The origins of Thann are wrapped in a poetical legend telling that the 16th May 1160, the bishop Saint-Thiébaut died in Gubbio (Umbria in Italy). After giving all his fortune to the poor, he promised his bishop's ring to his servant who was from Lorena (or from the Netherlands, in compensation after his death. As he removed the ring, the servant pulled off the bishop's right thumb at the same time. He placed both the ring and the thumb in his pilgrim's staff.

After walking across the Alps, he arrived the last July 1161 at the present site of the church, which was then covered with fir trees. He leant his pilgrim's staff against one of them and fell asleep. When he woke up, he noticed in terror that his staff looked as if it was rooted into the ground. At the same time, the Count of Ferrette, Lord of the Engelbourg castle, the ruins of which overlook the town, saw three lights above the fir tree. The pilgrim explained to him that he was carrying a relic; the Earl saw God's will in that wonder. He promised he would build a chapel dedicated to Saint Thibaut and the staff detached itself at once.

In memory of that legend, three fir trees are burnt each year during the evening of the 30th June on the church square, a festival called “the cremation of the three fir trees”.

### Thann - Gubbio: a reality

According to the legend, the relic consisted in the right thumb of the Bishop. The last scientific research (1976) confirmed that the relic of Thann really does come from the body of Bishop Saint Thibaut; it is not his finger, but rather a 38 mm (1.5 inch) external part of his right hand.

In Gubbio, Italian town twinned with Thann, the body of Saint Thibaut lies in a glass reliquary at the basilica of Monte Ingino, situated at the top of the town. Every year, on May 15th, “La Corsa dei tre Ceri” takes place in Gubbio. This race of “the three candles” commemorates the anniversaries of the Bishop’s death.

Legends of the Thann area

- Its Gothic collegiate church (its steeple, its main portal, its choir stalls and its stained-glass windows)
- Its “Rangen” vineyard and its wine path
- Its ruins of the Engelbourg castle nicknamed “The witch’s eye”
- Its museum of local history and traditions in the former wheat market
- Its witch’s tower, south gate of the Alsace wine route

Also discover

- Its natural environment: hikes in the forest or family walks
- Its cycle tracks along the Thur River and its mountain-bike tours
- Its traditional festival “the cremation of the three fir trees” (June 30th)
- Its Christmas market

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### Tourist information office

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Opening hours of the information desk:

- From January to April and from October to November: from Monday to Saturday from 10 am to 12 and from 2 pm to 5 pm – closed on Sundays and bank holidays.
- In May, June and September: from Monday to Saturday from 9 am to 12 and from 2 pm to 6 pm – closed on Thursday morning, on Sundays and bank holidays.
- In July and August: from Monday to Saturday from 9 am to 12 and from 2 pm to 6 pm – on Sundays and bank holidays from 9 am to 12.
- In December: from Monday to Saturday from 9 am to 12 and from 2 pm to 6 pm – closed on Sundays and bank holidays from 9 am to 12.
