

Givry, St.Peter and St.Paul Church

This church is located outside the city walls. It is of unusual shape in the area, and is the masterpiece of **Emiland Gauthey** (1732-1806), engineer of the States of Burgundy.

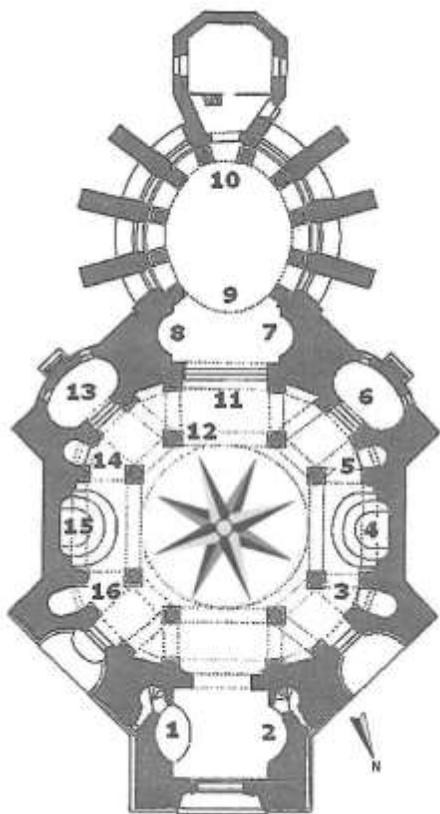
It is characteristic of French neo-classicism inspired by Italian baroque architecture : centralized plan, pediments, domes and pyramidal shapes.

It is dedicated to the Roman Catholic worship.

It was built from 1772 to 1791 of Givry stone, in a north-south axis. The portal is at the north side to meet the wishes of the parishioners of that time who wanted a "beautiful entry" on the road side.

After completion, it was dedicated on April 16, 1791.

The church was declared a historical monument in 1913.



Inside

The main entrance, located under the square bell tower, is flanked by two niches.

The small stained-glass window presents the two Hearts : the Sacred Heart of Jesus with the crown of thorns, and the Immaculate Heart of the Virgin Mary pierced in union with the Passion of her Son.

The nave, of octagonal plan, is bounded by eight Ionic columns, coupled with semi-engaged columns (kind of ambulatory) supporting an entablature with access to tribunes separated by four arches. The pendants of the dome are pierced by oculi allowing the light to flow. The round dome (11 m in diameter and 25 m in height) is illuminated by eight circular oculi. On the ground, the pavement draws a compass rose of polychrome stones, indicating the cardinal points.

All around the ambulatory, there are several **chapels**.

A **pre-choir**, is separated from the nave by steps up to the sanctuary.

The choir was restored in 1995-96. It is elliptical, inspired by the antiquity, surrounded by ten Corinthian columns upon which the entablature and elliptical dome are supported. It is illuminated by elliptical oculi that open onto a high gallery lit by five external circular oculi. In the central oculus, a stained glass represents God the Father, blessing, and holding the world.

At the first level, large windows placed between the columns provide direct light. On the left, there is St. Peter and his keys; on the right, there is Our Lord Jesus Christ blessing. He holds the Books of the New Testament. We can see the painter's signature: G. Poncey, INV.PINX. Lyon, 1861.

In the sanctuary, there is the former high altar from the 19th century, with the tabernacle where the consecrated hosts are kept, as indicated by the red light. It has in its basement, small statues of Christ and the four Evangelists, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, and also St. Peter and St. Paul.

A **new high altar** is placed facing the people, according to the liturgy of Vatican II. It is carved with the **symbols of Christ** : the Greek letters "chi" **X** and "rho" **P** of **Christos**, the **Alpha** and the **Omega** (the Beginning and the End), **overcoming the tempter = the fight of light against darkness**. On the sides, a hand represents God the Father, and a breath, the Holy Spirit. So the Trinity composes the base of the altar. An inscription "**Salus**", that is Salvation, specifies that Jesus is the Savior of the World.

This new altar was consecrated by Mgr Benoît Rivière, Bishop of Autun, Chalon and Mâcon on December 22, 2012.

1 – Baptistry closed by a gate ; above, a statue of St. John the Baptist.

2 – "St. Anne teaching the Virgin to read in the Holy Scripture, with St. Joachim". 18th century painting.

3 – Chapel of St. Joseph. 1857.
Founded by Claude Bressier and his wife Anne Adenot.

4 – Our Lady Chapel "Salve Regina Mater misericordiae" due to François Pourcher, a Chalon engineer, Gauthey's nephew (husband of his niece).

5 – Chapel of the Guardian Angel with a child. 1862.
In memory of Claude Bressier and his 2nd wife Nicole Bonnot.

6 – Chapel of the Sacred Heart : appearance to St. Marguerite-Marie, a Visitandine Sister of Paray-le-Monial, Burgundy, of Christ with his heart burning with love for humanity. Stained-glass window signed by JB. INV. Given by Vanel-Pernet, 1871.

7 – "St. Peter heals a lame man". (Acts 3: 1-10)
Stucco high relief, due to G. Boichot, sculptor, 18th century.

8 – "St. Paul and the miracle of the viper in Melita". (Acts 28: 1-6)
Stucco high relief, due to G. Boichot, 18th century.

9 – New Altar, placed facing the assistance according to the liturgy of Vatican II. Made of Buxy stone, it was carved in 2012 by Alberic de Belle, stonemason in Laizy, Saône-et-Loire. The table follows the rounded curve of the pavement and the dome. Offered by a generous anonymous donor.

10 – "Ascension". Our Lord Jesus-Christ rises to heaven under the eyes of Mary, his mother, and the Apostles. Canvas painted in 1752 by B.deVerriere (marked on the back) 3.42 x 2.27 m. Carved gilt wood frame. It was restored by Gabriel François Bruyère, a local painter, in 1980.

11 – High Crucifix - carved wood.

12 – Chair, 19th century. Representations of Christ, the Good Shepherd, and the four Evangelists with their symbols: Matthew and the angel, Mark and the lion, Luke and the ox, John and the eagle.

13 – Chapel of St. Paul, apostle of Christ. Beheaded in Rome, he holds the sword of his martyrdom. St. patron of the church.

14 – Chapel of the Pieta. In memory of soldiers from Givry who died for France during the 1st world war (1914-1918).

15 – Chapel of St. Peter, an apostle of Christ, the first Pope of Rome. On the pediment : "Pasce oves meas - Pasce agnos meos" (= feed my lambs, feed my sheep) Jesus' words to Simon Peter (John 21: 15-17) establishing him as Head of the Church. Chapel and statue due to Francois Pourcher.

16 – Chapel of Our Lady of Lourdes. In 1858, the Virgin appeared 18 times to St. Bernadette Soubirous in the grotto of Massabielle, Lourdes. She revealed herself as the "Immaculate Conception".

Outside

Following repairs of the building made in 2006-2007, **exterior walls** are covered with a **sand color coating**. Stones from Givry quarries are still visible: the red ones from the “Carrières rouges” and the white ones from the Cras quarry (buttresses, pediments, steeple) as inside.

In 1828, **the choir walls** were strengthened by large and thick buttresses, then in 1844, by the first floor of the sacristy which closes the axial window of the choir. **The octagonal sacristy** is covered with stones, called “lauzes” or “laves”.

The dome of the nave, covered with lead plates in 1950, supports a **stone cross**, placed during the Second Empire, in place of the lantern originally planned, but never built.

Above the porch, the square **bell tower** is pierced - at the level of the belfry which houses three bells - by four openings with columns surmounted by a circular pediment, fitted with sounding-boards - and ends with an **obelisk** of stones, rising to 47 meters above the ground. It does not fail to attract attention from all around.

Nearby

The Town Hall of Givry, built by Thomas Dumorey and Emiland Gauthey, is a former city monumental gate with a campanile. It houses the oldest parish register of France (from 1303 to 1357). It tells us specifically about the ravages of the 1348 plague epidemic that killed half of the population of Givry over four months.

The round market Hall, of architect Narjoux, with at its center a spiral stone staircase, 1830.

The fountains of the 18th and 19th centuries, including the dolphin fountain redesigned in 1776 by Emiland Gauthey and Thomas Dumorey.

The cellars of wine growers, and their famous Givry wines.

Cortiambles, remains of a Romanesque church.

Russilly: the church (1768), the village with its washing-place and trite oven, and the statue of the Sacred Heart erected in 1877.

Our Lady of Varanges, statue on the hill above Givry, lit every evening by parishioners since 1870, during Winter.

The church of Barizey, with central plan and dome (1786), also built by Emiland Gauthey, has a great architectural similarity with the one of Givry : it is said to be its scale model. Beside it, the old presbytery has been renovated to house municipal activities.

“Don’t you know that you are a temple of God, and that God’s Spirit lives in you ? If anyone destroys the temple of God, God will destroy him ; for God’s temple is holy, which you are”

St. Paul, 1 Corinthians 3: 16-17

“In his own body he bore our sins on the wood of the cross, so that we might die to our sins and live to righteousness : by His wounds you have been healed.”

First Letter of St. Peter the Apostle 2: 24

Saint Peter and Saint Paul Church of Givry is the center of the Parish of “Saint Symphorien en Côte Chalonnaise” which gathers 10 communes around Givry and Mercurey, that is about 9700 inhabitants.

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Mellecey, Mercurey (Touches), Saint-Denis-de-Vaux,
Saint-Jean-de-Vaux,
Saint-Mard-de-Vaux, Saint-Martin-sous-Montaigu*

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