

**Town Hall:** The Town Hall secretariat is open to the public

Mondays and Thursdays from 2pm to 5pm

Mail address: [mairiedebazoches@orange.fr](mailto:mairiedebazoches@orange.fr)

Telephone: **03 86 22 10 55**

Website: [bazoches.net](http://bazoches.net)

Facebook: [commune de bazoches 58190](https://www.facebook.com/commune.de.bazoches.58190)

To organise your receptions, the **Maison communale** : a room with a capacity of 70 people, in a secure setting, thanks to its wooded and shady garden (car park and boules pitch).

**APC and Tourist Information:** The local postal agency

is open Monday to Friday from 9.30am to 12.30pm

and Saturday from 9.30am to 12pm

You will also find

tourist information for your stay.

Telephone number: **03 86 20 29 32**

**Parish:** Priest resident at the Corbigny Presbytery

Mail address: [paroisse.stfrancois.assise@nievre.catholique.fr](mailto:paroisse.stfrancois.assise@nievre.catholique.fr)

Website: <https://p-stfa.com>

Telephone number: **03 86 20 11 94**

**Friends of Marshal de Vauban, history buffs,**

**you can support the efforts to safeguard a precious heritage by making a donation to**

**l'Association pour la Sauvegarde et la Restauration**

**of the church of Saint Hilaire de Bazoches**

**(Guardian of the burial place of the Maréchal de Vauban)**

**2 place de la Mairie 58190 BAZOCHES**

**Mail address: [eglise.sthilaire.bazoches58@gmail.com](mailto:eglise.sthilaire.bazoches58@gmail.com)**

**Website: <https://eglisesainthilairedebazoches58190.com>**

# SAINT HILAIRE CHURCH



## BAZOCHES 58190 NIÈVRE

«The first church in Bazoches dates back to the 12th century but was burnt down by the Huguenots in 1569. It was rebuilt in the late 16th and early 17th centuries. It comprises a porch over which stands a bell tower pierced by geminated windows with arcatures, fitted with small tile-covered canopies acting as sound-proofing.

The nave has two bays in the Gothic style, flanked on the left by the first bay, a chapel dedicated to Saint Franchy containing the baptistery and confessional. Two other chapels face each other at the height of the second bay, the one on the left being dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary and the one on the right to Saint Sebastian.»

B. Pujo Extract from "Si Bazoches m'était conté..." No. 82 in La Camosine

The family vault of the Maréchal de Vauban is located in this Saint Sébastien chapel. This great historical figure left his mark on the heritage of the commune of Bazoches. A marble plaque on the wall lists the titles of the Marshal and his wife, Jeanne d'Aunay.

The apse, also in the Gothic style, is polygonal in shape. The walls and vaults are densely decorated, mainly with stencilling: plant motifs, crosses, fleurs-de-lys, stars, monograms, hangings, etc. This wealth of ornament, particularly noticeable in the choir, is interrupted below the side bays of the apse to make way for two symmetrical compositions, each representing three saints in a row. Two Bourges artists, Raphaël Bodin and F. Pautte, produced these paintings at the end of the 19th century.

To the left of the altar are Saint Joan of Arc, the apostle Saint Philip and the archangel Saint Michael; the inscription "Sainte Jeanne d'Arc" painted on the halo is not an anticipation by Raphaël Bodin, but a repainting made after the national heroine's canonisation in 1920. At his side is Saint Philip clutching to his chest the cross that traditionally serves as his attribute. To the right of the apostle, the artist has depicted another warrior, the archangel Saint Michael, who raised his voice at Domrémy to command Joan of Arc to deliver France.

A study of the murals painted by Raphaël Bodin in the Nièvre region shows that the painter occasionally used works by J.D. Ingres as models. For example, the Joan of Arc depicted in the church is directly inspired by the painting "Joan of Arc at the coronation of King Charles VII", painted by the master in 1854.

o the right of the high altar (in Baroque style) are Saint Henry of Bamberg, Saint Anthony the Hermit and Saint Roch. Saint Roch is a well-known saint in Bazoches, as he has his own little chapel on the hillside opposite the church, on the edge of the Pilgrim's Way to Santiago de Compostela. Saint Roch is invoked to protect people and animals from epidemics and plant diseases. He is the patron saint of pilgrims and surgeons.

The north vestry existed before 1841, while the south vestry was built in 1886. The church used to be surrounded by a cemetery. In 1839, the cemetery was moved below the village. To the right of the church, behind the bust of Vauban, is the former presbytery, now the Maison Communale. If you go around the church (on the chevet side), you will have a beautiful view of the Château and the wooded hillside.

The church in Bazoches has been protected as a historic monument since 1984.

The Maréchal family, of Auvergne origin, had been established in the Morvan since the 16th century and had acquired the Vauban estate, from which it had taken its name, henceforth known as Le Prestre de Vauban. A century and a half later, this name was famous throughout Europe, because Sébastien Le Prestre, Lord of Vauban, had forever given it the lustre of its glory and the brilliance of its merits. The conduct of 53 sieges, the fortification of 333 places and the heroic participation in 140 battles justify this reputation.

Sébastien Le Prestre was born on 15 May 1633 at Fief de Rivière, in the parish of Saint Léger de Fourcheret. At the age of 17, he joined the company of Arcenay in the Prince de Condé's regiment as a cadet and began studying mathematics and trigonometry with a view to becoming an engineer. He married Jeanne d'Aunay in Epiry in 1660, and moved to Bazoches in 1675.

Over the years, this knowledge was applied to war strategies and the fortifications of several towns, in Franche-Comté, Artois, Provence and Roussillon, pinpointing breaches and reinforcing bastions. A staunch defender of his country, he also saved the honour and enhanced the prestige of King Louis XIV in many battles. He was promoted to Marshal of France on 14 January 1703. The wars kept him away, but it was in the Morvan, at the Château de Bazoches, that he liked to come and rest during his long walks. His wish was to be buried in the church of Bazoches: in 1688, he had already had a chapel rebuilt there to prepare the site of his vault.

He died in Paris on 30 March 1707, without ceremony, after a simple absolution in the church of Saint Roch. The body was transported to Bazoches and buried in the church alongside members of his family. During the Revolution, the tomb was desecrated to steal the lead from the coffins and make ammunition. Fortunately, the Marshal's heart, contained in a lead casket and placed under a slab at the foot of the church altar, was preserved.

In 1808, on the orders of Emperor Napoleon 1st, the heart was transported to Paris (where it suffered a number of setbacks during its journey), where it has since rested in an urn under the dome of the chapel of Les Invalides, opposite the mausoleum of Turenne (another servant of the fatherland). In 1879, the vault was opened for the last time and 4 skulls and bones were found, which were recognised as those of the Maréchal, his wife, his daughter and his granddaughter. On 26 August 1900, a plaque was affixed to the chapel as a reminder that Vauban's mortal remains lay in the church, and a bronze bust was unveiled in the square.

In Bazoches, the memory of the Marshal, one of the greatest and noblest characters of modern times, lives on...