

The Church of Saint-Maclou is a Roman Catholic Church in Rouen, France Construction on Saint-Maclou began sometime after 1435; it was to replace an existing Romanesque parish church that had suffered from several years of neglect resulting in a collapsed transept roof. Saint-Maclou Church is arguably one of the most striking churches in Rouen and a Flamboyant specimen of its period in France. It stands in the heart of the old town of Rouen, surrounded by picturesque old Norman half-timbered houses. The church is dedicated to Saint-Maclou (520-621), one of the seven founder saints of Brittany. He gave its name to the city of Saint-Malo in Brittany and is also known as Saint-Malo or Maclovius. As early of the 10th century there was an oratory on the site of the church. When Rouen became a larger city, the Dukes of Normandy decided to build a church in one of the busiest part of town. Under the reign of Saint-Louis, Saint-Maclou became a parish church.

When part of the sanctuary collapsed in the 13th century it was decided to rebuild the church. Inaugurated on the 25th of June 1521 by Cardinal Georges II of Ambroise, archbishop of Rouen, it was one of the finest examples of Flamboyant Gothic style in the kingdom. In 1530, the lantern tower built at the crossing of the transept was crowned by a 121 foot tall wooden spire covered with gilded lead. The structure was partially destroyed in 1706 by a storm and definitely taken out in 1791. During the French Revolution, the church was closed in 1793 and welcomed a weapon factory. It became a religious sanctuary again in 1802. The church was greatly damaged during World War II particularly in the choir. The restoration works lasted from the 1950s to 1965. The church suffered from the degradations of humidity, frost and pollution which led to a second period of restoration from 1975 to 1980. The lantern tower was restored from 2002 to 2005 and the western façade from 2011 to 2013. The Saint-Maclou church was listed as a historic monument in 1840. The North side of Saint-Maclou is bordered by the rue de Martainville. The West front of the church does not have towers as it is tradition in Gothic architecture. Instead, it terminates in a fine porch of pentagonal form: five gabled porches are arranged in a semi-circle under a rose window and a pyramid-like succession of triangular lines. The beautiful doors date from the Renaissance era (16th century) and represent the Baptism of Jesus (main porch), the Good Shepherd (right porch) and the Virgin Mary (left porch). The tympanum of the main porch depicts the Last Judgment. The lantern tower surmounted by a 19th century spire is in accordance with the Norman tradition of having a lantern tower at the crossing of the transept between the nave and the choir. A fountain dating from the Renaissance era has been set up against the wall of the church at the corner of the Place Barthélémy and the Rue Martainville. It bears some resemblance with another famous fountain: the Manneken Pis in Brussels. An architectural style that first originated from France and spread all over Europe. The sober inside of the church is surprising compared to the extravagance of the Flamboyant style outside. This is due to the inside being designed to receive the maximum of light. The nave has three bays and is 75 feet high. It features the classic three-story elevation of an arcade, triforium, and clerestory. The vaults are 75 feet above the ground floor. The church shows a simplistic centered plan with a non-salient transept beside the side chapels. The ambulatory does not have a main central chapel but opens onto four radial chapels. The lantern tower at the crossing of the transept offers a source of light to the inside of the sanctuary.

Other interesting features inside the church include the arch of glory, the confessionals from the 18th century, and the 15th century stained-glass windows. The sacristy to the East is a neo-Renaissance pastiche whose marble columns are authentic and originate from Italy.



Readings for the week: June 14 - 19

Monday

2 Corinthians 6:1-10

Ps 98:1,2b,3ab,3cd-4

Matthew 5:38-42

Thursday

2 Corinthians 11:1-11

Ps. 111:1b-2,3-4,7-8

Matthew 6:7-15

Tuesday

2 Corinthians 8:1-9

Ps 146:2,5-6ab,6c-7,8-9a

Matthew 5:43-48

Friday

2 Corinthians 11:18,21-30

Ps 34:2-3,4-5,6-7

Matthew 6:19-23

Wednesday

2 Corinthians 9:6-11

Ps 112:1bc-2,3-4,9

Matthew 6:1-6,16-18

Saturday

2 Corinthians 12:1-10

Ps 34:8-9,10-11,12-13

Matthew 6:24-34

Area Catholic Community parish websites are: www.brownsvalleycatholic.org
<https://assumptionofmorris.org> <https://stmarysmorris.com>