

## Introduction

So far no comprehensive brochure has been written on St. Bartholomew's Church in Liège, its world-famous baptismal font and the other six wonders of Belgium. This prompted the idea of working out a brochure filling this regrettable gap.

The first part of the brochure (11 pages, 10 photographs by the author) for the first time shows the pictures of all five scenes on the font as well as the interior of St. Bartholomew's Church.

The second part (7 pages, 6 pictures from the internet) shows the other six cultural wonders of Belgium, their artists' names and the location of these works of art along with their web addresses.

In the third part (5 pages) the tourist visiting one of the seven towns may find data of further sights, city tours and hotels.

For all main data web addresses are given. Thus, without losing time, the reader can delve into these wonders by means of his or her own computer or the hotel's computer, without having to buy extensive printed material. In this way a personal visit of these works of art will be prepared in the most effective way.

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Dr. Utz Retter, Berlin

## Part 1: The Baptistmal Font at St. Bartholomew's Church in Liège

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**Former Collegiate Church of St. Bartolomew in Liège.**

Romanesque church in the style of Rhine-Meuse area. Built from the late 11<sup>th</sup> to late 12<sup>th</sup> century. It is the oldest sacral building in Liège.





**View towards the altar**





**The organ**





**Church window**



### **Baptismal Font at St. Bartholomew's Church in Liège**

Created by the goldsmith Reiner von Huy, also called Renier de Huy, from 1107 to 1118. It combines contributions of acien, Byzantine art with that of the Meuse valley. The font consists of brass coated with gold foil. It rests on 12 oxen symbolizing the 12 apostles and the 12 tribes of Israel. The font is one of the seven wonders of Belgium.





### **John the Baptist's Sermon**

The herald wearing the coat of a desert hermit calls of repentance on publicans dressed like rich merchants and a soldier in coat mail and pointed helmet.



### **Baptism of New Converts or Penance Baptism**

John the Baptist baptizes two young men standing up to their knees in the Jordan river. "indeed baptize you with water but he that cometh after me shell baptize you with the Holy Ghost". The bearing of two of John's disciples indicates their intention of turning to "him that cometh after John".





### **Baptism of Christ**

This is the main scene: John the Baptist stoops down to put his right hand on Christ's head. Jesus stands in the water of Jordan, represented in Byzantine style of art, up to his waist. His position symbolizes life rising from the water. With his right hand he makes the sign of the Holy Trinity. Here the three divine persons are united and represented, for once, in image. Good Father appears, his shining head inclined towards his Son. The Holy Ghost is symbolized by a dove. Left of Christ two angels bow, their hands veiled as a sign of awe, according to oriental rite.



### **Baptism of Centurion**

According to the Apostels, the Roman centurion Cornelius called for Peter to learn the Christian teaching. In accordance with Hebraic law, jews were not allowed to enter a foreigner's house. In Peters's dream God made him understand that everbody in awe of him would be accepted. Accordingly, Peter baptized Cornelius. This scene shows that the temporally authority, here the empire, is hallowed by God.