

Saint Leontius of Fréjus

In the mid-fourth century, Saint Leontius was born to a deeply Christian family in Nîmes. He was the brother of future Saint Castor, Bishop of Apt.

Despite aspiring to a solitary life, he was retained by the bishop of Fréjus and ordained a priest. After the bishop's death, the people of Fréjus chose him as the bishop's successor. Leontius governed his diocese with the aim of developing monastic life, meeting Saint Honoratus, founder of the Abbey of Lérins, and was a friend of Saint John Cassian, founder of the Abbey of Saint Victor in Marseille. He took part in the theological discussions that agitated his times. His apostolate lasted many years, and he died around the year 449.

Saint Francis of Paola

Born in Paola, Calabria (1416), Francis heard the Lord's call at a very young age and withdrew to a cave. The miracles he performed soon made him famous and hermitages multiplied around him. This is how the order of Minims originated in 1436.

In 1483, Francis was summoned to the bedside of King Louis XI of France. Along the way, he came to Fréjus which was infested with the plague. Thanks to his prayer, God delivered the city from the epidemic. Even today, on the third Sunday after Easter, the people of Fréjus organize La Bravade, a traditional religious festival celebrated in honor of their patron saint.

After the death of the king, Francis retired to Plessis-lès-Tours, where he died on April 2, 1507.

For God so loved the world that he gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16

We are happy to welcome you to the Cathedral of Fréjus!

Classified a Historical Monument since 1862, the Cathedral of Fréjus is above all the "House of the Lord. » It is a place dedicated to prayer, adoration, and fraternal life.

Whatever your faith, take a moment for silent prayer, entrust yourself to the Lord, tell Him your needs, and present your loved ones to Him.

Lord Jesus, I open my heart to you. You gave your life for me, I would like to entrust mine to you. Lord, I trust in you!

New to Fréjus? We welcome you to our parish! Feel free to introduce yourself to our priests who will be happy to meet you, as will all of our Christian community! Please visit our website to subscribe to our newsletter.

Mass Schedule

Weekdays :

Tuesday through Friday 6:15 pm

Sunday:

Saturday Evening 6:15 pm

High Mass 10:00 am

Confession :

Saturday 10:00 – 11:30 am

Contact Us

Cathedral Rectory

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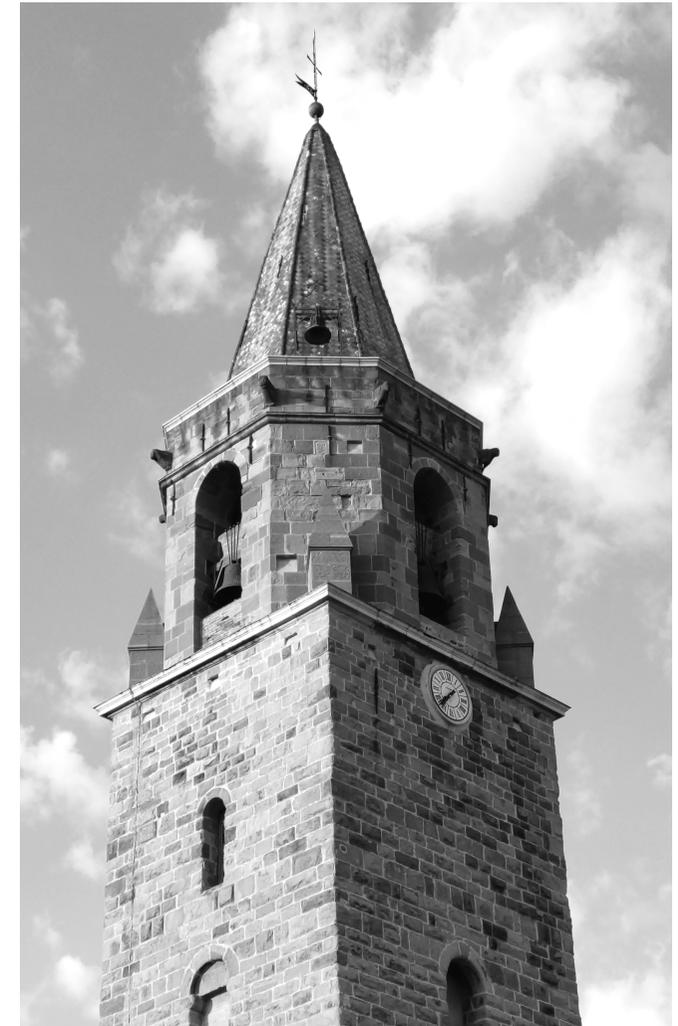
Newsletter : Please register on our website.

Office Hours (Cathedral Rectory Address)

Tuesday & Wednesday 1 – 5pm

Thursday & Friday 9am – 1 pm

Notre Dame and Saint Leontius Cathedral of *Fréjus* *at the heart of the episcopal complex*



A bit of history

The Cathedral of Notre-Dame and Saint-Leontius was the seat of the bishop of Fréjus. In 1958, with the departure of the bishop to Toulon, it became the co-cathedral of the diocese of Fréjus-Toulon.

The first mention of a Fréjus bishop dates back to the Council of Valence in 374, attesting to the stable presence of a Christian community here. Saint Leontius (419-431) is the first known bishop, perhaps officiating in the Paleochristian baptistery, which goes back to the 5th century.

The baptistery, the two churches (now the two naves of the Cathedral), and the residence of the bishop (now City Hall) formed the episcopal ensemble.

After a dark period and the passage of the Saracens, Fréjus owes its rebirth to Bishop Riculphe (approx. 975). The next two centuries saw the construction of the North and South naves, one dedicated to Our Lady and the other to Saint Stephen. Throughout the 17th century, the nave of Our Lady was the Diocesan Cathedral, while the nave of Saint Stephen served as the parish church.

The adjoining cloister is a reminder that for many centuries a College of Canons surrounded the various bishops, ensuring liturgical services and constant prayer.

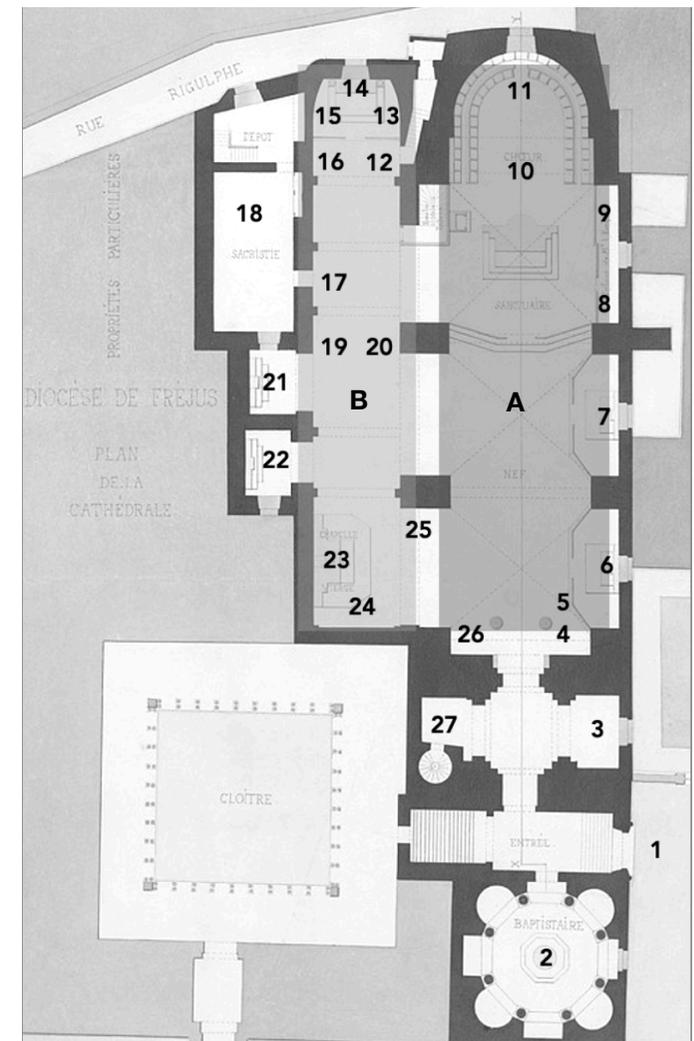
5th century Baptistry

Among the oldest and best preserved in France, the baptistery is a rare example of Paleochristian architecture. In the center, an octagonal baptismal vat was used for baptism by immersion, as eight symbolizes eternal life inaugurated by baptism. Through his death and resurrection, Christ transforms the newly baptized person into a new creature.

The catechumens entered through the small, low door, for it is with humility and confidence that one embraces the Christian faith. The newly baptized person went forth through the large door, having become a child of God and son or daughter of the Church.

Layout of the Cathedral

1. Entrance: Carved walnut doors (1530)
2. Paleochristian baptistery (5th century)
3. Confessional: The Assumption
4. Death of St. Joseph (18th c.)
5. Lectern (18th c.)
6. The Holy Family, by Camillo SATURNO (1561)
7. Great organ, by Pascal QUOIRIN (1991)
8. The Sacred Heart with Saint Marguerite-Marie.
9. Saint Leontius, Bishop of Fréjus
10. Main Altar, consecrated in 2011; medallion of the Transfiguration (Jesus, Peter, James, John); contains relics of Saint Aygulf donated by the Abbey of Lérins.
On the left, the ambo with the symbols of the four evangelists.
11. Cathedra (bishop's throne) and stalls (15th c.)
12. Chapel of the Blessed Sacrament, houses the former High Altar (18th c.) of the Church of Our Lady, along with episcopal tombs.
13. The Holy Conversation: Mary, Elizabeth, Jesus, John the Baptist
14. Saint Marguerite-Marie in ecstasy before the Sacred Heart (18th c.)
15. Relics of Saint Leontius, the dead Christ
16. Jesus with Martha and Mary
17. Death of St. Joseph
18. Sacristy (may not be visited)
19. A holy bishop in adoration (St. Leontius?)
20. Saint Andrew carrying his cross
21. Chapel of the Souls in Purgatory, relics of Saint Francis of Paola
22. Altarpiece of Saint Margaret, by Jacopo DURANDI, painting in tempera on wood (15th c.); recumbent tomb effigies of Bishops Guillaume DE ROUFFILHAC (14th c.) and Louis DE BOUILLAC (15th c.)
23. Altar of the Holy Virgin, former altarpiece of Saint Stephen Church: Saints Stephen, Leontius, and Felix imploring the Holy Trinity for Fréjus
24. Funerary monuments of Bishops Pierre and Barthélémy DE CAMELIN (17th c.)
25. Christ on the Cross (early 17th c.)
26. Souls in Purgatory
27. Donation of the Rosary to Saint Dominic



Nave of Our Lady (A)

Nave of Saint Stephen (B)

The cloister (13th c.) of the Cathedral is the only decorated cloister in France. To visit the cloister, please go to 48 rue du Cardinal Fleury, Fréjus.

Something to know... A bishop of Fréjus became pope! Among the illustrious bishops of Fréjus, Jacques DUÈZE, a Dominican religious and Bishop of Fréjus (1300 – 1310), was pope in Avignon under the name of John XXII from 1316 to 1344.