two spans of the vault and four pillars, an apse in three pieces and a bell tower.

Its bell tower is a square tower. This tower had crenels until the French Revolution, which may suggest it was previously a watchtower. Crenels were destroyed by the revolutionaries because it was a symbol of feudalism. They were rebuilt, and destroyed again, at the end of the XXth century.

Cult

The church depends of the diocese of Frejus-Toulon. It is served by the priest of the parish of Croix-Valmer-Gassin-Ramatuelle, helped by the Brazilian community Doce Mãe de deus.

The church during a service ↓

Statue of Our Lady of the Assumption ↓



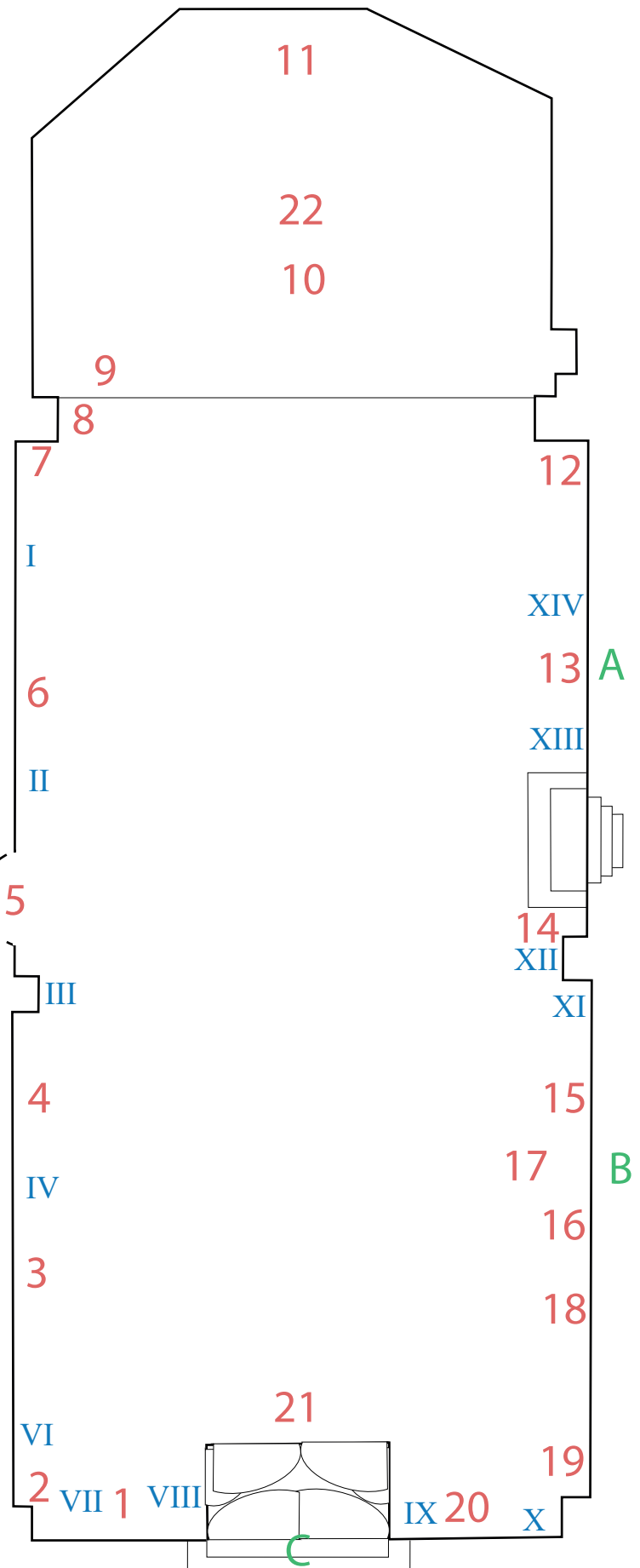
Map of the Church Notre-Dame-de-l'Assomption

1. Statue of Saint Thérèse of Lisieux.
2. Commemorative plaque in homage to the soldiers who died during World War I.
3. Mary, painted as a child, with her mother Saint Anne, learning to read, with two putti.
4. Statue of Saint Joseph and the Infant Jesus.
5. Statue of Notre Dame de Lourdes.
6. Painting representing Saint Francis de Sales between Saint Aloysius de Gonzaga, Saint Sebastian and Saint Lucy, and in the lower register the souls of Purgatory (18th C)*.
7. Reliquary bust of St Lawrence dating from the 17th C*.
8. Polychrome carved wooden sculpture painted of the Madonna and Child dating from the 17th-18th C*.
9. Wooden ambon.
10. The main altar supported by 2 Doric pillars with wheat ears on the right and vines on the left, symbols of the Eucharist of bread and wine, sculpted by the artist Paul-Herman Saffre and consecrated in 1967. He turned towards the faithful.
11. Painting of the Madonna and Child between Saint John the Baptist, on the left, and Saint Lawrence with the instrument of his martyrdom on the right, dated 16th C*.
12. Statue of Our Lady of the Assumption.
13. Painting the Gift of the Rosary, with the Virgin, on her left Saint Dominic, on her right Saint Catherine of Siena and Saint Lucia (1587), attributed to Coriolano Malagavazzo*.
14. Stoup.
15. Statue of Saint Roseline with a bunch of roses, sister of Hélin de Villeneuve, Grand Master of the Knights of St. John.
16. Confessional.
17. Painting of weeping Saint Madeleine with three putti.
18. Statue of Saint Anthony of Padua.
19. White marble stoup, dating from the 16th century*.
20. Painting of God surrounded by cherubs.
21. List of the inhabitants of Gassin who died during the Great War.
22. In the bell tower, a bell, dating from the 18th century*.

A to C: The modern stained glass (lead and glass) are the work of the Aveyron master Claude Baillon (1984). The patterns made up of decorative plant and cosmic elements were inspired by the church itself, its architecture, its dimensions and the coloring of its stones. They represent degrees of purity of the soul, from darkest to lightest. Sunlight is filtered through the last window above the entrance and its rays light up the path to the altar.

I to XIV: The modern Stations of the Cross was made by Roger Roux, illustrator (1897-1969) in 1968. It represents the 14 stations of Christ.

(* objects listed in the inventory of historic monuments)



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