

San Gregorio dei Muratori



San Gregorio dei Muratori is a tiny church at Via Leccosa 75, hidden in a cul-de-sac between the Lungotevere Marzio and the Via Ripetta in the rione Campo Marzio. It is a serious contender for the most unobtrusive church in the *Centro Storico*.

History:

It was originally built in 1527 by the Confraternity of Wall-builders (hence the name -it does not automatically translate as "masons" because these only use stone not brick). The dedication is to St [Gregory the Great](#). They rebuilt it in 1599, from which date many of the internal fittings come.

However, the old church was demolished, and its fittings stored, for the construction of an apartment block on the site. The ground floor of this was given over to be a new church, embellished with the original fittings, which was then given over to the care of the *Arciconfraternita degli Amanti di Gesù e Maria al Calvario* (Lovers of Jesus and Mary at Calvary) from 1934. They were responsible for the performance of the [Stations of the Cross](#) at the Colosseum, and until at least recently the large wooden cross that they used during the ceremonies was kept here.

After 1970, when the Roman rite of the Mass was revised, it was the only church in Rome at which the Mass in the Tridentine form was celebrated. At first this was unofficial, although condoned, but lately the church was administered by the [Confraternity of Priests of St Peter](#)

(FSSP). However, when Santissima Trinità dei Pellegrini was erected as the central Roman parish of the Extraordinary form of the Mass, as it is now called, San Gregorio was closed and its future is now uncertain.

Exterior:

The church is unusual in that the exterior facade runs parallel to the nave. There is a pair of Doric pilasters flanking a framed fresco of St Gregory, and either side of these pilasters is a doorway with a segmental pediment and a rectangular window above.

Interior:

The nave is wider than it is long, a layout which derives from the original church and was because of the narrowness of the site between the street and the river before the Lungotevere was built.

The interior has frescoes of the life of St. Gregory, is decorated with stucco putti and gilding and has the original terracotta floors. The central elliptical panel of the ceiling, with a painting of the *Allegory of the Trinity*, is held up by four lifelike putti looking very precarious.

The main altar is in a rectangular apse with a barrel vault having rich stucco decoration, and was provided in the 1748 restoration.

Liturgy

Mass in the Extraordinary Form is celebrated, according to the Diocese:

Weekdays 7:00, 18:30.

Sundays 9:00, 10:30, 18:30.

Location:

Addr: **Via Leccosa 75**

Coord: [41° 54' 15.6" N 12° 28' 30.1" E](#)

Links:

[Roman Churches Wiki](#)

[Italian Wikipedia page](#)

[Official diocesan web-page](#)

[Nolli map](#) (look for 495)

["De Alvariis" gallery on Flickr](#)

["Romasegreta" web-page](#)

[Holy Whapping blog](#)

[F.S.S.P. in VRBE blog](#)

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Catholic News Service article, dtd. 4/3/2007

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