

No 3

Saint Maurice Church

The Saint-Maurice church is first cited in 1049, under the reign of King Henri I. From 1178 onward, it served under the domain of the bishops of Valence when Emperor Frederick I bestowed it to Bishop Odon. The heart of the church with its apses, portal and windows is reminiscent of the Byzantine style of the 11th or 12th centuries. In the 16th century, its parish priest, assisted by several chapel rectors and four choir priests (so called because they had the right to sit in the very heart of the church) was dubbed "the Bishop of the plains" and only travelled in a chair pulled by 2 mules.

During the religious wars of the 14th century, the Huguenots demolished the main nave, leaving only the heart of the church and its sidewalls.

The heart of the church was repaired in 1616. In 1702, the graves of fifty-nine families, including the Drogues, the Delacours, the Moralis and the Olliviers, were buried right inside the church. The still existing iron cross, on the forefront, once indicated the location of the parish cemetery. By 1791, having become too small, the cemetery was moved to its existing location at the entrance of the village.

The heart of René de la Tour du Pin de Montauban, peer of France (1772-1837), was buried in the left chapel.

During the 19th century, major renovations were undertaken to repair the church:

- In 1832, the roof was completely renovated and two additional windows in the nave were opened;
- In 1862, the façade and the gallery were demolished in order to enlarge the nave by 4.30 square meters and build two side chapels in order to strengthen the whole structure.

Two priories were still then in existence then: Saint-Baudille (destroyed in 1327) which was under the domain of the Abbey of Cluny and Aiguebonne (destroyed in 1396).