



10 Close-up on column capitals details

## Brief history and feature descriptions of the church

Originally, St Jacques was built along the route leading from the county of Flanders to Santiago de Compostela by way of Tournai, its episcopal metropolis. This first 12th century Romanesque building was home to the two inferior levels of the present tower.

Built in the 13th century (1225), the nave framework has been kept intact.

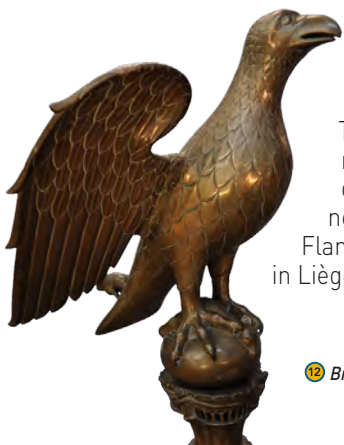
The local scaldian (Scheldt zone) gothic architectural features of the edifice served as a pattern for a great many churches in the area.

The present-day vast 50-meter-long choir dates back to the 14th century. Its shape is that of the Latin Cross. The 7- section apse marks the place and fences in the clear intensity of the choir (19th-century glass-stained windows).

The church suffered major iconoclastic degradations between the 13th and the 14th century.

The present neogothic interior restoration was carried out during the 19th century. This neogothic style can be found in Flanders and as far as St Jacques in Liège as well.

12 Brass eagle-lectern dating back to 1411



## The NPMA (non-profit making association) "Les Amis de l'église Saint-Jacques de Tournai"

It was set up in 2008 on Philippe Passager's initiative. The goal of the association, in accordance with the church management council's standpoint, is to promote the development of the edifice and secure the works of art. To this end, the association contributes to:

- the restoration and preservation of cultural heritage components.
- the development of scientific, archeological or historical project investigations.
- the publishing of information, the organization of exhibitions or any other cultural and artistic events aimed at enhancing the church's most treasured heritage.

[www.saint-jacques-tournai.be](http://www.saint-jacques-tournai.be)

To contact "Les Amis de l'église Saint-Jacques de Tournai":  
[info@saint-jacques-tournai.be](mailto:info@saint-jacques-tournai.be)



13 Altarpiece with panels showing scenes from St James the Major

The edifice is registered on the network of the foundation "Églises ouvertes" (Open churches) and accessible 7 days a week.



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Thanks to your donations on bank account: BE 10 0000 0000 0404 of the King Baudouin Foundation with compulsory statement 128/3007/00028, this institution contributes jointly to the achievement of some NPMA's projects. Tax deduction for any donation of 40€ or more.

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Photos Benoit Dochy et Frédéric Deleyker • Yves Allard • Photos Benoit Dochy et Frédéric Deleyker • JA  
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# Église Saint-Jacques



# ÉGLISE SAINT-JACQUES



## The central NAVE (13th century) and side aisles : Tournai's gothic architecture

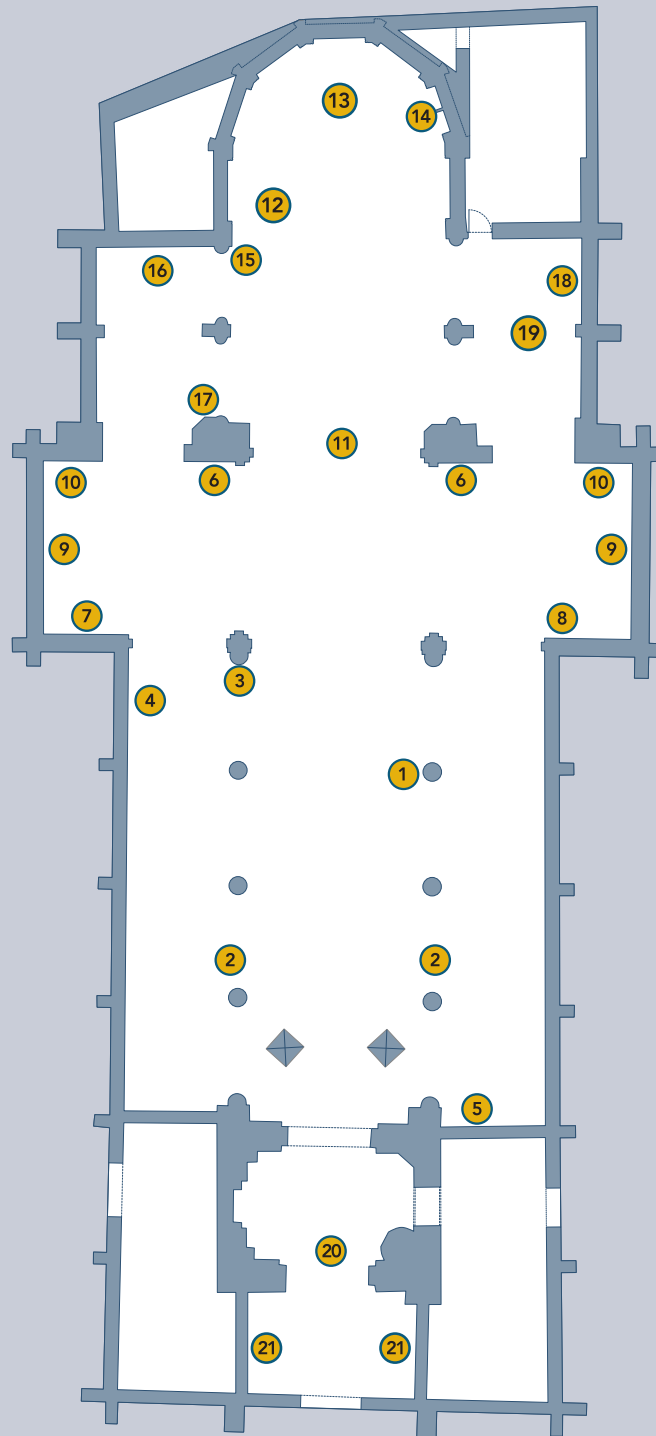
- ① Typical Scheldt area columns topped with their double row of decorative coiled veined leaves called crockets.
- ② Tournai's elevation – romanesque lateral triforiums.
- ③ The gravestone on the nave floor.
- ④ The Way of the Cross.
- ⑤ The Thorn Coronation. Painting by Jan Janssens, preserved for 400 years.

## The TRANSEPT

- ⑥ The front-choir altars : St Joseph on the left, St James on the right.
- ⑦ The local Cambry family monument : marble columns with central alabaster low-relief and skyblue shield adorned with 3 gold lozenges.
- ⑧ Two brass plaques fixed to the wall and framed in local stone.
- ⑨ 18th century confessional box.
- ⑩ 17th century painting.

## The central CHOIR

- ⑪ The central Cross : Christ in his glory.
- ⑫ Early 15th century brass eagle-lectern.
- ⑬ Neogothic high altar (late 19th c.): the panels are showing scenes from St James's life. The gilded copper tabernacle was designed by Béthune and made by Bourdon.
- ⑭ The seven stained-glass windows illustrate the 7 sacraments.
- ⑮ Painted corner units dating from the 19th century and murals by J. Herbig.



⑱ Angels playing chamber music within the celestial vault, ancient paintings (1405) restored by J. Helbig (19th c.)

## The chapel of Notre-Dame de la Gésine (circa 1400)

- ⑯ The altarpiece represents scenes relating to the Saviour's birth.
- ⑰ A stone low-relief is dedicated to the Taintenier family.

## The Chapel of the Holy Sacrament (circa 1400)

- ⑱ A stone low-relief embedded in the gutterwall in memory of Jacques and Colart (Nicolas) d'Avesnes. It is dated of 1403.
- ⑲ Decorative painted vault : angels-choir playing chamber music in heaven. Ancient painting (1405) restored by J. Helbig in the 19th C.

In the front-choir, a medieval and neogothic slab floor.

■ **The Louis XV organ case** made of carved wood by Jean-Baptiste Caulier, 1755. Church and organ case are registered as a Walloon Region Special Heritage.

■ **The Narthex** : located at the crossing of the first Romanesque church lies the porch with its walkway under the tower.

- ⑳ The bellringers' floor as Narthex mezzanine.
- ㉑ Funeral monuments on the walls carrying epitaphs and coats of arms dating back to the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries.