



Main portal of the church (second half of the XIVth century)

LEGENDARY ORIGINS OF THE TOWN THANN

The origins of Thann are wrapped in a poetical legend telling that the 16th May 1160, the bishop Saint-Thiébaud 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 Lorraine (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 1st 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 Thiébaud 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".



Cremation of the three fir trees



Ruins of the Engelbourg castle

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 Thiébaud; it is not his finger, but rather a 35 mm (1,37 inch) external part of his right hand.

In Gubbio, Italian town twinned with Thann, the body of Saint Thiébaud 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 anniversary of the Bishop's death.



Relic of Saint-Thiébaud



THANN WELCOMES YOU WITH:

- › 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 witches' 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

TOURIST INFORMATION OFFICE OFFICE DE TOURISME DE THANN-CERNAY

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Opening hours of the information desk:

From January to April and from October to November: on Monday from 2 pm to 5 pm, from Tuesday 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 12.30 and from 2 pm to 6 pm - on Sundays and bank holidays from 9.30 am to 12.30.
In December: from Monday to Saturday from 10 am to 12 and from 2 pm to 6 pm - 3 Sundays: from 3 pm to 5 pm - closed on bank holidays and the 24th and 31st December afternoons.

www.hautes-vosges-alsace.fr

Leaflet by the tourist information office (December 2015).

Pictures: O.T de Thann-Cernay - O. Malbos - ADT Haut Rhin - A. Ehret - J-P Dumel



THE HISTORICAL CENTRE OF THANN

in 32 stages



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