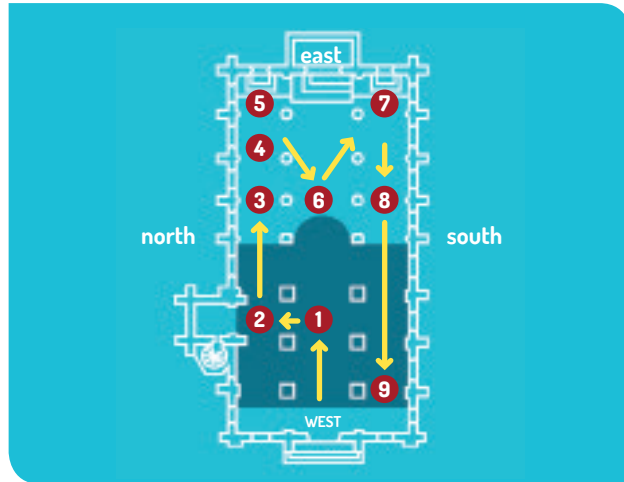


## 1 Let's start our journey by a moment of silence.

Like all churches, I am **oriented east**, towards the rising sun, symbol of Christ the light of the world, resurrecting on Easter morning. As soon as the sun rises, rays of light enter through the beautiful stained-glass window in the choir.



MAP OF THE CHURCH

The portal you have entered is the passage between the secular world, outside, and the sacred world, the church.

During the medieval time, the church was a representation of the **Celestial Jerusalem** as described in the Book of Revelation.

- « The throne of God will be in the City » (22:3) – Therefore, like most churches, I am geographically in **the centre of town** and my spire rises above the other buildings.
- « The foundations of the city walls were adorned with every kind of precious stone » (21:19) – These precious stones are represented by **the multi-coloured stained-glass windows** adorning the churches.

## 2 Let's walk towards the left and go back in time.

We are here in the north side aisle, in the original church of the 12th century. My first building was very modest like a country chapel. I was half the size of the present church, represented on the map by the **dark blue** surface.



## DID YOU KNOW? The devotion to the Sacred Heart

The stained-glass windows of the steeple hall depict the apparition of the Sacred Heart to St Margaret Mary Alacoque of the Visitation order in Paray-le-Monial (1675). From there, the devotion to the **Sacred Heart** started to spread. It became universal in the 19th century. The Sacred Heart of Jesus represents His physical heart but His love for all mankind.

## 3 Let's move towards the stained-glass window of St Margaret of Scotland.

On the right, at the base of the two columns supporting the vault of the nave, the typical "angles' claws" of the 13th century bear witness of the enlargement of my original 12th century chapel. In 1203, a letter from the bishop of Paris, **Eudes de Sully**, shows that I am officially a **Parish**.

I depend on the **Chapter of Notre Dame**. Consequently, I must pay the « pigmentum » meaning I must provide a certain quantity of herbs and flowers used to sprinkle the floor of the cathedral on Assumption day. In the middle of the 15th century, I am officially dedicated to St John the Baptist.



## DID YOU KNOW? The Holy Host elevation and the Tabernacle

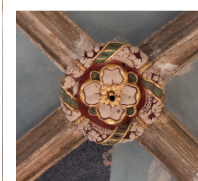
- Bishop Eudes de Sully of Paris, also responsible for building Notre Dame Cathedral in the 12th century, was the first to accomplish the Holy Host **elevation** during mass.
- Since the 16th century, the **consecrated Holy Hosts** are kept in a small cabinet called the **tabernacle**. A red light shows the presence of this Eucharistic «reserve».

## 4 Going towards the chapel of the Virgin, let's admire the keystones left by the successive patrons.

At the end of the 15th century, I am extended by Jean II Baillet, Lord of Sceaux, who was close to the French Kings Charles VI and Louis XI.

His grandson, René Baillet, carried on with the construction after a fire that had spread from the city to me (1530).

In the 17th century, Colbert, Baron of Sceaux and prime minister of King Louis XIV, paid for the work in the choir. Notice his coat of arms on the keystone above the altar.



## DID YOU KNOW? Consecration of a church

It is a ceremony that converts a simple architectural building into the « **House of God** ». During some construction work, the church can lose her sanctity. Then, it is necessary to have a new ceremony for the sanctification. My **last consecration was in 1738** after the great works of Father Baudouin.

## 5 Let's stay in the chapel of the Virgin to admire two works of art listed as historical monuments since 1905.

- The **low relief of the blessed Virgin** crowned by Jesus is a theme little dealt with in the 17th century, hence its unique character.
- The **stained-glass window of 1542** is a pure **treasure** because there are few left from this time in France. We can see a fragment of the Tree of Jesse with the kings Solomon and Ezechias, descendants of David. The sibyls, prophets of antiquity, appear in religious art of the 15th century. They announce the coming of Jesus to the pagans.

## DID YOU KNOW? The Tree of Jesse

The Tree of Jesse, father of David, is the **family tree of Jesus**. Each branch carries one ancestor of Christ. At the top, the Virgin and Christ can be found. From David to Jesus, there are 28 generations.

## 6 Let's go back to the nave to admire the big stained glass window made by the famous "glass Master", Emile Hirsch at the end of the 19th century.

- It represents the **eternal reign of Christ** in heaven, worshipped by two angels and accompanied by the four Evangelists and the four great Prophets.
- The **number 4** is the symbol of the presence of God in our World. It is found in the cardinal points, the 4 seasons and the sides of the altar.



## DID YOU KNOW? The altar

The altar is the most sacred place in the church where the Eucharist is celebrated. It symbolises Christ, the Cornerstone of the Church. A relic of a saint was generally placed inside the altar.

Below the big stained-glass window, the sculpture of Jesus baptised by John the Baptist.

Historical monument since 1901, this sculpture is one of the **most beautiful baroque works** on this topic created by **Jean-Baptiste Tuby**. He was, at the time, the favourite sculptor of King Louis XIV and creator of famous sculptures in Versailles.



## 7 Let's explore the treasures of St Mammès chapel.

After the revolution, at the end of the 18th century, I was given back to the Catholic cult and a chapel dedicated to St Mammès was added here. Above the painting representing St Mammès, a shrine houses his relics (some bones of his arm). The shrine is listed historical monument.

**If you wish, you can leave a prayer in the book.**



### DID YOU KNOW? St. Mammès

This young Christian shepherd was a martyr in Turkey during the 3rd century. After he was persecuted, he died by disembowelment and his grave became a place of miracles. He is prayed for the relief of stomach aches and bone fractures.

## 8 Before our journey ends, let's admire the sacred light of the stained glass windows.

No church has ever had so many stained-glass windows from the famous "glass Master", Emile Hirsch, who was the "disciple" of Eugène Delacroix. Hirsch was a protestant and when he converted, he worked for the Catholic Church.

## 9 We have reached the end of our visit. Have a look at the stained-glass window representing Joan of Arc greeting King Charles VII.

**May the patron saint of France bless you and keep you under her protection !**

## « I saw therefore I witness »

« Thanks to the very warm welcome given to me by the parish, I was able to create genuine connections. »

Antoine, fireman, confirmed recently.



« The parish is a spiritual and a family meeting place. »

Aïda,, mother and active woman.

« The church in Sceaux is where I receive the Word of God and his life.»

Claude, loyal member of the parish for some years.



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Paroisse de Sceaux

**Parish contact :**  
+33 1 41 13 06 06

### Sunday mass

- Saturday 18h
- Sunday 9h, 11h, 18h  
(except school holidays)

### Weekly mass

- Monday 18h
- From Tuesday to Saturday 9h

**Guided tours by appointment :**  
secretariat.sceaux@free.fr

Do not throw on the public highway  
© Paroisse Saint-Jean-Baptiste de Sceaux

# WELCOME !

## “Saint-Jean-Baptiste de Sceaux” a special church to be discovered !

Dear visitors,  
the doors of  
this 800-year-old church  
are wide open for you !



**In silence,  
look for  
your heart's desire !**